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EURO-AFRICAN ATLANTIC SPACE
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Introduction

This document explores the economic benefits and opportunities that could be derived from the creation of a cooperative space between the ultra-peripheral regions (the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira) and the neighbouring countries of Western Africa (especially Cape Verde, Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal), as well as those with which the ultra-peripheral regions of this geographical area have historical links, such as Angola, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe, all of which are situated in Central Africa, providing a more extended perspective in terms of the Wider Neighbourhood to the strategy of regional insertion proposed by the European Commission in favour of the Ultra Peripheral Regions in 2004 and successive Communications.

The document provides an overview, from a macroeconomic perspective, of the economic reality of the countries and regions that belong to this space, as well as the opportunities that could be derived from greater regional insertion in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres.

The document being presented includes a short introduction on the macro-effects of the liberalization of trade, the Neighbourhood Policy of the EU with the countries of the Mediterranean area, and the ultra-peripheral region strategy of the Commission; it then analyses the main features, from a macro-economic and commercial viewpoint, of the economies that would form a part of the initiative we are setting underway: the Euro-African Atlantic Space, together with a short summary of the economic sectors or activities that would benefit the most from the creation of this space.

A close examination of the document should lead us to the conclusion that the positive encouragement of a Euro-African Atlantic Space, with the assistance of the Community and provided with a suitable financial instrument capable of facing up to the challenges proposed, can be the most effective means of re-directing the strategy of regional insertion proposed by the European Commission in favour of the ultra-peripheral regions.

Similar incentives, such as the Barcelona Process, one of the seeds of Euro-Mediterranean policy, clearly reveal that a concerted action between the EU, the Member States and the neighbouring countries with which they have been carried out, make a substantial contribution towards consolidating spaces of peace and security that lead to the development of essential public services (such as health and education), the undertaking of structural reforms (justice, the employment market, competitiveness), the strengthening of institutional capacity, the exchange of good practices in the spheres of the environment and good governance, and the strengthening of decentralized cooperation.

The Euro-African Atlantic Space may also be a suitable means of achieving greater regional insertion in the geographical surroundings, mitigating the adverse effects of the ultra-periphery through a regional market, promoting exchanges in the region, and making this space more attractive for direct foreign investment.

The Euro-African Atlantic Space has the vocation of contributing towards the consolidation of a space of peace, stability, economic growth and prosperity in our surroundings, and to highlight the contribution that these European regions, situated in other continents, can make towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

The proximity of the outermost regions to the Maghreb and Western Africa, as well as the historical ties that these areas have with Central African countries, the gateways to other potential markets, means that this area is of "particular geo-strategic and geopolitical importance which must be recognised" in order to promote and strengthen the principles which prevail in other cooperation zones, including "sustainable and balanced socioeconomic development". Economic and financial cooperation instruments to promote social and cultural links shall be put in place to promote intercultural dialogue and exchange, the fight against poverty and racism, respect for other cultures and religions, improved health and welfare, regulation and protection concerning emigration and immigrant rights. With respect to politics and security, focus shall be on strengthening democratic values and freedom, respecting human rights, the fight against the illegal trafficking of narcotics, international crime and corruption, and the promotion of regional security by adopting security measures aimed at creating an area of peace and stability in the region.

Furthermore, the European Union has important financial instruments in place. It is an active participant in politics and exercises considerable influence, making it a leading player on the international stage. In fact, EU seeks to encourage its guiding principles and values to go beyond its borders through cooperation policies and programs that foster development and does not only wish to play an important role in the world through its Common Foreign and Security Policy[1].

The willingness of the EU is especially visible in the regions along its external borders. It seeks to contribute to strengthening peace, security, political and democratic stability, growth and prosperity in these regions and on equal terms.

Next year marks 15 years since the First Euro-Mediterranean Conference, which was the first major step in this direction.

Euro-Mediterranean Conference brought together Foreign Ministers from EU member states and Ministers from third countries bordering the South and East of the Mediterranean. A Euro-Mediterranean European policy of reciprocal interest was adopted, which has responded to challenges and promoted interests of both parties in the area of economics (the creation of "free trade area" for 2010).

In 1995, the MEDA[2] program was launched, the "EU's principal financial instrument for the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and associated activities". Thus, the process has a financial instrument with which to "implement the cooperation measures to help Mediterranean non-member countries reform their economic and social structures and mitigate the social and environmental consequences of economic development."

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[1] European Security Strategy and Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy (S407/08)
[2] Council Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 of 23 July 1996 on financial and technical measures to accompany (MEDA) the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership

In 2004, in framework of the enlargement process, and responding to the wish to avoid the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged Europe and the non-member countries that are now the borders of the European Union in the Mediterranean area and Continental Europe, the EU launched the New European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)[3] "which applies to the EU's immediate neighbours by land or sea, encompassing Algeria, Armenia, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. Although Russia is also a neighbour of the EU, our relations are instead developed through a Strategic Partnership[4] covering four "common spaces"[5].

The EU offers our neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development). The ENP goes beyond existing relationships to offer a deeper political relationship and economic integration. The level of ambition of the relationship will depend on the extent to which these values are effectively shared."

Rules governing relations with EU neighbour countries

Neighbouring countries of the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira, such as Cape Verde, Mauritius, Morocco and Senegal maintain a privileged relationship with the EU and have signed a number of important Cooperation Treaties and Agreements with the EU.

In this context, the Communication from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament of the 24th of October 2007[6] on the future of relations between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde proposes a special partnership based on the interest expressed by this country to progressively build closer ties between the EU, and in particular with the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira. The proposed Special Partnership is characterised by intensifying, at all levels, relations between both parties and is implemented through the Action Plan based on five pillars: good governance, security, stability, regional integration with the rest of the ECOWAS countries and the outermost regions, convergence with EU norms and standards, knowledge-based society and the fight against poverty, which will by financed through the EDF, thematic programs, the stability instrument, the instrument for the promotion of human rights and democracy, the humanitarian and emergency aid instrument, as well as the Government of Cape Verde's own resources.

The ERDF, together with the EDFmay co-finance joint projects through the Wider Neighbourhood Principle provided for in the Madeira - Açores - Canarias Transnational Cooperation Program (MAC) 2007-2013, a continuation of the former INTERREG, to the extent that both funds have a common objective.

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[3] COM(2003) 104 final Communication From The Commission To The Council And The European Parliament Wider Europe — Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours
[4] OJEU L 327 of 28/11/1997
[5] Areas covered include: Economic and Environmental Matters; Freedom, Security and Justice, External Security, Research, Education including cultural aspects.
[6] COM (2007) 641 final

Furthermore, Morocco maintains privileged relations with the European Union and in October 2008 Morocco and the EU adopted a joint document[7] on the strengthening of bilateral relations in the form of an "Advanced Status road map", which responds to Morocco's wish to maintain relations that go beyond Partnership" and closer to Accession. For Spain, this privileged relationship translates into strengthening strategic Spanish-Moroccan relations, with intensified political dialogue and "progressive integration" of Morocco into the EU internal market, "with necessary financial support to meet the ambitious scope and character of this new development."

Mauritius and Senegal have also expressed their wish to form part of this new understanding of "geographical cooperation areas" and have expressed their desire to participate in the Wider Neighbourhood Action Plan, as is the case with Cape Verde, in the framework of the Wider Neighbourhood Action Plan set forth in axis number 3 of the PCT MAC 2007-2013. This means that funds may be allocating from their respective National Indicative Programs (NIP), from the European Development Fund (EDF) to enhance cooperation with these three Outermost Regions (ORs). This does not exclude the possibility of Western Africa accessing the Regional Indicative Plan (RIP) for cooperation projects involving various ACP countries that benefit from this plan with adjacent Outermost Regions.

The ORs have also been included in this new world view the European Union is working towards. In fact, the Commission pointed to the Communication "Strengthening of the partnerships with the Outermost Regions[8]" as one of the most promising actions for the future of the ORs, with "the regional integration in their respective geographical areas through the strengthening of economic, social and cultural ties." This Communication proposed a strengthened partnership for the ORs based on three main pillars: competitiveness, accessibility and regional integration.

The strategy proposed by the Commission in favour of the ORs in 2004 has been the object of successive Communications[9], thanks to consultation by the Commission in the framework of public-private partnerships with ORs and its Member States. This has served to identify, widen and open up a whole spectrum of possibilities that the ORs offer the European Union in this changing situation.

The III Report on social and economic cohesion from 2004[10] highlights the benefits of establishing a Wider Neighbourhood Action Plan to facilitate existing cooperation between the ORs and third country neighbours. However, it has not been without difficulties, due principally to EDF and ERDF coordination problems, with respect to the third pillar of the Madeira - Açores - Canarias Transnational Cooperation Program (MAC) 2007-2013, on "cooperation with third countries and the adoption of the Wider Neighbourhood principle" which includes Cape Verde, Mauritius and Senegal. One of the objectives it establishes is a push for the creation of a common area for growth and economic, social and cultural integration in the outermost regions in Macaronesia and third-country neighbours.

In this sense, and despite efforts by the Canary Islands in its position as the Managing Authority of the PCT MAC, the technical difficulties to coordinate funds that are governed by their own

[7] http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/morocco/docs/document_conjoint_fr.pdf
[8] COM (2004) 343 final
[9] COM (2004) 343 final, COM (2007) 507 final, COM (2008) 642 final,
[10] COM (2004) 107 final

separate and distinct rules (EDF and ERDF) is showing that it is clearly necessary to establish a set of coherent rules to ensure that the EU meets its commitment of improving coordination.

