

## Background Note

# The EU and Morocco

## Progress in relations– EC [fact-sheet](#)

At the meeting of the Association Council in October 2008, Morocco and the EU adopted a joint document on the strengthening of bilateral relations in the form of an '**Advanced Status road map**' that will be implemented in the coming years. This document strengthens the partnership by setting out new objectives: a **deepening of political relations**, and **integration with the internal market** on the basis of a **convergence of regulations** and fostering of **sector cooperation**.

In 2008, €227.8 million was allocated to support the implementation of the Action Plan agreed with Morocco. According to the 2008 ENP progress report, "Morocco has made progress in the implementation of the Action Plan across the board. This reflects the country's desire to pursue an ambitious programme of reforms based on shared values with the EU."

Morocco continues the process of **democratic transition** and considerable results were registered, with advances in local government, reforms to the electoral code, action against corruption and in favour of gender equality. There is also cooperation on the promotion of **human rights** and the EU backs **social development**, and negotiations on **trade liberalization** and **investment** started in 2008. Cooperation has also been enhanced in the fields of **illegal immigration controls** and **energy security**.

**An indicative amount of €654 million is allocated to Morocco for 2007-2010 under the ENPI**

*"The year 2008 has been a remarkable one in Morocco-EU relations. The reforms undertaken by the Moroccan government have made good progress, with the full political and financial support of the EU. What's more, the Association Council adopted a joint document on advanced status, which represents a solid base for a subsequent deepening of relations. The Commission expresses its satisfaction at these very positive developments."*

**External Relations and ENP Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner, 23 April 2009**

**Background:** The **EU-Morocco Association Agreement** entered into force in June 2000, replacing the 1976 Cooperation Agreement. A strengthened political dialogue takes place regularly since 2004. The **Action Plan** was adopted in July, 2005. The various sub-committees and the working groups established by the Association Agreement meet regularly. Since November 2006, three meetings of the sub-committee for **human rights, democracy and governance** took place.

DG RELEX – Morocco [http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/morocco/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/morocco/index_en.htm)

## EU & Morocco Trade Relations

Morocco is an active participant in the [Euromed process](#), which aims to create a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area by 2010. Bilaterally with the EU, Morocco pursues a close economic relationship that is **"more than association, less than accession"**. The EU is Morocco's first trading partner accounting for **nearly 60% of its total trade**, the bulk of which is textiles and agricultural goods.

EU-Morocco trade is growing fast. Between 1995 and 2007, **trade volumes grew by over 80%**

### Trade in goods

- EU exports of goods to Morocco 2007: **€13 billion**
- EU imports of goods from Morocco 2007: **€7.3 billion**

Morocco's economy is still relatively dependant on trade in textiles and agricultural products, which together accounted for 52% of EU imports from Morocco in 2007.

### Trade in services

- EU exports of services to Morocco 2007: **€2.1 billion**
- EU imports of services from Morocco 2007: **€4.4 billion**

### Foreign Direct Investment

- EU FDI stocks in Morocco 2007: **€1.3 billion**

### Figures from [DG Trade](#)

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/bilateral-relations/countries/morocco/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/bilateral-relations/countries/morocco/index_en.htm)

## Find out more...

### ENPI Info Centre webpage – Morocco

<http://www.enpi-info.eu/countrymed.php?country=6>

### EC fact-sheet 2008 (FR only)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/09/188&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=fr>

### EC communication 2008 (FR only)

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/progress2009/sec09\\_520\\_fr.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/progress2009/sec09_520_fr.pdf)

### ENPI Info Centre – Morocco leads the way in EU cooperation (20-03-09)

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=5711&id\\_type=1&lang\\_id=450](http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=5711&id_type=1&lang_id=450)

## Documents

### EU-Morocco Action Plan 2008

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/action\\_plans/morocco\\_enp\\_ap\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/action_plans/morocco_enp_ap_final_en.pdf)

### EU-Morocco Association Agreement

[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/morocco/association\\_agreement/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/morocco/association_agreement/index_en.htm)

### ENPI Morocco Strategy Paper 2007-2013

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi\\_csp\\_morocco\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_csp_morocco_en.pdf)

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## Websites – Political and Economic relations

### EuropeAid – Morocco country page

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/morocco/morocco\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/morocco/morocco_en.htm)

### External Cooperation – Morocco

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/morocco/morocco\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/morocco/morocco_en.htm)

### EU Delegation – Morocco

<http://www.delmar.ec.europa.eu/>

### Bilateral projects

[http://www.delmar.ec.europa.eu/fr/ue\\_maroc/projets.htm](http://www.delmar.ec.europa.eu/fr/ue_maroc/projets.htm)

### DG Trade – EU and Morocco

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/bilateral-relations/countries/morocco/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/bilateral-relations/countries/morocco/index_en.htm)

### DG Trade – Morocco statistics

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2006/september/tradoc\\_113421.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2006/september/tradoc_113421.pdf)

### MEDSTAT II – Morocco statistical profile

[http://www.medstat-finalforum.org/partners\\_pdf/MA-Profil\\_Stat\\_EN.pdf](http://www.medstat-finalforum.org/partners_pdf/MA-Profil_Stat_EN.pdf)

### European Investment Bank – unprecedented support to Morocco in 2009

<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2009/2009-209-soutien-sans-precedent-de-la-bei-au-maroc-en-2009.htm>

### ENPI Info Centre – Morocco making progress towards enterprise framework (26-02-09)

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=5669&id\\_type=1&lang\\_id=450](http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=5669&id_type=1&lang_id=450)

## Material

### ENPI Info Centre Q&A on EU-Morocco Special Status – ‘2008 : Une année remarquable dans les relations Maroc-UE’ (FR only)

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=184&id\\_type=6&lang\\_id=469](http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=184&id_type=6&lang_id=469)

### ENPI Info Centre Feature Story – ‘Hydraulic challenges and European partnership’ [http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=10&id\\_type=6&lang\\_id=450](http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=10&id_type=6&lang_id=450)

Photo Gallery [http://www.enpi-info.eu/list\\_images\\_med.php?id=38&iden=38](http://www.enpi-info.eu/list_images_med.php?id=38&iden=38)

### EUROJAR Feature – CAP Nador to save coastal natural wealth (SMAP III programme)

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=136&id\\_type=6&lang\\_id=450](http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=136&id_type=6&lang_id=450)

### EuropeAid photo library – Morocco

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/multimedia/photos/library/index.cfm>

### EC Video: Morocco – Management of Seasonal Migration

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/zoom\\_video\\_med.php?id=8](http://www.enpi-info.eu/zoom_video_med.php?id=8)

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