

Auszüge aus der offiziellen website

Participating Countries and Organizations in the conference

List of participant

Africa

- Benin
- Burkina-Faso
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Ivory Cost
- Egypt
- Gambia
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guinea Equatorial
- Liberia
- Libya
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Central African Republic
- Democratic republic of Congo
- Republic of Congo
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Chad
- Togo
- Tunisia

Europe

- Germany
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Spain
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Iceland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Norway

- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Czech Republic
- Romania
- United Kingdom
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- European Commission

List of observers (Countries)

- Mexico
- Russia
- Turkey
- Ukraine

List of observers (Regional Organizations and Institutions)

- Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Labor Office (ILO)
- International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- The World Bank
- Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- The African Bank of the Development (ADB)
- The executive secretariat of the CEN-SAD
- The executive secretariat of CEDEAO
- The executive secretariat of the CEMAC
- Presidency of the African Union (AU)
- Special Representative of the S.G. of UNO on the Migration
- The Organization for Safety and the Co-operation in Europe (SOEC)
- General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior
- General Secretariat of the European Union Council
- European Parliament
- United Nations Organization against Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Industrial and Development Organization (UNIDO)
- African Union Commission
- Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM)

The Conference

The Kingdom of Morocco will host, on the 10th and 11th of July 2006, the Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development. The originality of this initiative lies firstly in its importance and its subject, whereby it links the migration problematic with the imperative of development. It will also contribute to launching a renewed cooperation between Africa and Europe. This gathering will bring together the representatives of close to 60 african and european countries, as well as regional and international organisations who will assemble in Rabat with the aim of bringing concrete, sustainable and pertinent solutions to the challenge posed by migratory flow management.

Context of the Initiative

In a context marked by the intensifying humanitarian crises caused by a constantly increasing flux of irregular subsaharan immigrants towards Europe, the Rabat Conference aims to urgently address the different aspects and various phases of the migratory process within a spirit of shared responsibility. The converging views existing today between countries of origin, transit and destination constitute the base for an innovative and balanced partnership, founded on a global vision which integrates both development and security.

A Clear Vision

The Rabat Conference aims to go past the rhetoric and lay the basis for an authentic cooperation between Europe and Africa. This meeting constitutes, to this day, the only major endeavour in the area of migration to benefit from the active support of the European Commission. Following the conclusions of the Council of Europe (Brussels, december 2005) and of the Informal European Summit in Hampton Court, the Rabat Conference seeks to promote an innovative partnership which will draw the lines of a future framework of cooperation that can appropriately respond to the stakes at hand.

This high level meeting represents the initial phase of a long process leading towards the organisation of other complementary conferences focusing on different migratory routes. This conference has an objective to elaborate political and operational initiatives that are both complementary and coherent with the existing forums dealing with migration. The Rabat Conference is thus based on a continental and international approach, privileging efficiency and consultation between migratory countries of origin, transit and destination.

The Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development will allow for the implementation of a clear strategic vision realised through concrete actions aiming to reach identified targets in an optimal manner.

Concrete Proposals

The Rabat Conference will enable the mobilisation of the means necessary for a rapid implementation of the measures agreed upon. The initiatives retained in this framework shall fall under one of the following axes:

1. The elaboration of cooperation programs relating to the management of legal economic migration;
2. The adoption of measures aiming to facilitate worker movement;
3. The promotion of development;
4. The establishment of financial tools supporting co-development;
5. The development of knowledge and know-how through measures ensuring that sufficient training is offered in support of the development of african countries;
6. The development of partnerships between scientific and technical institutions;
7. The reinforcement of training cooperation;
8. The development of cooperation relating to irregular immigration;
9. The reinforcement of capacities in terms of national border control for countries of origin and transit;
10. The development of operational police and judiciary cooperation and of the assistance offered to victims;
11. The elaboration of relevant funding mechanisms.

Programme

**2nd Expert Meeting
- Sunday, 9 July 2006 -
*Draft Programme***

**Work session opens
(All meetings will be held in closed session)
Presentation of the Draft Final Declaration**

Examination of the Draft Final Declaration

Lunch

**Work session resumes
Validation of the Final Declaration**

Work session ends

**Ministerial Meeting
- Monday, 10 July 2006 -
*Draft Programme***

**Arrival of Delegations
*Opening Ceremony***

Minister's Opening Speech

Other interventions

**Adoption of the Programme and official start of the Work session
General Debate**

Lunch

**Work Session Resumes
First Work Session: Cooperation for Development**

Coffee Break

End of First Session

Diner offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Tuesday, 11th July 2006 -

Start of Work Session

Second Work Session: Cooperation in migratory flows management

Coffee Break

Work Session Resumes

**Adoption of the Action Plan
Adoption of the Final Declaration**

Closing Ceremony

Press Conference

Lunch

Fighting against illegal migration
Overview of a phenomenon

The physiognomy of illegal migration in Morocco no longer corresponds to the conventional image which was known since the early 90s in which nationals would undertake isolated attempts. Today, illegal migrants trafficking is orchestrated by well organized networks that are structured around imbricate chains that feed hardly controllable trans-border criminality.