Similarly, in the framework of the Neighbourhood Policy, and thanks to greater understanding and institutional dialogue between the community, national, regional and local authorities in neighbouring countries and the Regional Governments of Madeira, Azores and the Canary Islands, Morocco has underlined in its Action Plan "the interest it has in cross-border cooperation with ORs as specified in Commission's Communication of May 2004". With this Communication a temporary instrument was adopted in the form of the "2008 External Borders Program for Spanish-Moroccan Cross-Border Cooperation"[11], which until now has led to the implementation of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument in the framework of the ENP.

Principal macroeconomic data and business profiles of neighbouring countries and regions

The slowdown in consumption and internal investment that the Outermost Regions as a whole are currently experiencing, thanks to the current world economic situation, means that it is necessary to adopt a strategy for growth, now and for the following years, to increase external demand, foreign sales, investment and exports.

In this sense, attention should be drawn to the fact that the Euro-African Atlantic Outermost Regions have a wide range of exportable goods and services, which can be transformed into opportunities of reciprocal interest for neighbouring third countries. These include energy, industrial machinery, building of infrastructure, equipment and general civil works, experience in commercial equipment, as well as experience in tourism, health, all water treatment cycles, solid urban waste disposal, university training and vocational training in tourism, business, agri-foodstuffs, telecommunications, logistics and seaport and airport security, as well as general consultancy services, amongst others.

- **The geographical context of outermost regions**

Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, regions belonging to Portugal and Spain respectively, are geographically close to Western Africa, form part of the so-called Euro-African Atlantic Area.

The area of this outermost region is made up of small islands and 10.6 thousand square kilometres.

The total population is 2.5 million inhabitants. The Canary Islands is the most populated region with a little over 2 million inhabitants. The growth rate of the total population of the outermost regions reached 2% in the 2000-2007 period, driven essentially by the Canary Islands which experienced an average increase of 2.5% during this period. The region is densely populated, and this is especially the case with the Canary Islands and Madeira, where population density is over double the average density in the EU27.

[11] Budget of €2,770,947 for the program's three objectives: promote socioeconomic development of cross-border territories, foster environmental sustainability and strengthen institutional, educational and cultural cooperation.

The Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira outermost regions are characterised by their small land surface area, which as a whole does not even account for 1% of the total land surface area or population of the EU27. For example, as can be seen in the tables in the annex, the land surface area of the Canary Islands is less than 1.5% of the total land area of Spain. Madeira and Azores together have a land surface area of less than 3.4% of the land surface area of Portugal.

Residents of this region enjoy an average purchasing power of approximately €21,604, when adjusted in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. That is approximately 91% of the average per capita income in the EU27. Of the regions studied, Madeira has the highest per capita income, with €23,100 per capita, approximately 98% of the average per capita income in the EU27, according to Eurostat figures for 2006. Azores has the lowest per capita income, €16,200, which is 69% of the EU27 average.

The macroeconomic climate has remained stable and positive for growth in all outermost regions, in that they have benefited from the intense process of economic convergence and integration experienced in the European Union in the past years. On average, during the 1995-2006 period, the average increase in per capita income was 5.3% in the outermost regions studied, compared to an average of 4.4% in the EU27. This difference in growth has allowed these regions to converge with the other regions in the EU in terms of per capita income. This was especially the case for Madeira, which experienced a marked improvement. It went from an average of 80% per capita income during the 1995-2003 period, to reaching 98% in 2006, the last year in which Eurostat has regionally harmonised data.

With respect to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), this region reached 46.9 million euros (PPP adjusted) for the total of the outermost regions comprising Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira, with 83% from the Canary Islands. Average annual GDP growth was 7.2% for the 1995-2006 period, far exceeding the EU27 average of 4.7%. There is no doubt that the spectacular development in tourism was the result of tax and economic incentives from the Canaries Economic and Fiscal Regime (REF), and the support of EU funding (OR, ERDF, and cohesion funding). This attracted substantial investment which led to such high growth rates.

The productive structure of the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira is characterised by a predominant weight in the services sector, accounting for just over 80% of Gross Value Added (GVA), followed by industry which accounts for 19% of GVA, and agriculture which accounts for 1.4% of GVA. From a labour market point of view, 74% of employees work in the services sector, followed by 21% in industry and 5% in the primary sector. Within services, the principal driving force for growth is the tourism industry, together with construction. In total, the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira received 5.6 million non-resident tourists in 2007. During the 1990-2007 period, the number of non-resident visitors grew to an average annual rate of 8.1% in the region, with a two digit growth in 1999 (60%) and 2006 (23%). Furthermore, the number of overnight stays reached 263,907 in 2007 for the whole of the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira region, with the Canary Islands boasting a total of 199,099 overnight stays, 75% of all stays recorded in the Eurostat database.

Of the exporting productive sectors attention should be drawn to the agri-foodstuffs industry and oil refining. The Canary Islands has the highest number of companies exporting tomato products, bananas, ornamental flowers and plants, as well as agricultural products for self-supply, such as tropical fruits and vegetables. Azores is known for its beverages, canned foods and tobacco, as well as beef cattle farming, and exports in milk by-products, especially cheese, which is the island's principal agri-foodstuffs industry. In Madeira, the principal activity is grape vine cultivation, as well as bananas, tropical and sub-tropical fruits (papayas, mangos, pineapples, avocados, guavas and cherimoya) as well as flowers.

Western Africa is a place for opportunity for the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira given its proximity. A total of 6.4% of exports from the Canary Islands are to the group of countries that forms part of the so-called Euro-African Atlantic Area (Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Cape Verde and Equatorial Guinea), accounting for a total of €230 million in 2008. Furthermore, 7.5% of imports to the Canary Islands are from these countries. As can be seen in the annex, of the group of aforementioned African countries, the majority of exports are to Morocco (€173.7 million) y Mauritania (€20.8 million), followed by Capo Verde (€15 million), Equatorial Guinea (€10.7 million) and Senegal (€9.9 million).

In the case of Madeira, whilst 53% of its imports are from the EU, 64.5% of its exports are to African countries, with Angola the principal destination for exports, accounting for 48% of the total for 2006, a total €28 million, in other words, barely 0.6% of Madeira's GDP. Of the countries in this group, Cape Verde receives 8.2% of exports from Madeira, accounting for a total of €2.3.

Exports from the Canary Islands to the closest neighbouring African countries are characterised by diversification and country-specificity. For example, whilst the Canary Islands supplies Cape Verde with capital equipment, furniture and vehicles, it supplies Morocco nearly exclusively with fuel and mineral oil. The Canary Islands supplies Senegal with mineral oil and bituminous minerals and construction machinery, whilst to Mauritius it exports petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons, paper, cardboard and electrical telephone devices. Finally, to Equatorial Guinea it exports machinery, automotive vehicles, tractors and cycles, lubricants, animal and vegetable oil, essential oils, resinoids, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and cast iron products.

With respect to imports, the Canary Islands imports fuel and mineral oils from Equatorial Guinea, live animals, compressed gas containers and aircraft parts from Cape Verde, and basically fish products from Senegal, Mauritius and Morocco.

- **African outermost regions: Western and Central Africa**

Neighbouring African countries classified as Outermost Regions within the Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands Euro-African Atlantic Area includes Maghreb countries (Morocco), Western African countries (Cape Verde, Mauritius and Senegal), and in a wider interpretation of African neighbourhood, Central African countries (Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe), making this area unique with respect to other areas of EU cooperation.

Africa as a whole is immersed in a global process of economic integration, although currently this only refers to free trade zones between partner countries or members of the same sub-regional group. Fortunately, these processes have been adopted very few kilometres from the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira. This should be understood as a challenge for our economies. It means greater possibilities for growth and opens up possibilities of taking advantage of the benefits that economies of scale have to offer. As a whole, this large market has maintained sustained growth in the past years, which in addition to other benefits, contributes to reducing poverty and economic imbalances in the region, thereby contributing immensely to achieving the Millennium Goals.

Senegal, Cape Verde, Mauritius, Morocco, Equatorial Guinea, Angola and São Tomé and Príncipe are countries with which the OR in the Euro-African Atlantic Area maintain important historical ties and constitute a commercial bridge to other countries with which they have intensified commercial relations over the past decades, specifically the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) and the Maghreb Union. GDP per capita growth during the 2000-2007 period reached an annual average rate of 6%, whilst population growth was 2.8%.

The ECOWAS, which includes Cape Verde, Senegal and Guinea Bissau, has a total population of 261.7 million inhabitants with a per capita purchasing power of $1.720 and a GDP valued at $487.7 million. Nigeria is the most populated country with approximately 148 million inhabitants, half of the ECOWAS population. The countries with the highest per capita incomes are Cape Verde with $3.499 and Nigeria with $2.134.

The CEEAC, comprising Angola São Tomé and Príncipe and Equatorial Guinea has a total of 127.6 million inhabitants with a per capita purchasing power of $1.952 and a GDP valued at $249.2 million. The Democratic Republic of Congo is the most populated CEEAC country, accounting for approximately half of the total population. However, Angola in terms of GDP is the most important CEEAC country, with a total GDP of 37%, followed by Cameroon with 19%. Growth in per capita GDP during the 2000-2007 period reached an annual average of 4.5% and the population accounts for 2.9% of the total.

As a whole, production in the ECOWAS and CEEAC member states is notably diversified, however there are some differences. Firstly, the services sector is more important in the ECOWAS, as it accounts for 43% of the GDP compared to 32% in the CEEAC. Secondly, the predominant sector in the CEEAC is industry, accounting for 47% if GDP compared to 22% in ECOWAS. By country, there is a predominant importance of the services sector in Senegal, Cape Verde, and São Tomé and Príncipe, which exceeds 60% of GDP. On the other hand, industry is the most important sector in Equatorial Guinea and Angola, where it exceeds 80% of GDP.

