Data exchange between the Agadir Agreement Member Countries in framework of ATU action plan

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- The Agadir Agreement (AA)
- Data Exchange between member countries
Agadir Agreement: *(Why?)*

**Do we need a new agreement?**

- The four member states already have *bilateral agreements* among each other.

- Members in **GAFTA**

**What is new in Agadir Agreement?**
Pan-European Area + Agadir countries market

Morocco
(industrial process) Production of fruit HS 2009

Tunisia
Packaging (HS 4819)

Egypt
fruit HS 2009
Establishment of the Agadir Agreement

Signed in the city of Rabat on 25 February, 2004

Entered into force on 6 July 2006 after completing the ratification requirements.

Implementation March 27th 2007, after the publishing of customs circulars of the four member countries.

Agadir declaration in Morocco on 2001
Aims of AA

- Developing economic activity, supporting employment, increasing productivity and improving living standards within the Member Countries.

- Co-ordination of overall and sectoral economic policies in the Member Countries, in particular foreign trade, services and customs, to ensure conditions for objective competition between the member Countries.

- Establishing a Free Trade Area between member countries

- Attract FDI
Agadir Agreement: (Arrangements for liberalizing trade)

- **Industrial products:** free

- **Agricultural and processed agricultural products:** free

- **Trade in Services:** schedules of commitments under the WTO- an opportunity to expand the agreement to cover trade in services
The Agadir Agreement: (Relation to other agreements)

• Contributing to the objectives of **Barcelona Process** concerning the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area.

• The AA is in harmony with Arab league charter in supporting mutual Arab cooperation and moving in implementing **Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA)**

• In accordance with the principals and requirements of the world trade organization (**WTO**) in which the four countries are members.
ATU: Mission, Objectives & Activities

- ATU established on April 2007.
- Headquartered in Amman- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- Only dealing with trade technical issues covered by the AA.

Objectives:
- Ensure the implementation of the agreement.
- To follow up the implementation of the Committee of Foreign Trade Ministers decisions.
- Providing technical advice for all matters relating to the implementation of the agreement of both the public and private sector.
- Providing recommendations and proposals to optimize the benefits from AA.

The ATU activities under 3 main components:
1. Institutional building
2. Regional trade facilitation
3. Awareness raising
Electronic Exchange of Information between customs authorities in Agadir countries

Objectives:

• Enhancing trade through speed the release of products procedures

• Fighting fraud

• Removing NTBs among member states

All the above accordingly will contribute to achieve the objectives of the agreement to increased regional coordination and develop trade among Agadir countries.
Electronic Exchange of Information between customs authorities in Agadir countries

• The decision of the first Customs Joint Committee meeting: Establishing a system for electronic exchange of information among Agadir countries following.

• The aim is to facilitate trade by establishing one system to connect all the member states and enable them to exchange the customs information electronically.

• Several meetings were conducted and attended by senior IT officials from customs authorities in the member countries.
Electronic Exchange of Information between customs authorities in Agadir countries (cont.)

- Identifying the system used in the exchange of information process to connect the four customs authorities. (Web Services - Pull)

- Identifying data fields. [DATA.xlsx](#)

- Identifying Reference tables. [Morroco\RT MOROCCO.XLSX](#)

- Testing period. (going on)

- Lunching electronic exchange. (expected 1st quarter 2016)
Upcoming events

- The 5\textsuperscript{th} meeting of IT team work - December 2015
- The 3\textsuperscript{rd} Joint Customs Committee Meeting - 2016
- Signature of the AEO Mutual recognition Agreement
- Agreement on electronic data exchange between customs administration
- Lunching the Electronic Exchange of Information between customs authorities
Challenges

• Lake of IT infrastructure
• Similarly of economies
• Interference of policies and Strategies on the regional level
• Lack of coordination between regional communities and organizations
Thanks for your attention