



6 and 7 March 2010: GRANADA SUMMIT

First EU-Morocco Summit

On 6 and 7 March, the first EU-Morocco Summit will be held in Granada, attended by the President of the Spanish government, José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero, in his capacity as the head of the rotating Presidency of the EU and host; the permanent President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy; the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durao Barroso; the Commissioner for Trade, Karel de Gucht; and the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy, Stefan Füle.

Morocco will be represented by its Prime Minister, Abbas El Fassi. He will be accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance, Agriculture and Fisheries, Education, Industry, Trade and New Technologies, and Foreign Trade.

The discussions during the summit are expected to include the global challenges the European Union and Morocco are currently facing (climate change, economic and financial crisis, migration, etc.), the current situation in the EU, the development of Morocco and its relations with the EU, as well as the outlook for the Union for the Mediterranean, the situation in the region and the Middle East Peace Process.

Business Summit

On Saturday 6 March, there will be a European-Morocco Business Summit, with the participation of European and Moroccan institutions and business figures. The Summit will review the possibilities arising from the Advanced Statute and the new phase of business collaboration it will usher in.

It will place special emphasis on analysing the possibilities for collaboration in the transport, logistics and infrastructure sectors and in the energy and renewable energy industries.

The President of the Spanish Government will take part in the closing session of this business meeting, together with the President of the European Commission and the Moroccan Prime Minister.

Morocco, the first Arabic country to have a summit with the EU

Morocco is the first country in the south Mediterranean and the first Arabic country to have a summit with the EU. A joint statement will be issued at the end of the summit, a common political document that will reflect the shared positions on global issues and will define the roadmap for EU-Morocco relations in the coming years.

This summit, held in Spanish territory and while Spain holds the rotating Presidency of the EU, puts Morocco on the Community agenda and strengthens one of the constant



features of Spain's foreign policy, the priority nature of its relations with the Maghreb and its firm strategic commitment in respect of Morocco.

This summit is the culmination of a process of *rapprochement* between Morocco and the EU that began in 1960 (when diplomatic relations were first established between the EEC and Morocco) and in which the most important dates are: 1969 (trade agreement), 1976 (first cooperation agreement), 1996 (association agreements, in effect since 1 March 2000), 2005 (Action Plan within the European Neighbourhood Policy) and October 2008 (joint document/Advanced Statute). This last document includes an "agreement in principle regarding the possibility of organising an *ad hoc* summit to reinforce the details of the partnership between both parties and to set out the political importance given to their relations".

An important partner not only in the Maghreb, but also in the Mediterranean Eurozone, the Arab League and in the African continent

The partnership between the European Union and Morocco has developed favourably and, at the same time, in a unique way, leading to the approval of the Advanced Statute last year, the outlook for which will be analysed during this summit.

The EU-Morocco *rapprochement* process, of which this summit is a link in the chain, is based on a process of reforms designed to modernise and open up Morocco and its mission is to achieve a situation in which the EU and Morocco can share "everything, save their institutions" in the future.

During the summit, the reforms taking place for the democratisation and good economic governance, modernisation and social cohesion of Morocco will be analysed. The summit is also an opportunity to highlight the EU's commitment in favour of multilateral cooperation, today embodied by the Union for the Mediterranean.

It is hoped that the dynamic arising from the summit will not only lead to institutional closeness and an intensification in EU-Morocco relations, but that it will also serve as an example for the whole of the Maghreb, which is the economic area with the least intra-regional exchange in the world.

Cooperation with Morocco in the fight against terrorism

Together with the matter of the Sahara, the summit will also deal with the concerns of Spain and the EU regarding the security situation in certain parts of the Sahel region, specifically Mauritania, Mali and Niger, in which there is a clear need to reinforce national government presence, promote development and good governance and the fight against drug and arms trafficking and to combat trafficking of human beings, as well as to take measures to mitigate the impact of climate change.