With the exception of Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe, all countries in both blocs belong to the WTO. The degree of exposure to international business is high in both blocs, accounting for 73% of GDP in the ECOWAS and 89% of GDP in the CEEAC. By country, attention should be drawn to the importance of the foreign sector in Liberia, Angola, The Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, where it exceeds 100% of GDP. Finally, the average tariffs applied are higher in the CEEAC, where it reaches on average 17.9%, compared to tariffs applied by ECOWAS of 12%.

The EU has a privileged business relationship with countries from both blocs. It generally holds a significant market share for both purchases and sales of these countries to foreign markets. If we analyse purchases by foreign markets in both blocs, the countries that stand out are Morocco, Cape Verde, Gabon and São Tomé and Príncipe, where purchases exceed 60% of the total.

Finally, both the ECOWAS and the CEEAC have received a very low percentage of the total world foreign direct investment. The two blocs as a whole have scarcely received 0.8% of the world total. However in the past years, due principally to the discovery and exploitation of raw materials, they have attracted investment from world powers such as India, China and the US.

In volume, both blocs have accumulated a total of $384.8 in the form of foreign direct investment, with 80% to the CEEAC. In per capita terms, there are significant differences between the ECOWAS and the CEEAC, with greater investment per capita to the CEEAC, specifically $2,491.4 per capita compared to $273.8 to the ECOWAS.

With this view, and as we highlighted earlier, the slowdown in consumption and internal investment that the Outermost Regions as a whole are currently experiencing, thanks to the current world economic situation, means that it is necessary to adopt a strategy for growth, now and for the following years, to increase external demand, foreign sales, investment and exports. Our African neighbourhood is a suitable area in which to do this.

- **Angola**

Angola has a population of 16.8 million and covers an area of 1.2 million square kilometres. The GDP per capita is 6,331 dollars (in terms of purchasing power parity), a high level with respect to its closest neighbours, although still far from the levels of Equatorial Guinea (18,000 dollars) or Gabon (14,478 dollars). During the period 2000-2008, the GDP per capita grew at an average yearly rate of 10.8%. In terms of its level of development, the country is ranked 157th out of a total of 177 countries on the Human Development Index of the UN for 2007-2008, and is therefore considered as a zone of Low Human Development.

The evolution of the macro parameters such as inflation or the foreign deficit have not been favourable for the inhabitants of Angola. Although during the period 2000-2008 the GDP grew at an average yearly rate of around 14%, it did so against a backdrop of hyperinflation, with price increases well above 100% during the period 2000-2002. Angola has drastically reduced its inflation rate since the end of the war, and has reached 12% in the last two years, still a reflection of the increase in food and petrol prices.

In general terms, the outlook in the medium term is positive, with forecasts for reduced inflation and achieving a fiscal and current account surplus against a backdrop of low foreign debt. However, according to the forecasts of the IMF, the economy of Angola will decrease by 3.6% in 2009, and then recover its growth in 2010 to reach 9.8%. Also, the country's economy is strongly dependent in fiscal terms on income from the extraction of hydrocarbons. In terms of inflation, this will decrease to 8% in 2010 as a result of the decrease in the previous year. The forecasts of the IMF predict a public surplus of 2.2% in 2009 and 3.4% in 2010, and a current account surplus of between 3 and 4% of the GDP in the next few years. The total foreign debt represents 14% of the GDP. As a result, the economy of Angola faces the major challenge of eliminating its high dependency on the oil sector, especially the dependence of its public finances.

The main driving forces behind the economy of Angola are exports of oil and diamonds. Oil drilling is the main economic activity of Angola, providing 59% of the GDP. The exploitation of new oil wells led to Angola becoming the first oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa in 2008, with a production of 2 million barrels a day. Its entry into the OPEC in 2007 has further strengthened its international position. With regard to gas, most of the reserves that have been found are in the oil wells, meaning that between 70 and 80% of it is burned while extracting the crude oil. Only 10% of these reserves are obtained and used to supply the oil drilling platforms, while the rest is re-injected into the oil wells to help obtain the crude oil. In the sector of non-energetic mineral resources, Angola is the world's fourth leading diamond producer. The country also has other under-exploited mineral reserves, such as iron, coal, phosphates, uranium, titanium, copper, gold, manganese, bauxite and nickel.

Agriculture, despite its major potential, continues to be a profoundly under-used sector, and the country has gone from being self-sufficient to now importing most of its basic products. At present the most widely extended crops are corn, manioc, beans and sorghum, and to a lesser extent cotton, peanuts, rice, potatoes and coffee. Also, Angola's waters have some of the most important fishing banks in the region, and it exports large amounts of the most valuable species (tuna, prawns and king crabs).

In the case of the services sector, tourism in Angola suffers from an evident lack of infrastructures that limits its growth. Finally, banking, trade and telephone services are sectors in a process of expansion that are expected to develop significantly in the next few years, together with the insurance sector.

Angola is a country that is considerably open to foreign trade (125% of the GDP) and with a clear vocation for free exchange. As proof of this, Angola has been a signatory of the GATT since 8 April 1994, and a member of the WTO since 23 November 1996. It is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States[12] (CEAAC) which includes the countries of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa[13] (CEMAC). Angola is also a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a regional organisation that includes the countries of southern Africa[14] created with the aim of achieving a *de facto* economic union in 2018 (a Free Trade Zone in 2008, a Customs Union in 2010, a Common Market in 2015, a Monetary Union in 2016 and a single currency in 2018). At present, a Free Trade Zone has only been established between Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Malawi.

Oil exports represent 95% of the country's total exports, followed by diamonds (2.5%) and natural gas (1%). Angola mainly imports consumer goods (60% of the total), followed by capital goods (29%) and intermediate goods (11,7%). Its main clients include the USA and China, accounting for 34.9% and 32% of the total respectively. France is in third place, followed by Holland, each with less than 10% of the quota. Its main suppliers are Portugal, with 18% of the total, followed by the USA with 10%, South Korea with 9.6% and China with 9.5% of the total.

The trade balance is at a deficit for Spain. Angola mainly imports motor vehicles from Spain (14% of the total), nuclear reactors, boilers and machinery (13%), electrical machinery, devices and

[12] Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe.
[13] Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.
[14] Dem. Rep. of Congo, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauricio, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

material (13%), and drinks, alcoholic liquids and vinegar (8.6%). Exports from Angola to Spain are basically oil (96%), fish, salt, sulphur, coffee, tea and cast metal products.

Finally, in terms of direct foreign investment, the stock of accumulated direct investment stood at 11,708 million dollars in 2007, a total of 1,159 million dollars less than in 2004. By sectors, direct foreign investment is mainly focused on the mining sector and transport infrastructures (roads and railways), electricity and sewage. In this case, the EU is the main investor in the country.

- **Cape Verde**

Cape Verde has half a million inhabitants, and covers a surface of 4,000 square kilometres. Its population enjoys a relatively high buying power in comparative terms with neighbouring African countries, which stood at 2,367 euros per capita in 2008, compared to the average of 1,406 euros per capita for the inhabitants of the ECOWAS states. During the period 2000-2007, the GDP per capita grew at an average yearly rate of 6%, while the population grew at an average yearly rate of 3% over the same period. Despite this growth in buying power, Cape Verde is ranked 118th out of 179 countries in the Human Development Index produced by the UNDP, meaning that it forms a part of the countries defined as having a medium level of human development.

Cape Verde has enjoyed a very stable and positive macroeconomic climate, with vigorous growth of the GDP, which reached an annual average of 6%, and moderate inflation at around 1.5%. However, Cape Verde has structural problems revealed by the public deficit seen in the last year of 10% of the GDP, and the government's foreign debt, which represented 45% of the GDP in 2008. The IMF forecasts an upturn in the main magnitudes: a slight increase in the growth of the GDP to around 6.8%, a moderate change in the inflation rate to around 2.3%, a slight increase in the fiscal deficit to around 10% of the GDP, a stable current account deficit of around 12% of the GDP, and finally a lower level of foreign public debt of around 41.3% of the GDP.

The dynamic nature of Cape Verde's economy is derived from the combination of construction and tourism. The tourism sector represents 25% of the GDP, and is the main source of employment and economic growth. In figures, Cape Verde received 340,000 tourists in 2008, 68% of its total population. Tourism has developed spectacularly over the last 20 years, from a contribution of 4% to the GDP in 1998 to 25% today. Tourism is a priority sector for the government, as revealed by ambitious plans for airport infrastructures (the construction of new international airports on the islands of Santiago, São Vicente and Maio, or the privatisation of the national airline, Transportes Aéreos de Cabo Verde). Growth in the tourism sector has generated synergies in the rest of the economy, especially in the construction sector, with hotel infrastructures and second homes for European nationals.

Cape Verde is fully integrated in international trade organisations, at both regional and worldwide level: it has been a member of the WTO since 2008, and is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The trade opening rate of Cape Verde reaches 60% of the GDP. Like other ultra-peripheral regions, the position of Cape Verde as an island leads to higher costs that are faced by resident families and companies on the islands. Also, its extreme dependence on foreign countries means that it is a potential buyer in practically all sectors, from agricultural products to manufactured products, mainly fuels and mineral oils (59% of the imported total), machinery, mechanical items and equipment (5.4%), followed by motor vehicles, electrical materials and iron. The main exports of Cape Verde are fish and crustaceans (24% in 2007), followed by clothing and footwear, the country's main manufacturing industries.

