

Evaluation of the impact of the trade chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements with six partners: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia

Invitation to the workshop on 30 April 2020

Commissioned by: the European Commission, DG TRADE

Conducted by: Ecorys in co-operation with CASE and FEMISE



Background to the evaluation

The EU-Mediterranean Association Agreements

The Association Agreements (AAs) between the EU and respectively Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia have been signed between 1995 and 2002 and have entered into force between 2000 and 2006. The AAs were part of the outcome of the so-called Barcelona Declaration, an attempt aimed at fostering political, security, cultural, human as well as economic and financial partnerships between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean partner countries. The AAs emphasized economic liberalisation and reforms, and trade was one of the main forces driving these economic reforms. The trade chapters of these agreements (amounting to an FTA) were therefore the most important operational and binding commitments that were made.

The objectives of the trade chapters of the Association Agreements are:

- ✓ To promote trade and expansion of harmonious economic and social relations between the EU and the six partner countries,
- ✓ To establish the conditions for the gradual liberalization of trade in goods, services, and capital flows between the EU and the six partner countries, and
- ✓ To encourage intra-regional integration by promoting trade and cooperation both within the Mediterranean region and between the region and the EU Community and its Member States.

The present evaluation study

In the context described above, the European Commission contracted Ecorys and its partners CASE and FEMISE to carry out an evaluation of the impact of trade chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean AAs. More specifically, this evaluation will assess:

- The effectiveness and efficiency of the trade chapters of the Association Agreements in view of achieving its objectives
- The relevance of the trade chapters of the Association Agreements regarding current trade issues faced by the EU and the six partner countries
- The coherence of the trade chapters of the Association Agreements with the trade policy of the EU and its other policies (e.g. neighbourhood policy) with respect to the six partner countries

The Inception Report of the study outlined the different methodological approaches taken in order to assess the potential impacts of the Association Agreement. The Interim Technical Report includes the first results of the overall economic, social, human rights and environmental impacts assessments, and two in-depth sectoral analyses. Both reports can be downloaded on the project website: www.fta-evaluation.com/eu-mediterranean.

Invitation to the stakeholder workshop

Stakeholder consultations constitute an important element of the evaluation, as stakeholders can provide valuable inputs and feedback into the study. So far, there have been workshops in all six Mediterranean countries. On 30 April 2020 (morning), an online stakeholder workshop will be organised in order to engage with stakeholders in the EU.

Hereby we would like to invite you to participate in this workshop. Your presence and inputs will be valuable for the study and much appreciated. On the next page, you will find the practical information about this workshop, including the workshop objectives and programme.

Aim of the workshop

The general objectives of the workshop are to inform stakeholders about the objectives, methodology and results of the study, and promote an interactive dialogue between different players in order to feed the study. More specifically, the workshop aims to:

- Discuss the results of the Interim Report (results of quantitative and qualitative analyses, etc.) with European and international stakeholders and gather their views, comments and assessments on these results;
- Obtain inputs for the next stage of the study, which will include finalisation of the overall and sectoral analysis and providing policy recommendations and flanking measures.

The audience is invited to ask questions, provide comments and additional inputs and provoke discussion and debate.

Participants

Stakeholders invited for the workshop include representatives of a variety of stakeholder groups in order to obtain a balanced view. These include business associations, NGOs, academia; think tanks; trade unions, etc. The European Commission, represented by DG TRADE, will also be present during the entire workshop.

Date and time

Date: 30 April 2020
Time: 10:00-13:00 CET
Location: Online meeting, no software needed (details will be provided after registration)

Language

The workshop will use English as working language.

Registration for the workshop

Please confirm your participation by sending an email to eu-mediterranean@ecorys.com, after which you will receive the details and instructions needed to join the online meeting.

Agenda of the workshop

Below you find the agenda of the online stakeholder workshop.

Timing	Topic	Content
10:00-10:10	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rationale from EC perspective - Opening by DG TRADE
10:10-10:20	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on the aim, process and methodology of the study
10:20-11:20	Economic impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of interim results• Discussion with participants
11:20-12:05	Sectoral impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of interim results (Agriculture, Chemicals, Machinery & Transport Equipment, Textiles & Clothing)• Discussion with participants
12:05-12:50	Sustainability impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of interim results (Social, Human Rights, Environment)• Discussion with participants
12:50-13:00	Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next steps, wrap-up and closing

More information

If you would like to read more about the study, including the methodologies, team and first results, please visit our website www.fta-evaluation.com/eu-mediterranean, join our social media channels, or send an email to eu-mediterranean@ecorys.com.



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