



His Majesty King Mohammed VI addresses a message to the First Morocco-EU summit

Granada - HM King Mohammed VI sent on Sunday a message to the first Morocco-European Union summit currently held in Granada (south of Spain).

The Royal address was read by Prime Minister Abbas El Fassi who chairs the Moroccan delegation to the summit.

Here follows the full text of the message

Praise be to God, May peace and blessings be upon the Prophet, His Kith and Kin

Mr. President of the European Council,
Mr. Prime Minister, President of the Council of the European Union,
Mr. President of the European Commission,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like, first of all, to express my appreciation to our friend and neighbour, Spain, current holder of the presidency of the Council of the European Union, for taking the commendable initiative to convene the first Summit Meeting between the Kingdom of Morocco and the European Union.

The holding of this meeting in a country with which the Kingdom of Morocco has a unique, diversified relationship, is not merely of great symbolic significance. The Granada Summit Meeting is particularly important to Morocco as it will probably give fresh momentum to our partnership and enable us to make the most of the major trends and changes each one of us is experiencing.

I wish to reiterate my congratulations to the European Union on the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty. I am sure that, thanks to this major step forward, Europe will be stronger and more dynamic and will have greater international clout, which will enable it to pursue the constructive, leading role it has consistently played, particularly in its immediate neighbourhood.

The Kingdom of Morocco will remain true to its commitment to build the strongest, widest-ranging relationship with the European Union.

This Summit is being held at a time when relations between Morocco and the European Union are marked by an upward trend, thanks to the Advanced Status and the ambitious course set for the future.

Beyond its bilateral character, the Advanced Status will make it possible for Morocco and the European Union to anticipate and examine together the fundamental elements of a revamped, more ambitious, more solidarity-based Euro-Mediterranean governance system.

In this regard, I reiterate my support for the Union for the Mediterranean. Once it is fully operational, I am convinced the Union for the Mediterranean will be in a position to explore all that the Mediterranean has to offer and come up with appropriate solutions to the various social and economic challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean region.

In addition to the aforementioned comprehensive projects, the Union for the Mediterranean will be expected to develop closer cooperation mechanisms at sub-regional level, particularly with the Arab Maghreb Union, a forum which offers vast prospects in this particular area.

In this respect, Morocco reiterates its commitment to reinvigorating the construction of the Maghreb on credible, serious foundations, and building a common future based on respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as good neighbourliness.

Morocco calls upon the other parties concerned to respond to the appeals of the Security Council and seek a political settlement to the artificial dispute over my country's territorial integrity, based on the Moroccan initiative which offers wide-ranging autonomy to the Sahara region, within the framework of the Kingdom's sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity.

The Kingdom of Morocco's ambition to contribute to making the Mediterranean a viable, homogeneous space is second only to the urgent need it perceives to launch a truly strategic partnership between Africa and Europe, based on mutual interests, shared challenges and the need to build a common future.

The increasingly interlinked geopolitical and security interests of our two continents, coupled with their intense economic, human and cultural relations, call for an innovative partnership that takes into consideration the geopolitical specificities of each one of the African continent's sub-regions.

More specifically, the security, political, human and economic agenda of the Sahel and Sahara region and of the Atlantic require common, concerted, solidarity-based approaches.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Morocco agrees with the European Union's assessment of the various challenges confronting the Mediterranean and Africa. It will therefore continue to be an active partner, a role for which it is predestined not only because it is strategically located at the crossroads of two continents, and its shores are lapped by two seas, but also because of a natural interaction with the environment surrounding it.

Nevertheless, to be sustainable, such a promising, inspiring mission requires conviction, determination and committed action.

These are the values Morocco intends to build on in order to be as close as possible to the European Union, and to jointly forge the most advanced relationship possible.

It is gratifying to note that there is convergence - across the board - between the Morocco-EU partnership and the resolute, dedicated efforts I am making to build an open, democratic, solidarity-based society.

It is also heart-warming that Morocco's keen desire to establish itself as an emerging economy is consistent with the efforts my country is making to achieve the strategic ambition of building a common economic space with the European Union.

To achieve this lofty objective, Morocco recommends going beyond the mere establishment of a free trade area. Investment flows need to be boosted, agricultural and industrial synergies created, the services sector restructured, and common policies implemented in the areas of research for development and the knowledge-based economy.

Such an agenda requires the prompt, effective implementation of all the commitments to which both parties have agreed. In this respect, and considering the importance of the new agricultural agreement concluded recently and the opportunities it provides, Morocco insists on the need to take practical measures towards its implementation to honour our joint commitments, and regrets the delay in its entry into force.