The trade balance provides a surplus for Spain, which is the fourth most important supplier for the country, while still at a distance from the first, Portugal. In 2008, the main products exported from Spain to Cape Verde were equipment (26%), fixtures and furniture (12%), vehicles (9%), plastic materials (5%) and electrical devices (4%). In turn, Spain is the fourth main client of Cape Verde, mainly imports of fish and crustaceans (77%) and clothing and accessories (17%). With regard to the Canary Islands, the bilateral relation has led to a surplus and is increasingly intensive. According to data from the Government of the Canary Islands, in 2008 the volume of imports in Cape Verde from the Canary Islands reached 15 million euros, compared to 37,000 euros in exports from Cape Verde to the Canary Islands. In comparison to 2007, this represents an increase of 49% in exports from the Canary Islands to Cape Verde. By sectors, exports from the Canary Islands to Cape Verde were mainly concentrated in the motor vehicle and construction material sectors (tubing and plastic tubing accessories), while in the case of exports from Cape Verde to the Canary Islands, the main products were live animals, aluminium containers for compressed or liquid gases, and glass.

The islands' proximity to ultra-peripheral zones of Europe, the linguistic advantage of Portugal (the Azores and Madeira) and the similar climate has meant that for some years Spain and Portugal have been amongst the main suppliers and investors in Cape Verde. According to the WTO, the EU is Cape Verde's main trade partner, accounting for 79% of its imports and 60% of its exports. In second place is Brazil, accounting for 6% of its imports, while its second most important trading partner in terms of exports is the Ivory Coast, which receives 31% of Cape Verde's exports. In terms of direct foreign investment, the EU plays a predominant role. Based on data from 2007, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom occupied the main positions, in that order. Portugal represented 31% of the total (256 million euros), compared to 13% from Spain (108 million euros).

In 2007, the flow or direct foreign investment reached 113 million euros, 13% of the GDP according to UNCTAD. In accumulated terms, the direct foreign investment received by Cape Verde amounts to 513 million euros, 60% of the GDP. With the ECOWAS countries, Cape Verde receives the highest amount of direct foreign investment both in per capita terms as well as in terms of the percentage of the GDP. By sectors, approximately 90% of foreign investment in Cape Verde is destined to the tourism sector, and the remaining 10% to construction, public works and commercial distribution. Finally, special mention should be made of the government's objective to create a Special Economic Zone, with lower or zero fiscal pressures in order to create a platform that attracts direct investment in the distribution and logistics sector.

Finally, there are constant and fluid institutional and business relations between the ultra-peripheral regions and Cape Verde. This is seen in the "Macaronesia Trade Fair" held every two years, with the participation of companies from the archipelagos of Cape Verde, the Canary Islands, the Azores and Madeira.

- **Equatorial Guinea**

The economy of Equatorial Guinea continues to undergo significant transformations at both social and economic level, as a result of the discovery of gas and petrol deposits in the early 1990s. The country covers an area of 28,000 square kilometres, and has a population of 1.2 million, who have the highest per capita income in the region, of 12,198 euros. During the period 2000-2007, the GDP per capita of Equatorial Guinea grew impressively to an average of 21%, making it one of the driving forces behind the growth of the region of Central Africa. However, the population only grew by 3.4% during the same period. Despite this, the country occupies 115th place out of the 179 countries on the Human Development Index produced by the UNDP, meaning it belongs to the group of countries with a medium level of human development. As a result, the rhythm of growth achieved up to now has not been enough to reduce the high levels of poverty that the country suffers.

The macroeconomic climate is marked by its highly volatile nature, and is very positive in terms of growth. According to the IMF, in 2007 the GDP of Equatorial Guinea grew by 21.4% in real terms, a very high rate if we consider the value for 2006 of 1.3%, but similar to that of 2004, 38%. Inflation is high due to rising raw material prices, and for the period 2000-2007, consumer prices rose by an average of 5.7%. Public finances produced a surplus of 19% of the GDP in 2007, mainly as a result of income from petrol. Removing this income and eliminating the part of the GDP derived from the petrol sector, the fiscal surplus has a deficit of around 50% of the GDP. The growth of the petrol sector has led to a surplus in the trade balance, despite the fact that imports have grown exponentially since the early 1990s as a result of demands from the petrol sector. On the whole, Equatorial Guinea has a current account surplus of 11.4% of the GDP.

This extraordinary growth in the country's income and GDP has led it to having one of the lowest debt ratios of the countries belonging to the monetary union of Francophone countries. Specifically, outstanding medium- and long-term public debt is lower than 1% of the GDP, while the service-to-exports debt stands at 7%. However, the macroeconomic forecasts published by the IMF for the next two years are anything but promising: continued, relatively high inflation (5%), a reduction of the GDP of around 5.4% in 2009 and 2.8% in 2010; and a current account deficit of 5.3% of the GDP, compared to a surplus in the previous two years of around 7%.

Equatorial Guinea is currently the third largest oil producer of sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria and Angola, with more barrels per capita than Saudi Arabia. According to the BP Statistical Review, in 2007 the country produced 363,000 barrels per day, 1.6% of the world's production, while in 2008 the local oil company Gepetrol estimated this figure to be 329,000 barrels per day. This represents around 85% of the GDP, 98% of exports and 90% of the Government's income. As a result, the hydrocarbon extraction sector (oil, natural gas, methanol and others) is a driving force for the growth of Equatorial Guinea's economy, representing 73.8% of the GDP compared to the figure of 11.6% for the manufacturing sector (oil derivatives), or 7.9% for the construction sector. On the contrary, the primary sector (agriculture and fishing, excluding hydrocarbons) is in a situation of decline. This sector currently represents 2.6% of the GDP, and its survival is at risk due to the dominance of crops such as coffee or cacao. In the case of the secondary sector, construction and oil derivatives are its two main pillars of growth. Finally, the services sector is very underdeveloped, and has a very reduced presence in the economy as a whole (2.7% of the GDP).

Equatorial Guinea is currently negotiating with the EU to achieve an Economic Partnership Agreement. It is also a member of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), as a result of which it applies a common customs tariff on imports from other countries. However, it is not a member of the WTO, and acts as an observer. In terms of trade openings, the ratio of exports and imports represents 84% of the GDP of Equatorial Guinea, according to the WTO. The foreign trade sector grew significantly during the period 2000-2007, reaching an average annual rate of growth of 18% in both exports and imports. The main import sectors are oil and energy, which import machinery and industrial equipment for hydrocarbon extraction activities. Exports are mainly fuel and mineral oils, distillation products and bituminous materials.

According to the Spanish Institute of Foreign Trade (ICEX), the EU is still the main trading partner of Equatorial Guinea, both in terms of purchases and sales. In 2007, the country imported goods and services from the EU for an estimated value of 419 million euros, compared to the 174 million euros imported from the USA, or 77 million from the Ivory Coast, the country's third most important supplier. In terms of exports, in 2007 the country exported 2,264 million euros of products to EU, compared to 1,358 million euros to the USA, or 1,238 million euros to China, its third most important client.

Spain has traditionally been Equatorial Guinea's main trade partner. However, since the 1990s, Spain has lost part of its market share to the USA, which is currently the country's main trade partner in terms of oil exports, and imports of machinery and industrial equipment. Spain is Equatorial Guinea's second largest supplier, and the third client nation after the USA and China.

The trade balance has always been unfavourable to Spain. In terms of products, while 99% of the products purchased by Spain from Equatorial Guinea are hydrocarbons, the most relevant Spanish sales are drinks and alcohols, followed by cars and car accessories, and mechanical items for the vehicle sector. Spain also buys wood from the country, although to a lesser extent, as well as cacao and cacao-based derivatives. In terms of investments, Spain has a very reduced presence.

In the case of fishing, the main countries that exploit the country's waters are Spain, Nigeria and principally France, whose vessels are usually based in the neighbouring country of Gabon. The main captures are tuna on the high seas and prawns, lobsters and king prawns in coastal waters. Paradoxically, there is an enormous deficit in the offer of fish and fish products in Equatorial Guinea, meaning that imports of frozen fish are a usual practice.

With regard to bilateral relations with the Canary Islands, the volume of exports from Equatorial Guinea to the Canary Islands was 1,110 million euros in 2008, wholly represented by fuels and mineral oils. Imports to Equatorial Guinea from the Canary Islands were valued at 10.7 million euros, especially imports of nuclear reactors, boilers and machinery (36%), cars, tractors and motorcycles (22%), animal or plant fats and oils (16%), essential oils and resinoids (4%), fish, crustaceans and molluscs (4%), and cast iron products (4%).

As would be expected, the main investments are being made in the hydrocarbon extraction sector. According to data from the UNCTAD, in 2007 Equatorial Guinea received a total of 2,762 million euros as direct investment, approximately 1% of its GDP. In terms of accumulated direct investment, this stands at 17,190 million euros, 94% of the GDP, a very significant figure if we compare it with the 1,753 million euros of accumulated direct investment for Morocco, or 103 million euros in the case of Mauritania.

- **Morocco**

The Moroccan market has a total of 31 million inhabitants with a relatively high buying power (2,943 euros) with respect to its neighbouring countries, and covers a total of 447,000 square kilometres. The GDP per capita experienced average yearly growth of 6% between 2000 and 2007, compared to a population with an annual growth rate of 1.8%. Despite this, Morocco is ranked 127th out of 179 countries on the Human Development Index produced by the UNDP, meaning that it belongs to the group of countries with a medium level of human development. As a result, the rates of growth achieved so far have not been sufficient to reduce the high level of poverty suffered by the country.

The Moroccan economy has benefited in recent years from a highly stable and positive macroeconomic context, in this case the longest the country has every experienced. However, Morocco has structural problems derived from its strong dependence on income from privatizations and the lack of competitiveness. During the period 2000-2007, Morocco's GDP grew at an average yearly rate of 4.6% in a context of low inflation, below 2%. Also, its public finances recorded a surplus in 2008 of around 0.7% of the GDP. The current account deficit continues to be relatively low, at 2% of the GDP, and the country's foreign debt is similar to that of its neighbouring countries, 21% of the GDP. According to forecasts from the IMF for the next two years, the macroeconomic prospects for Morocco point towards a slight increase in inflation (2.9%), a moderate upturn in the rate of growth of the GDP (5.8%), and stability in terms of the current account deficit (-1.8% of the GDP) and foreign debt levels (19.5%). In fiscal matters, the IMF forecasts that the government will reach a deficit of around 0.7% of the GDP in 2009 in order to reach a balanced budget in 2010.

