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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SEMINAR

Challenges and impacts of entry into and exit out of regional communities: The Case of Potential Integration of Morocco within ECOWAS

B-2-B session (March 22, 2018)

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Factsheets and selected figures



Area: 710,850 km² (274,460 sq mi)
Population (2014): 33,848,242
GDP (nominal) (2015): 103.08 billion
(Per capita): \$3,077

ECOWAS



Area: 5,114,162 km²
(1,974,589 sq mi)
Population (2015): 349,154,000
GDP (nominal) (2015): \$675 billion ; (Per capita): US\$4,247

Sources: Wikipedia.

Key dates

- February 24, 2017:

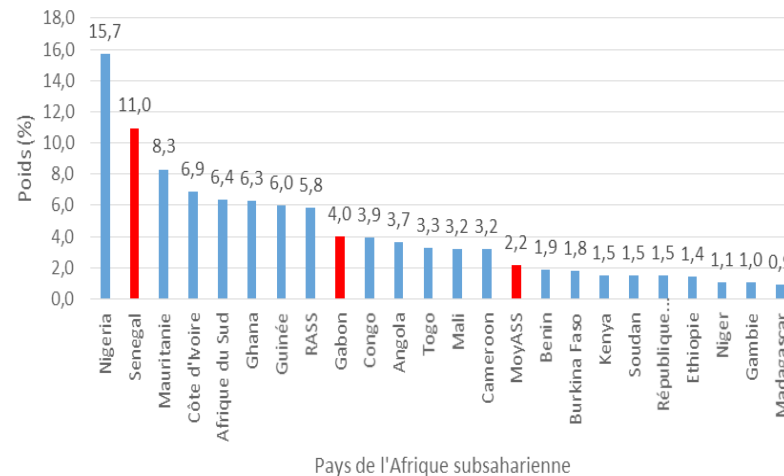
Morocco's official request to join the ECOWAS

- June 4, 2017:

Official decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS (during its 51st Ordinary Session in Monrovia, Liberia) to 'accept in principle' Morocco's request to join the group.

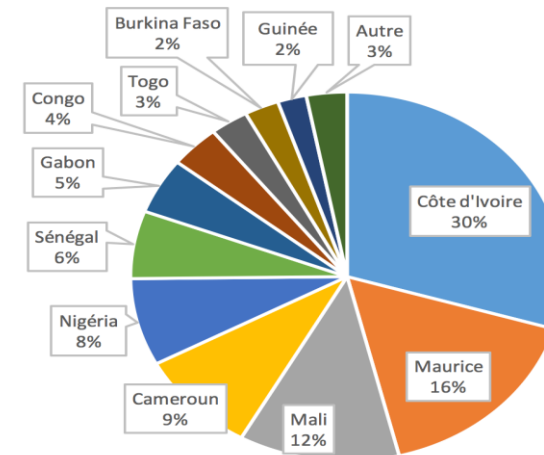
Selected trade and investment flows between Morocco and ECOWAS

Morocco's Trade Partners in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2008–2014 (% of trade)



Source : Lo, Diop, Kotounnou, Sall, Sané, 2016.

Distribution of Moroccan FDI flows in sub-Saharan Africa between 2011 and 2015 by country as a percentage



Source: Berahab, R, 2017, Relations entre le Maroc et l'Afrique subsaharienne : Quels potentiels pour le commerce et les investissements directs étrangers ?, Policy Brief, OCP Policy Center, Février, PB-17/04

Potential Implications of Morocco's integration within ECOWAS [1]

■ Major Potential Challenges

- ✓ Political and legal issues
- ✓ Issues of Governance of the new regional body
- ✓ Issues of convergence or divergence of existing partnerships of both parties (Morocco & ECOWAS) with external partners (UE, USA, multilateral organizations, etc.)
- ✓ Issues of implementation of existing regional programmes
- ✓ Potential asymmetry in trade and investment flows
- ✓ Issues of potential inequality of benefits between Morocco and West African States
- ✓ Issues of connectivity (no shared borders between Morocco and West African countries)
- ✓ Issues of convertibility of currencies.
- ✓ Issue of overlapping of regional bodies (AMU and ECOWAS)

Potential Implications of Morocco's integration within ECOWAS [2]

- **Potential Synergies and benefits**
 - ✓ Higher economic size of the new entity
 - ✓ Higher intra-regional trade and investments and impact on growth
 - ✓ Boosting of movement of people, goods, services and capital
 - ✓ Indirect benefits for West African countries of investments from foreign investors in Morocco (imports of goods and services)
 - ✓ Transfers of technology.

Thank you

(for your kind attention)

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