

I Press Release

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EU-Morocco Summit: Chambers call for stronger relations and enhanced market access

Ahead of the EU-Morocco Summit of 6-7 March in Granada, Spain, EUROCHAMBRES and EuroCham Maroc, addressed a joint declaration to the political leaders of both regions.

EUROCHAMBRES and EuroCham Maroc call for a removal of the barriers that still limit the access to the Moroccan and European markets, and demand:

- Progress on the signing of a deep and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Morocco;
- Support to big infrastructural projects such as Moroccan railway and energy networks;
- Support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) via the establishment of business incubators in Morocco and the extension of the 'Invest in Med' programme;
- Considerable investment in Moroccan research and vocational training. The set up of transnational clusters including the Moroccan territory, and the extension of the "Erasmus" programmes to Morocco would help in this respect.
- Support to further South-South and regional integration in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean.

EUROCHAMBRES and EuroCham Maroc also offer their full support to the future policy making process, whenever trade relations and business climate are concerned.

EU-Morocco relations

The Granada Summit confirms the importance of Morocco as a partner of the European Union, which was already reflected in the adoption in 2008 of the joint document establishing Morocco's advanced status in its relationship with the EU.

Morocco is the neighbour country with which the EU has the most advanced cooperation and is the main recipient of financial support under the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI). For the years 2011-2013, the EU allocated an indicative amount of 580.5 million Euros to the country programme for Morocco.

The Joint Declaration EUROCHAMBRES/EuroCham Maroc (in French) can be downloaded from www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=2277

EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, represents over 19 million enterprises in Europe – 96% of which are SMEs – through members in 45 countries and a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers.

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EuroCham Maroc, the Union of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Morocco, gathers the interests of over 5000 European businesses in Morocco. It supports and promotes the development of economic relations and investment between Morocco and the European Union.

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