The industrial and services sectors have experienced considerable growth in recent years, to the detriment of the agricultural sector. The industrial sector has grown as a result of the highly dynamic situation in the energy, mining and construction sectors. The mining sector benefits from sustained foreign demand and high prices, particularly in the area of phosphate derivatives, for which Morocco is the world's leading exporter, with three-quarters of the world's deposits. Construction is also highly dynamic as a result of large-scale infrastructure projects that are currently underway (roads, motorways, ports, etc.), together with the tourism sector. Morocco's manufacturing industry currently generates one-third of the GDP, led by the chemical industry and followed by agri-foods and textiles, although the latter is the most important if we consider it in terms of employment. The country's textile, clothing, footwear and leather sectors generate more than 15% of its industrial production, representing close to 40% of Morocco's exports and employing approximately 50% of the active population working in industry. In the case of the agri-food industry, an essential sector for the Moroccan economy, this produces close to 35% of the total output of the transformation industries, its exports represent 20% of all industrial exports, and it directly employs close to 19% of the active population occupied in industry (88,000 people).

The services sector has undergone considerable development in recent years, especially commercial activity (large-scale shopping centres and franchises), and tourism. Tourism is one of the main driving forces behind the growth of the Moroccan economy. In 2001 the government launched an ambitious programme known as "Vision 2010", aimed at reaching a total of 10 million tourists by 2010, with a highly ambitious infrastructure plan (the "Azur Plan" for spas), grants for the modernisation and refurbishment of existing hotels, and strategic agreements for the opening of its airspace, leading to the inauguration during 2004 and 2005 of direct flights between a number of European cities (including Madrid and Barcelona) and Marrakech, Fez and Agadir.

Morocco began to open up to the outside world in 1987 when it joined the GATT, and then the WTO in 1994. In 1996, Morocco signed an Agreement of Association with the EU in order to gradually establish a free trade zone for industrial goods, and began the process of dismantling its customs system in 2000, which will end in 2012. In terms of agriculture, negotiations began in early 2002, culminating in 2003 with the signing of the new agricultural agreement between Morocco and the EU, aimed at liberalizing the sector. Since then, approximately 97% of agricultural exports from Morocco have access to the internal European market, compared to a figure of 67% for exports from the EU to Morocco.

Apart from the EU, in 2004 Morocco signed agreements with the USA and Turkey, as well as the "Agadir Agreement". The first two led to the immediate elimination in 2006 of customs duties imposed on 95% of the bilateral trade of industrial and consumer goods, and 99% of Moroccan exports of industrial goods. The Agadir Agreement, signed in 2001 between the governments of Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco was aimed at creating a free exchange zone between the Arab countries of the Mediterranean, based on the association agreements signed by each party with the EU. Morocco also has mutual preferential agreements with the following countries: Algiers, Libya, Mauritania, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Guinea, Senegal, Sudan, South Korea, China, Malaysia and Colombia.

Morocco mainly imports energy products and lubricants, especially crude oil, which occupies the first position, followed in order of importance by machinery and other equipment, petroleum gas and other hydrocarbons, cast iron and steel products, cars and chemical products.

Morocco's main trade partner is the EU, which receives 73% of Moroccan sales to foreign countries, and 52% of the products it purchases from foreign countries. The EU is followed at a considerable distance by the USA in terms of Moroccan imports (with only 8% of the quota), and by India in terms of exports (3.8%). Within the EU, France is Morocco's main trade partner, representing 18% of all imports and 32% of all exports. There has been a marked increase in the presence of China as a supplier since 2005.

Moroccan imports of Spanish products are characterised by being highly diverse, although they are mainly concentrated on textile materials, chemical products, electrical material, packaging and steel products. Exports from Morocco to Spain are mainly textiles, fish, molluscs and crustaceans (fresh and frozen), electrical material, unfinished products and fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables. Spanish also imports a large amount of phosphates from Morocco. Finally, in terms of tourism, Spain has become consolidated in recent years as the second most important source of tourists in Morocco, while Spain is the leading tourist destination for Moroccans, followed by the USA, Canada, France and Italy.

According to data from the UNCTAD, in 2007 Morocco received a total of 1,753 million euros as direct foreign investment, representing approximately 3.5% of the GDP. In accumulated terms, the stock of direct foreign investment in Morocco stands at 22,124 million euros, 44% of its GDP.

In per capita terms, the stock of direct foreign investment stood at 705 euros in 2007, much higher than the level seen in neighbouring countries such as Mauritania (417 euros) or Senegal (30 euros). During the period 1997-2002, direct investment was mainly directed at the telecommunications sector (51.5%), industry (14.6%), and to a lesser extent, banking (8.1%), energy and mining (5.6%), petrol (4.7%) and the real estate sector (4.4%).

Morocco has traditionally been a very attractive location for Spanish investment. It is estimated that there are some 700 Spanish companies in Morocco. In general terms, Spanish investment in recent years has been concentrated in the electrical and agri-food industry sectors, although there is a growing presence of the insurance sector, real estate activities and tourism. Moroccan investments in Spain are still very limited, and have been focused on the trade sector, real estate activities, textiles, leather and leather goods, footwear and fishing.

- **Mauritania**

The Mauritanian market has a total of 3 million inhabitants in an area covering just over one million square kilometres. The discovery of petrol and gas deposits, together with increased oil and iron prices in the international markets (two of the country's main exports) have allowed its population to enjoy sustained economic growth in recent years. However, today the per capita income level is relatively low in comparison to the rest of its surrounding countries (1,388 euros). Also, despite having experienced an average yearly growth of 4.4% in the level of per capita income during the period 2000-2007, the country is ranked 140th out of 179 countries on the Human Development Index produced by the UNDP, and therefore belongs to the group of countries with a medium level of human development.

In recent years, Mauritania has enjoyed a very stable and favourable macroeconomic climate. The discovery of petrol and gas deposits, and increased petrol and iron prices in the international markets, has allowed the Mauritanian economy to grow at an annual rate of above 4% during the period 2000-2007. In terms of public finance, Mauritania has a high fiscal surplus, 29% of the GDP, a result of income from petrol. The current account balance has a high surplus, of 29% of the GDP. Less favourable aspects are the country's high foreign debt, of 59%, and high inflation levels, which stood at an average of 7.6% during the period 2000-2007. Also, if we discount income connected with petrol, the country has a fiscal deficit in its public accounts, at around 9.8% of the GDP according to the IMF. In terms of the coming years, the forecasts of the IMF discount a deceleration of the inflation rates (to around 5%) and acceleration of the growth rate of the GDP, which could reach 4.7% by 2010. With regard to public finance, the IMF estimates a deficit of 8.4% in the GDP for 2009-2010, excluding official aid and income connected with petrol. If we include all of the income derived from petrol, the deficit would turn into a surplus of an average of 3.7% of the GDP during 2009-2010. Also, considerable reductions in foreign debt are expected, to around 57% of the GDP.

In terms of production sectors, the primary sector has lost its relative importance in favour of extraction industries, especially for iron and petrol. Agriculture has to deal with highly unfavourable weather conditions, and limited water availability. Approximately 90% of the country's surface area is desert, and only 1% of the land can be regularly cultivated, meaning that agriculture lacks a solid base on which it can be developed. The fishing subsector represents one of the main sources of income for the country, although its total contribution towards exports is limited. In the case of the services sector, this has very little impact on the economy, as apart from the telecommunications sector, there are very few service companies, and the traditional sector is trade. Mauritania imports practically all of its consultancy, engineering and telecommunications services, subcontracting them from foreign countries. The tourism subsector has great potential, although it is very underdeveloped. Mauritania has zones with great potential for tourism (deserts, nature reserves, and ancient cities declared world heritage sites), but is faced with bottlenecks with respect to its hotel infrastructures and transport. According to local sources, a total of 15,000 tourists visited the country during the tourism season 2006-2007 (October to April), mainly from France.

Mauritania has been a member of the WTO since 31 May 1995, meaning that it grants the statute of Most Favoured Nation to all of its trade partners. As a result, all of the multilateral agreements of the WTO are, in principle, binding for Mauritania. The evolution of Mauritania's foreign trade reveals the same upward trend based on the prospecting of petrol and mining products, reflected in the trade liberalization rate, which rose from 69% in 2004 to 119% in 2007, above all to growing imports of machinery for the mining industry. Discounting income derived from petrol, Mauritania has a structural deficit of around 9% of the GDP.

Mauritania's main export sector is iron, followed by petrol and fishing. There is also an incipient copper mining and production sector. The rest of the goods that are exported form a part of re-export processes in the area of regional trade, except for skins and leather, which are local products. Its main imports are in the agri-food sector, together with essential products such as cereals or milk. With the exception of equipment for prospecting and extracting petrol, the imports that have grown the most over the past five years are food preparations, semolina, wheat flour, hydraulic cements, lifting machinery, self-operating machinery, nitrogen-based fertilizers and petrol products.

The EU is Mauritania's main trade partner, both in terms of the percentage of exports and imports to and from the country. Specifically, 76% of Mauritania's exports are destined to member states of the EU, while 43% of the country's imports are from EU countries. The USA is in second place in terms of Mauritanian imports (8% of the total), and Japan in terms of exports from the country (14%), both at a significant distance with respect to the EU. In terms of countries, Italy, Belgium, Spain, France and Germany represent more than half of the value of all Mauritanian exports. There was also an exponential increase between 2005 and 2007 in exports to China and Japan, with China absorbing most of the country's iron and petrol production, and Japan buying fish and octopus.

