



# EU-Morocco Agreement on agricultural and fishery products

A new agreement further liberalising trade in agricultural and fishery products between the EU and Morocco requires Parliament's consent before it can be ratified.

## Tighter trade ties, a recurrent objective

The development of trade between the EU and Morocco is one of the common features of a series of initiatives, at Mediterranean and bilateral levels. At regional level, the 'Euro-Mediterranean Partnership' (1995), which evolved into the 'Union for the Mediterranean' (2008), has promoted the creation of a 'Deep Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area'.

In December 2011, the Council authorised the opening of negotiations with Morocco to establish a 'Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area', which implies a gradual integration of the Moroccan economy into the EU single market.

Since 2000, bilateral relations have been managed through a specific [Association Agreement](#), stating *inter alia* that trade in agricultural and fishery products will be progressively liberalised. In this framework, negotiations on the further liberalisation of agricultural and fishery products were concluded in December 2009 and the new agreement was signed in December 2010.

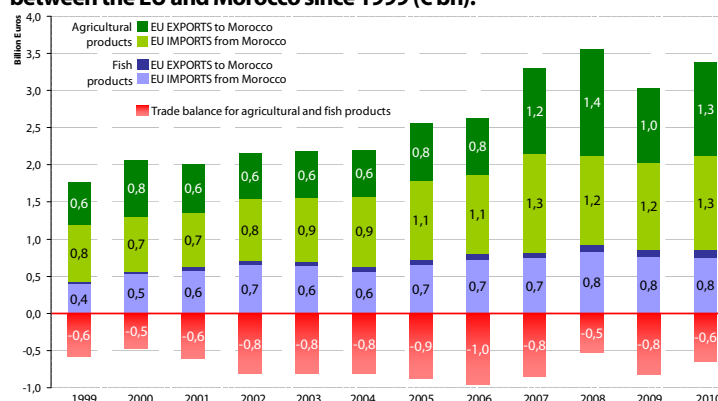
## Some features of the new agreement

According to the European Commission, the new agreement will immediately liberalise 45% (in value) of Moroccan imports from the EU, with a transition period for some products. As a result, in ten years 70% of Moroccan imports from the EU will be liberalised. On the other hand, 55% of EU imports from Morocco will be immediately liberalised, except for 'sensitive products' (tomatoes, courgettes, cucumbers, clementines, garlic, strawberries), which will nonetheless also get facilitated access to the EU market.

On 26 January 2012, the Committee on International Trade recommended that the EP should give its consent to the Agreement, whereas the rapporteur (Bové, Greens/EFA, FR) had recommended that the EP should not consent. Two other Committees adopted opinions: the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development recommended that the EP should not give its

consent (rapporteur Fontana, EFD, IT), while the Committee on Fisheries recommended that the EP should give its consent (rapporteur Fraga Estévez, EPP, ES) [[2010/0248\(NLE\)](#)].

**Figure 1: Evolution of trade of agricultural and fishery products between the EU and Morocco since 1999 (€ bn).**

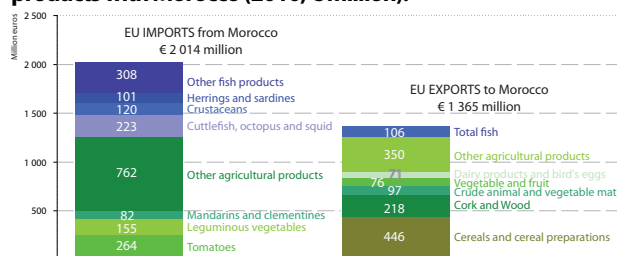


Data source: Eurostat. With G. Sabbati. Agri.: SITC 0, 1, 2, 4 (excl. 03, 27, 28). Fish.: 03.

## The EU, Morocco's main trade partner

59% of Moroccan goods exports are shipped to the EU, and 50% of Moroccan imports come from the EU (2010).

**Figure 2: Detailed EU trade in agricultural and fishery products with Morocco (2010, € million).**



Data source: Eurostat. With G. Sabbati.

In 2010, the EU imported € 2 bn agricultural and fishery products (i.e. 26% of its total imports of goods from Morocco), and exported € 1.4 bn of agricultural and fishery products to Morocco (i.e. 10% of its total exports of goods to Morocco).

### Selected key facts on Morocco

Agriculture (incl. fish.): **15% of GDP** (World Bank, 2010).

**Employment** in agri. (incl. fish.): **41%** (World Bank, 2009).

**Top ten commodities** produced (in decreasing order, by value): wheat, chicken meat, olives, tomatoes, cattle meat, cow milk, barley, sheep meat, almonds, oranges (FAO, 2009).

The '[Green Morocco' Action Plan](#) launched in 2009 targets a **5.5 times increase of exports** in the citrus, olives and 'fruits and vegetables' sectors.