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Israel and the Arab Gulf states: from tacit cooperation to reconciliation?

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Abstract:

The Gulf states have preferred to adhere to the basic Arab position vis-a`-vis Israel, albeit supplementing such positions with their own, sometimes significant, adjustments. However the common threat from Iran has become a source of rapprochement between them and Israel, even if the establishment of 'normal relations' remains dependent on progress in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, Arab consensus and GCC politics. The two sides, each with their own logic, seem to prefer to maintain a dual policy that on the one hand accepts the lack of normalization but on the other hand maintains active, albeit tacit, ties.

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