

One in every four km of Moroccan roads built with EU funds

One in every four kilometres of road built in Morocco is built with EU funds, according to the latest Eurojar article published in the Lebanese daily L'Orient Le Jour, which focuses on EU-Morocco cooperation in the transport sector.

Under the programme of support to the transport sector reform in Morocco, the EU supports projects in the areas of road transport, shipping and reform of the port system, as well as air transport. Its contribution to this sector amounted to €96 million between 2003 and 2008 in the form of non-refundable direct budgetary support.

The EU contributes to the development of road transport in Morocco through several road construction projects including inter-city highways, and also encourages the Moroccan government to adopt new traffic regulations to make roads safer. It also supports the reform of port systems and is involved in air transport, with Morocco the first non-European country to sign a Euro-Mediterranean treaty on air services in December 2006, with the reciprocal opening of markets (Open Sky) as an immediate result.

The EU also funds the Regional Programme Euromed Transport in the framework of the European Neigbourhood Policy. Euromed Transport aims to help create more functional and efficient transport connections between the EU and its Mediterranean neighbours, contributing to the economic and social development of the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

Eurojar is one of 13 projects funded across the ENPI under EuropeAid's €19 million Regional Information and Communication Programme, which seeks to increase awareness and understanding among the citizens of the area, about the EU, its policies and relations with their countries. The Eurojar budget amounts to €1.5 million and the project will last for one year. As well as AI-Hayat, it publishes articles highlighting EU cooperation in I'Orient le Jour and Le Commerce du Levant, and broadcasts weekly reportages on LBCI and LBCSat.

Eurojar article in L'Orient Le Jour: <u>Au Maroc, les transports sont boostés par</u> l'Europe (FR)

EU Delegation to Morocco - Programme of support to the transport sector reform

ENPI Info Centre webpage - Morocco

Eurojar website

Euromed Transport - Fiche and news

Eurojar dossier in L'Orient Le Jour

Regional Information and Communication Programme - fiche

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