The trade balance traditionally shows a deficit for Spain, which has grown in recent years due to the larger number of fishing licences obtained by Spain as a result of the modifications made to the Fishing Agreement between Mauritania and the EU in July 2006. Spain mainly exports fuels to Mauritania (hydrocarbons), as well as electrical equipment, vehicles and machinery for the construction sector. The main Spanish imports from Mauritania are iron and products from the fishing sector.

The bilateral trade relation with the Canary Islands shows a deficit for Mauritania. The volume of exports from Mauritania to the Canary Islands in 2008 reached 30.9 million euros, while imports to Mauritania from the Canary Islands stood at 20.8 million euros. These data represent a decrease of 22% in terms of both exports and imports. In terms of sectors, imports from the Canary Islands to Mauritania were basically focused on petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons, while exports from Mauritania to the Canary Islands were mainly fish products.

Finally, institutional relations between the governments of the Canary Islands and Mauritania received a major impulse in March 2007, when both governments presented an outline of the future "Wider Neighbourhood Action Plan" in Nouakchott, which they have been developing jointly since then. In trade terms, Mauritanian exports to the Canary Islands in 2007 reached 31 million euros, compared to the 21 million euros of imports to Mauritania from the Canary Islands, according to data available from the Government of the Canary Islands through the VEXCAN project. In terms of products, while the Canary Islands mainly export petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons to Mauritania (11% of the total), as well as paper and cardboard (4.2%) or electrical telephone apparatus (3.5%), Mauritania basically exports products from the fishing sector to the Canary Islands (93% of the total).

The most important direct investment operations are, without doubt, the prospecting and exploitation of offshore oil rigs. According to data from the UNCTAD, in 2007 the flow of incoming direct foreign investment stood at 103 million euros, 5.4% of the GDP. In accumulated terms, the stock of direct foreign investment represents 67% of Mauritania's GDP, around 1,287 million euros. In comparison with other countries in the region, the stock of direct foreign investment per capita in Mauritania, 413 euros, exceeds that in countries such as Algiers (236 euros) or Egypt (453 euros), but is still far removed from other similar countries such as Tunisia (1,718 euros) or Morocco (704 euros).

There are no large-scale Spanish investors in Mauritania, and those that are present are mainly focused in the fishing sector. In terms of tourism, Mauritania is still a relatively unknown destination in Spain, and the number of Spanish tourists is still small. In turn, Mauritanians travelling to Spain mainly visit the Canary Islands for commercial or health reasons, meaning that neither can Mauritania be considered as a relevant client for the Spanish tourism sector.

- **São Tomé and Príncipe**

The economy of São Tomé and Príncipe is characterised its major openness to foreign trade, very reduced and having a limited diversification in terms of exports. The country has a population of 160,000 and covers an area of 1,000 square kilometres. The GDP per capita is 1,749 dollars (in terms of purchasing power parity), well below that of neighbouring countries such as Equatorial Guinea (18,000 dollars), Gabon (14,478 dollars) or Angola (6,331 dollars). During the period 2000-2008, the GDP per capita grew at an average yearly rate of 6.6%. In terms of its level of development, the country is ranked 123rd out of a total of 177 countries on the Human Development Index produced by the UN for 2007-2008, and is therefore in the zone of Medium Human Development.

The evolution of macro parameters such as inflation or the foreign trade deficit have not been favourable for the inhabitants of São Tomé and Príncipe. Although during the period 2000-2008 the GDP grew at an annual rate of around 8%, it did so against a backdrop of out of control inflation, with prices rising at an average rate of around 15%. In 2008, average inflation stood at 26%, after reaching levels of 18.5% in 2007, a result of surcharges on foodstuffs and petrol, increased electricity charges, and the devaluation of the currency (DOBRA), especially with respect to the euro, which is the main currency used for its imports.

In the medium term, the economy of São Tomé and Príncipe has a critical dependence on exports of oil and its derived income, which is currently the subject of great uncertainty. The country is also facing up to the challenge of maintaining sustainability in fiscal terms and with regard to foreign debt. The forecasts of the IMF indicate a public deficit of below 4% of the GDP and a major current account deficit of around 47% in the next few years. Also, the service of public debt as a percentage of exports reached 60% of the GDP in 2008, according to the estimates of the IMF.

The main driving forces behind the economy are the construction and services sectors, mainly supported by increasing flows of direct foreign investment. It has a tertiarized economy, in which the services sector contributes to 63% of the GDP. The tourism sector offers the greatest potential in the country, mainly catering to Portuguese tourists, and offers conditions for the development of eco-tourism projects (due to its wide variety of landscapes, fauna and flora), and it is a potential holiday destination for Western Africa and Europe. The sector will create requirements in the areas of equipment and training.

In the agricultural sector, the climatological conditions and the quality of cacao produced in São Tomé makes it an ideal centre for production and exportation to western Africa. Other sectors with increasing potential are the cultivation of exotic flowers, medicinal or aromatic herbs, pepper, vanilla, etc. The fishing sector is considerably underdeveloped, meaning there is a major demand for fishing equipment and cold storage units, and the creation of plants to process the fish and export it.

In terms of the hydrocarbon extraction industry, the potential is in the medium to long term. Plans to begin oil and gas extraction, initially set for 2011, have now been put back to 2014. There are currently 2 zones being prospected: a Joint Exploitation Zone with Nigeria, and its own Economic Exclusion Zone. The Government is seeking new partners for its own economic exclusion zone, with the aim of developing the sector and continuing to promote the creation of a Portuguese-speaking oil consortium which includes the ANP (the National Petroleum Agency of Sao Tomé), Sonangol (Angola), Galp Energía (Portugal) and Petrobras (Brazil).

Sao Tomé and Principe is not a member of the WTO (it has only taken part as an observer since 2001), but it is a member of the Economic Community of the Central African States (CEEAC) together with countries such as Angola or Equatorial Guinea, and is highly open to foreign trade (65% of the GDP in 2007). The main export sector is agriculture, which represents 95% of all exports, primarily cacao and its derivatives after recent increases in its price on the international market. Other exports are mineral fuels, machinery, vehicles and fruit. The country's main imports are mineral fuels and derivatives, followed by vehicles, drinks, electronic equipment and cereals. A percentage of these imports is destined for re-export.

The EU is the main trade partner of São Tomé and Príncipe, representing 63% of its sales and 74% of its foreign purchases. Its second trade partner is neighbouring Angola, which accounts for 34% of its sales and 20% of its purchases abroad. By countries, its main partner-clients are

Portugal, Angola, Holland, Belgium and France, while its main suppliers are Portugal, Angola, Belgium and Gabon.

Finally, direct accumulated foreign investment reached 114 million dollars, 40% of the GDP, in 2007. During the period 2004-2007, the flow of direct investment exceeded 88 million dollars. In summary, the relations between Sao Tomé and its former colonial ruler continue to be strong and fluid due to cultural links, and because Portugal is the main source of direct foreign investment in terms of sectors other than oil and tourists (with a medium-high acquisitive power) who visit the country. The sectors with the highest demand for direct foreign investment are water treatment, solid waste treatment, the improvement of road networks, medical emergency clinics, ports and airports.

- **Senegal**

The Senegalese market has a population of just over 12 million, with the country covering a total of 197,000 square kilometres. Its inhabitants have a medium ranking buying power in comparison to neighbouring countries, specifically 1,175 euros per capita compared to the average of 1,406 euros for the inhabitants of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Only Cape Verde and Nigeria exceed it in terms of per capita income. The GDP per capita grew during the period 2000-2007 at an average annual yearly rate of 4%, while the population grew by 2%. Despite this, Senegal is in 153rd place out of the 179 countries on the Human Development Index produced by the UNDP, situated on the threshold between a country of medium and low human development.

In recent years, Senegal has enjoyed a stable macroeconomic climate, with an average yearly growth of 4% during the period 2000-2007, against a backdrop of inflation at around 2%. Less favourable aspects are the high public deficit of the Senegalese economy, 7% of the GDP, a high current account deficit representing 11% of the GDP, and a medium to high level of foreign debt, at around 20% of the GDP. For the coming years, the IMF predicts signs of improvement in the main macro magnitudes of Senegal: a slightly higher rate of growth (up to 3.3%) and a lower inflation rate (1.6%). Also, the IMF considers that the public deficit will stand at around 6% of the GDP, and that both the current account deficit and foreign debt of the public sector will tend to stabilise at around 11% and 21% of the GDP respectively.

The economic growth of the Senegalese economy reveals a highly diversified productive structure. Although in terms of the GDP it only represents 15%, the primary sector is the main means of support for the majority of the population, as more than 70% of the country's inhabitants depend on it directly or indirectly. Especially important areas are the floriculture subsector, horticulture (tomatoes, melons and peppers), and the industrial transformation of agricultural products, especially peanuts, which are the main crop. Also, the planting of jatropha and other oleaginous plants for the production of bio-fuel has led to growing business interest.

In terms of economic sectors, the industrial sector represents 25% of the GDP, especially the extraction and processing of phosphates, the main activity and second source of income for the country after the fishing sector. Civil engineering and construction are also sectors with a potential demand for imports, a result of major investments in infrastructures (a large-scale business centre, new airport, toll motorway, new mining port, etc.). Also, there are growing business opportunities in the areas of power generation, rural electrification, or the treatment of water or solid waste. In turn, the tourism sector is highly promising, although it is in a very early stage of development. According to figures from 2007, Senegal receives around 900,000 tourists, mainly French, and some 19,000 Spaniards. The government has set a goal of reaching a figure of one and a half million tourists in 2010.