The setting up of a common framework of cooperation on the knowledge-based economy between the Kingdom of Morocco and the European Union should allow us to look into new energy and environmental issues, promote research in the areas of eco energy, clean energy, green economy, meteorology, biodiversity, sea water desalination, prevention of floods, droughts...

In this regard, the solar energy project I launched last November reflects a clear, ambitious vision in the area of renewable energies and sustainable development.

In this connection, allow me to point out that Morocco looks forward to exploring, with the European Union, all the opportunities to be created by regional projects, such as DESERTEC, in order to lay the foundations of a well-defined, safe, sustainable Euro-Mediterranean energy policy.

The same approach, based on solidarity and consultation, should be used when dealing with human flows between Morocco and Europe.

Given the principles underlying its Constitution, national identity and sociological characteristics, Morocco is keenly interested in the new form of citizenship currently taking shape on both shores of the Mediterranean.

It recommends providing assistance to immigrants to help them acquire a balanced identity and reinforce their roots, rather than make them renounce their identity or origins.

It seems to me our shared objective should be to improve the conditions of migrants so as to help them contribute effectively to enhancing exchange relations between the two shores of the Mediterranean, and thus be an important vehicle for cross-cultural communication and human coexistence.

To illustrate this cultural aspect, the Euro-Mediterranean University in Fez will make an effective contribution to developing a common seat of learning for higher education and academic research.

Our pride and satisfaction with respect to all that has been accomplished, and the vast prospects lying ahead for the Morocco-EU partnership, must not eclipse the need to gear our partnership towards the achievement of loftier, more ambitious goals.

In this regard, I believe the time has come to confer upon the Advanced Status, which we defined in March 2000, all the legal, institutional and contractual characteristics it now deserves; in other words, let us raise it to the level of a special partnership.

Morocco, which has always attached special importance to its relationship with the European Union, is committed to pursuing this reliable, exemplary, mutually beneficial cooperation, which is indicative of the nature of my country's relations with Europe.

Morocco believes such a statutory development in its relationship with the European Union ought to lead to a privileged partnership; one that would build on recent accomplishments while providing effective, timely answers to the new economic, human and strategic issues currently facing Morocco and the European Union.

It is Morocco's ambition to see a new era started in the relationship it has with the European Union. The contractual nature and operational mechanisms of this new relationship should give more substance and strategic significance to our future cooperation.

This new relationship should make it possible for Morocco and the European Union to resolutely move forward and make the most of the new possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty, through a new partnership set-up that would bring Morocco even closer to the European Union.

Beyond the impact this new association will have on the future of the relationship between the Kingdom of Morocco and the European Union – which is a model of fruitful rapprochement – the new relationship will have a positive effect at regional level, by creating new prospects for closer ties between the European Union and its Mediterranean partners.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an auspicious sign that this Summit - the first of its kind - should be held in the prestigious city of Granada, which stands as a living testimony to fruitful historical, cultural and human interaction on both shores of the Mediterranean, and to harmonious interplay between Moroccan, Spanish and European cultures.

I am delighted at the prospect of seeing the Advanced Status characterizing the current relationship between Morocco and the European Union develop into a privileged partnership. Rather than being a one-way undertaking, this should be a two-way dynamic. Morocco is moving closer to Europe thanks to the efforts I am spearheading as part of a sovereign, national will, and in accordance with our commitment to strengthen the foundations of a prosperous, democratic society that is proud of its distinct national identity; a society which is abreast of modern times and which constantly interacts with its immediate neighbourhood, especially Europe. The purposeful reforms we are implementing to promote good governance and support the nation's major projects to modernize the economy and achieve human development fall within this framework.

While pursuing this policy, we expect Europe, in turn, to move closer to Morocco and become our chief partner, by providing tangible support and taking an active part in joint, resolute action designed to give substance to the strategic objective of developing a privileged partnership. Not only do we owe a duty of loyalty to the proud chapters of a common history, born out of the alliance of our civilizations, but we also have to meet the imperatives of the current era of blocs and coalitions, rise to the challenges of globalization, and fulfil the aspirations of young generations, who aspire to live in a prosperous, safe environment, where

the lofty ideals of peace, brotherhood, democracy, solidarity and progress to which we are both deeply committed, prevail; an environment that is not only free from the demons of ostracism, exclusion and terrorism, but is also dedicated to upholding human dignity and the integrity of states, and to ensuring integrated development in a safe and secure environment.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.