Today, illegal migrants from Sub-Saharan countries represent the major component of this phenomenon which has proved to have international ramifications. Clandestine emigration by nationals has for its part somewhat stagnated in the last years and even declined since 2002, as a result of security and dissuasive measures taken by the Moroccan authorities and the action undertaken to promote popular awareness on the hazards of illegal migration.

Trafficking networks are organized into bagmen, hosts and transporters who often operate illegal workshops to manufacture pateras (small boats). Generally, illegal migrants use “pateras” or international transport trucks, both through the strait or toward the Canary Isles. Other Moroccan illegal migrants attempt to reach Italy via the Island of Lampedusa.

The flow of clandestine migrants is a serious problem with multiple consequences, since Morocco is no longer a transit platform but a destination too.

A deep understanding of all the aspects of this phenomenon has enabled the security services to further rationalize their working, intervention and investigation methods and the Moroccan authorities to set forth a comprehensive and integrated control strategy.

A multi-form strategy

The strategy adopted by the Moroccan authorities in the fight against illegal migration is part of a comprehensive approach that blends legal, institutional, security, socio-economic and communication aspects.

On the legislative scale, the law N° 02-03 related to the entry and stay of foreigners in Morocco, illegal emigration and immigration entered into force in November 2003. The goal was to unify previous texts, harmonize new provisions with the penal code, rationalize the stay of foreigners in Morocco and, most importantly, codify illegal migration-related offenses. Migrants trafficking was criminalized and its sponsors are, henceforth, liable to prison terms ranging between 10 years and life imprisonment. The law also protects the rights of foreigners, by overtly recognizing appeal means.

At the institutional level, two outstanding measures came to reinforce the existing arsenal with the creation of the Department of migration and borders control at the Ministry of the Interior and the Migration observatory.

The Department of migration and borders control, an ad-hoc structure with clearly defined

competence and field of action will rationalize working methods, refine analysis tools and optimize the deployment of surveillance operation units. It will also allow for control infiltration points used by illegal migrants along the borders.

The inception of this structure is a means to have an efficient intervention force with the response capacity, celerity and coherence needed to keep permanently abreast with the increasingly sophisticated and evolving strategies developed by migrants trafficking networks.

The mission assigned to this Department is two-fold. Analysis of the migrants trafficking networks at the national and international scales and operation support for borders surveillance.

The role of the observatory consists in federating all concerned parties in the multi-disciplinary thought on the migration issue, and mainly the civil society and researchers. It also acts as a statistics data bank at the national scale.

Security dimension

A particular vigilance characterizes the constant action of the local authorities and the security services as well as the Royal armed Forces. For this reason, the air patrols, the terrestrial combing operations as well as the actions of intelligence allow to curb attempts of the clandestine departures upstream.

This multidimensional approach made it possible to reduce the number of illegal immigration attempts. Thus, from January 1 to October 31, 2003, the number of national and foreign candidates to illegal immigration fell from 26,95 % to 17,53. In parallel, there has been an increase of 33,75 % of networks dismantled during the same period.

International cooperation

International cooperation is, of course, one of the pillars of this fight against clandestine immigration. Morocco bases its efforts on the principle of the responsibility shared with its partners. The cooperation initiated with Spain, the European Union and Nigeria represents a model of North-South partnership and South-South.

With Spain, for instance, the joint Permanent Migratory Group, set up in November 2003, already held four meetings, the latest one on September 15, 2004 in Cordoba and made it possible to achieve notable progress. Thus, the joint sea patrols between the Royal Gendarmerie and the Guardia Civil between Laâyoune and Las Palmas started in February 2004. Air and terrestrial joint patrols were also carried out and allowed Spanish to better perceive the efforts provided by the Moroccan authorities. This experiment was extended to the zone of the Strait and the first joint patrol was carried out early November 2004. Morocco has also dispatched four liaison officers to Madrid, the Canary Islands, Algeiras and to the S.I.V.E system (electronic system set up by Spain to monitor the Gibraltar Strait).

In addition, five operations were carried out with the Nigerians authorities and allowed to repatriate by air some 1.700 nationals Nigerians in illegal situation in Morocco. These repatriations, based on voluntary return, took place in the respect of Human Rights and dignity of the people.

Socio-economic dimension

The socio-economic dimension is not neglected and Morocco calls upon its partners not to focus on the security aspect and to privilege the economic treatment of the migratory problems through co-development, generator of growth and jobs to keep at home the potential candidates.

The Moroccan-European Association Agreement set up a Task force on the Social and Migration Affairs, with one of its objectives to help create micro-projects in the zones with strong migratory potential.

Awareness and Media campaigns are also taken into account and the initiated strategy aims to sensitise potential candidates, through the media (televised reports, newspapers, round tables, films, documentary, etc), to the dangers of the clandestine migration and the inherent risks of their exploitation by the networks of human traffickers and to inform them on opportunities provided by legal migration as an alternative.