According to UNCTAD, Senegal received 53 million euros in direct foreign investment in 2007, an increase of 20% over the previous year, less than 1% of the GDP. In accumulated terms, the direct foreign investment stock reached 376 million euros in 2007, 5% of the GDP. As a result, Senegal's position as a receptor of foreign investment is very weak. As a solution to this lack of direct investment, the Government recently approved the creation of a Special Integrated Economic Zone, which since 2008 has provided a favourable environment for industrial, commercial, logistics and service activities. This Zone covers a surface of 718 hectares, and is close to the future Blaise Diagne International Airport, which according to the Government's plans will become a logistical and industrial centre that will contain more than 1000 companies, and situate Senegal as Western Africa's main business centre.

Senegal is fully integrated in international trade organisations, at both regional and international level: it is a founding member of the WTO, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) founded in 1975, and a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), created in 1994. In 2007, the trade liberalization rate stood at 67%. Senegal mainly exports mineral combustibles (35% of the total), phosphoric acid (11%) and fishing products (7%). In terms of imports, the most important are petrol as crude oil and its derivatives (14%), rice (9.3%), animal and plant oils and fats (3.8%) and wheat (3.8%).

Bilateral relations between Senegal and the EU are defined in the Cotonou Agreement, signed on 23 June 2000 between the EU and 77 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (known as the ACP countries), aimed at culminating in 2008 the process of creating a system of free commercial exchange, based on respecting the rules of non-discrimination and reciprocity of the WTO.

According to the WTO, the EU is Senegal's main trade partner both in terms of exports and imports. Specifically, 47% of Senegalese imports are from EU countries, while 26% of Senegalese exports are destined for EU countries. Senegal has strong links with other countries in West Africa, which may be seen in the fact that Mali is the second most important destination for Senegalese imports (24% of the total), and Nigeria in the case of Senegalese exports (8.4% of the total), at a significant distance from the EU. In terms of EU countries, Spain occupies the sixth position in the list of suppliers to Senegal (with only 2.9% of the market), behind France and Germany. Spain is Senegal's fifth most important client (with a market share of 7%), behind France. It should also be noted that relations between Senegal and the Asian markets are growing exponentially, especially with China and India.

Spain's balance of trade with Senegal registers a traditional surplus. In 2008, Spanish exports to Senegal stood at 144.6 million euros, representing an increase of 48% over the previous year. Imports grew by 26%, reaching 46 million euros. In terms of products, the most important exports from Senegal to Spain were fish and crustaceans (71.4%), followed by salt, sulphur, earth and stones (12%) and fertilizers (6%). Spain's main exports to Senegal are mineral fuels and oils

(24%), food preparations (8%), cast iron and steel (8%) and nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and other mechanical items (8%).

Its proximity to the Canary Islands undoubtedly offers benefits for Spanish businesses. Currently, the most important are the fishing and agri-food sectors, in which there is a certain Spanish presence, basically in the Canary Islands in the juices, sweets and ice-cream sector. In 2008, Senegal exported a total of 3.9 million euros to the Canary Islands, compared to the 9.9 million euros of exports from the Canary Islands to Senegal, which increased by 130% with respect to 2007. In terms of products, exports from the Canary Islands to Senegal were focused on petroleum oils (355 of the total) and bituminous minerals and construction machinery (11%), while exports from Senegal to the Canary Islands of fish, crustaceans and molluscs represented 95% of the total.

France is the main foreign investor in Senegal, with more than 300 companies in the country and more than 300 million euros of accumulated investments, basically in the financial, real estate, services and manufacturing industry sectors. Other countries with sizeable investments in Senegal are the USA, Switzerland, India, Spain, Morocco, Holland and Portugal. The stock of direct Spanish investment in Spain stands at 14 million euros, mainly connected with the fishing, phosphates and tourism sectors. Flows of investment from Senegal in Spain are very modest. In accumulated terms, the investment stock does not exceed 3 million euros, and is mainly concentrated in the real estate sector. Fishing is the only economic sector in Senegal in which Spanish companies occupy a position of leadership, generally through mixed companies in which the capital is mainly Senegalese. Apart from fishing, Spanish companies occupy privileged positions in the extraction of phosphates, "out of season" horticulture, industrial refrigeration, energy, transport and tourism.

- **Opportunities**

In recent years, neighbouring African countries have become involved in processes of modernisation and economic integration, generating a new socio-political climate that facilitates the free exchange of goods and services and the free movement of people to a much greater extent. Thus, we are dealing with a process of great significance, in social, political and economic terms. Whilst the aforementioned processes of integration and the easing of economic restrictions have tended to operate at sub-regional level or within blocs up to this time, in the mid and long term, they will take in agreements and zones of free exchange entailing larger geographical areas.

One example of economic communities that are initially sub-regional in nature, takes the form of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which includes the membership of Senegal and Cape Verde, wherein the duties and taxes on importation and exportation have been waived, thereby eliminating restrictions placed on commerce within the community and overcoming obstacles that hinder the movement of people, goods, services and capital. Other examples are provided by the Maghreb Union and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), wherein Guinea-Bissau and Senegal are members, which also features a single currency, the CFA franc that maintains a fixed parity with the euro (€1 = 655.957 CFA francs) and a monetary policy established by the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), with headquarters in Dakar. Within UEMOA, the common commercial policy set in place in 2002 has brought about a reduction in custom duties, which fell from 37% in 1994 to 14.7% in 2002.

As a result, the Euro-African Atlantic Area presents an opportunity to achieve, not only the long-awaited and necessary regional integration of the outermost regions within the closest areas in Western and Central Africa, but also pro-poor growth and the reduction of inequalities that enable the fulfilment of the Millennium Objectives. Higher levels of free trade and economic integration between the Outermost Regions and neighbouring African countries is solely focused on achieving higher employment levels, prosperity, peace, security, greater efficiency in the assignation of resources and more sustainable and equitable economic growth that proves capable of increasing well-being and reducing poverty in each of these geographical areas.

This circle of advantages, taking in more investment, higher employment rates and reduced poverty, will intensify in keeping with greater coordination between existing instruments and better use of the know how acquired by the outermost regions. Higher levels of available seed financing will bring about higher volumes of direct investment and greater cooperation and state harmonisation as a result of this new space for relations between the outermost regions and Western and Central Africa.

Without a shadow of a doubt, the Euro-African Atlantic Area offers advantages for the countries and regions it takes in, amongst which particular attention should be drawn to the potential to contribute to the following: (i) financing of projects to improve the connectivity and economic integration between the archipelagos (outermost regions) in the Atlantic and the countries in Western and Central Africa; (ii) facilitating the economic development and connectivity of our African neighbours; (iii) contributing to the reduction of poverty and social inequalities amongst neighbouring countries; (iv) facilitating the exchange of information, technology, culture experiences and know how; (v) the guaranteeing good economic and political relations with our African neighbours, based on mutual respect, prosperity and peace, in a similar manner to the climate achieved in the Euro-Mediterranean area; (vi) promoting a climate of understanding to achieve greater coordination in essential policies such as immigration, the policing of waters and security; (vii) promoting the outermost regions as logistical nexus between Europe and the African continent; (viii) promoting the use of these European regions amongst African companies and investors as gateway to mainland Europe or the Latin American market; ix) promoting the use of renewable energies and other practices that respect the environment; and xii) promoting the creation of joint-ventures and companies with capital from various countries to undertake activities of shared interest.

The agribusiness sector possesses a huge potential in terms of generating joint ventures and creating companies employing capital from several countries within the Euro-African Atlantic Area, the result of the growing consumption requirements of a population with an ever-increasing purchasing power and the modernisation of the agricultural sector. We are currently witnessing increased activity in the fishing sector (tinned, fresh and frozen fish), the tobacco sector, cosmetics (aloe vera), non-alcoholic drinks (soft drinks and juices), dairy products, nuts and dried fruit, floriculture (plants and flowers) and horticulture (tomatoes and bananas). In Morocco, we are already witnessing the creation of joint companies, both in relation to fishing and the tinning and freezing industry. Thus, attention should be drawn to the potential of this region with regards to the sale of fishing equipment, machines for the cold storage of fish and the creation of plants for the processing and exportation of fish. Moreover, certain countries have an inadequate offer of fish products, whereby the importation of frozen fish is a common practice in countries such as Equatorial Guinea, as a result of deficiencies within its fishing fleet In terms of agriculture, the gradual modernisation, intensification and mechanisation of the agricultural sector in neighbouring countries has led to a significant demand for agricultural machinery (tractors and other vehicles) and consumables (fertilizers, plastics, containers, packaging, etc.).

The textile industry, the footwear industry and the leather industry provide a significant opportunity for business relations, especially in the case of Morocco, where the signing of various agreements for free exchange with Arab countries, Turkey and, in particular, the United States, along with the Association Agreement with the EU that is currently in effect, has opened up interesting opportunities for companies located in Morocco as a production platform within the textile sector, the leather sector and the footwear industry. For its part, the chemical industry offers enormous potential as a result of significant growth in recent years and within this industry particular attention should be drawn to pharmaceutical products (the pharmaceutical industry in Morocco is second only to South Africa on the African continent in terms of its importance), cosmetics and cork production.

Energy safety and supply and the need to promote renewable energies have consolidated the energy sector as a strategic and priority sector within the context of the Euro-African Atlantic Area, both for developing African countries and the outermost regions. The overhaul of the energy sector (electricity, oil and natural gas) carried out in recent years in the majority of neighbouring African countries will provide important market niches in the mid-term, with regards to both production material and distribution. For its part, the renewable energy sector has enormous potential as a result of the natural resources in these countries. In this area, Morocco already boasts an important wind energy plant construction and management concession program and a project for the introduction of Natural Gas subsequent to the construction and management of the Maghreb-Europe pipeline, wherein Spanish companies will play a very active role. Furthermore, in recent years licences to search for oilfields have been granted to Morocco, Mauritania and Equatorial Guinea.

Huge energy shortcomings may open up opportunities in the form of direct investment in neighbouring countries, both in terms of generation for large urban centres and the installation of electricity in rural areas, with significant potential for the financing of urban development projects, water treatment and cleaning projects and equipment for the mining sector. Water desalination, a fundamental sector for the archipelagos of the Canary Islands, the Azores and Madeira, is also an area with future potential: the authorities in Mauritania have stated that they wish to explore this area in collaboration with Spain. In Equatorial Guinea, the distribution of electricity basically needs to be implemented from the ground up and Spain already boasts highly competitive companies working in the region. In terms of generation, the are excellent opportunities for business cooperation in the gas, oil and hydroelectric sectors, along with sub-sectors such as fluid treatment, crude oil transportation, explosives for mining, oil prospecting, components and replacement parts for oil platforms and the sale of equipment in all the aforementioned areas.

The tourist development that took place in the Canary Islands, the Azores and Madeira over the course of the last 25 years provides valuable know how for the development of the tourist sector in Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Equatorial Guinea and, in particular Cape Verde (given its similar orography and climate). Practically all of the countries studied have drawn up ambitious plans in relation to tourism and connectivity to promote the tourist sector in the context of macro stability and greater levels of security.

Both the process of tourist development and the process to modernise the economies in neighbouring African countries clearly reflects the growing number of public tenders and projects, many of which involve multilateral financing. The majority of these projects relate to construction, taking in all types of infrastructure (roads, railways, ports, airports, etc.), the treatment of drinking water and solid wastes, the development of the electricity sector and the telecommunications sector, etc. In addition, attention should also be drawn to the "knock-on" effect that these projects have on other sectors, such as equipment and various types of machinery. Moreover, attention should be drawn to the growth in real estate construction in Africa, the result of the program to develop the tourist sector and the implementation of various public programs for the construction of social and residential housing.

For example, in Equatorial Guinea, new airports have been constructed in Malabo, Bata and on the island of Annobon and the port of Luba is being fitted out to enable the transportation of crude oil and various roads are being equipped (lighting, road signs and maintenance). Many opportunities to create infrastructures exist, including railway networks and the canalization and treatment of water. Furthermore, there is a sustained growing demand for offices for companies and social housing as a result of the urbanisation process of the new "cities" and certain tourist areas in locations that have yet to be exploited. Therefore, tourist companies and construction companies are afforded an excellent opportunity to provide know how to the African business sector to achieve both tourist development and sources of financing.

The mid-term forecast for certain growing business links (new air and maritime routes and roads), tourist development, the modernisation of transport infrastructures and telecommunications and the impetus in the aforementioned countries to create large logistical centres presents great expectations for the transport sector. New tender offers for the concession of the right to exploit ports, drinking water distribution services, electricity and waste treatment in various cities, along with urban transport services, open up huge possibilities in this area, wherein a large number of Spanish companies are already present. Given the strategic location of the regions, the development of the logistics industry and transport seem almost inevitable, thereby enabling the traffic of merchandise between Africa, Europe and the Americas.

The Euro-African Atlantic Area opens up a large field for the services sectors within telecommunications and the information society, given that this area aims to become not only a commercial space for goods and services, but also an integrated network that enable a continuous flow of information and growth, whilst overcoming all nature of bureaucratic impediments that hinder the free movement of people (development of networks, Internet, telecommunications). The process of liberalisation initiated within the telecommunications sector presents enormous opportunities. The desire to connect the entire area via information networks, the Internet and electronic commerce and online public administration affords the new technologies sector a strategic position and enormous potential. Finally, the development of the audiovisual sector (TV, radio, TDT, cinema) may represent another sector with future in the Canary Islands (radio, television, cinematic productions...).

The creation of the Euro-African Atlantic Area represents the creation of a space for the exchange do training, knowledge and the access to goods and public services such as healthcare and education (both professional training and university). The training and education sector presents enormous potential. African countries that become a part of the area will be able to take advantage of grants and privileged positions when attempting to access healthcare or training in the training centres located on the Canary Islands , the Azores or Madeira, whiles researchers and students residing in the outermost regions will be able to take advantage of teaching, without encountering too many obstacles, in neighbouring African states. Thus the Canary Islands, the Azores and Madeira will be able to take advantage of the influx of tourists who go to these destinations for health or sports-related motives.

Conclusions

Seen from this perspective, taking into account the special nature of the territory that surrounds the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, which includes countries of Northern Africa (Morocco), Western Africa (Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal, amongst others) as well as certain other Western African countries that are not so close, but with which the UPR from the space have historic links (such as Angola and São Tomé and Príncipe), it is necessary to propose a re-orientation of the regional insertion strategy put forward by the European Commission in favour of the UPR, in order to enhance the geo-strategic and geo-economic nature of this geographical space, in which frontier regions of the EU coincide with neighbouring countries with which the EU has privileged relations.

Furthermore, it would be necessary to consider the opportunity of making the necessary instruments available, especially those related to air and sea links with the countries in its geographical surroundings, and considering the current downturn in consumption and investment in the ultra-peripheral regions as a whole, to favour growth today and in the coming years based on foreign demand, increasing sales, investments and exports in foreign countries.

The European Commission is aware of the importance and the potential of the regional insertion of the UPR with the other non-EU countries in their region, and recognises that despite the presence of alterations of certain community policies that affect the UPR, these have basically been carried out taking into account relations between the UPR and the Member States they belong to, as well as with respect to continental Europe, but not to the same extent and intensity with respect to relations between the UPR and their non-EU neighbours.

As a result, it is necessary to become aware of the new reality of these external frontiers of the EU formed by Spain (the Canary Islands) and Portugal (the Azores and Madeira) with Cape Verde, Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal as the closest countries, so that the European Commission, in collaboration with the Member States, and within the scope of its competences and the international agreements signed with the non-EU countries concerned, gives full priority to cooperation in this Region.

In this case, it is necessary to highlight the export offer from the ultra-peripheral regions in this space as a whole, which is of reciprocal interest for the surrounding countries and regions, including items such as alternative energies, industrial machinery, the construction of infrastructures, installations and civil works in general, experience in commercial installations, and experience in areas such as tourism, health, water treatment throughout its whole cycle and solid urban waste, university training and vocational training in tourism, trade, the agri-food industry, telecommunications, logistics, port and airport security, as well as financial, banking and consultancy services in general, all of which would make a considerable contribution towards achieving the Millennium Objectives within the geographical area in which the Ultra Peripheral Regions are located.

It is also advisable to evaluate the fact that the excessive dependence of the UPR on continental Europe could be mitigated to a large extent, favouring the creation of a trans-frontier market in the Region.

With these factors in mind, within the framework of the Policy of European Cohesion, and in the sphere of European territorial cooperation, it would be necessary to evaluate the challenge facing the Ultra Peripheral Regions in a globalised market, the advantages offered by the space in which they are located, and the need for the assistance of the Community in order to overcome the hurdles that impede their effective integration, through the creation of a space for cooperation equipped with a suitable financial instrument, capable of responding to this challenge.

ANNEXES

Statistical Annexes

Table 1:
Population

	1995-2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
(Millions)						
Spain	40,1	42,3	43,0	43,8	44,5	45,3
Portugal	10,2	10,5	10,5	10,6	10,6	10,6
Outermost regions	**2,1**	**2,3**	**2,4**	**2,4**	**2,5**	**2,5**
Canary Islands	1,7	1,9	1,9	2,0	2,0	2,0
Açores	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2
Madeira	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2
(Annual growth rate)						
Spain	0,7%	1,6%	1,6%	1,7%	1,6%	1,8%
Portugal	0,5%	0,6%	0,5%	0,4%	0,3%	0,2%
Outermost regions	**1,4%**	**1,9%**	**2,0%**	**1,9%**	**1,8%**	**1,9%**
Canary Islands	1,9%	2,3%	2,4%	2,3%	2,2%	2,2%
Açores	0,0%	0,5%	0,5%	0,4%	0,3%	0,4%
Madeira	-0,5%	0,7%	0,5%	0,4%	0,2%	0,4%

Source: Eurostat
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 2:
Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita at current market prices

	1995-2003	2004	2005	2006
(Purchasing Power Standard - international dollars)				
European Union	**17.911**	**21.600**	**22.500**	**23.600**
Spain	17.278	21.900	22.900	24.600
Portugal	13.744	16.100	17.300	18.000
Overseas Regions	**15.843**	**19.659**	**20.495**	**21.604**
Canary Islands	16.444	20.100	20.800	21.900
Açores	11.178	14.100	15.300	16.200
Madeira	14.611	20.100	21.800	23.100
(Annual growth rate)				
European Union	**4,4%**	**4,3%**	**4,2%**	**4,9%**
Spain	5,7%	4,8%	4,6%	7,4%
Portugal	4,7%	1,3%	7,5%	4,0%
RUP	**5,7%**	**2,7%**	**4,3%**	**5,4%**
Canary Islands	5,3%	2,6%	3,5%	5,3%
Açores	6,2%	0,7%	8,5%	5,9%
Madeira	9,2%	4,1%	8,5%	6,0%
(In percentage of the EU average)				
European Union	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
Spain	96%	101%	102%	104%
Portugal	77%	75%	77%	76%
RUP	**88%**	**91%**	**91%**	**91%**
Canary Islands	92%	93%	93%	93%
Açores	62%	65%	68%	69%
Madeira	80%	93%	97%	98%

Source: Eurostat
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 3

Outermost Regions (Canary Islands, Madeira and Azores)

Gross value added at basic prices

	1995-2003	2004	2005	2006
(Millions of euro)				
All branches	18.182	25.791	27.390	29.119
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishin(	**460**	**424**	**434**	**400**
Industry	**3.067**	**4.673**	**5.252**	**5.407**
Mining and quarrying; electricity, gas and	1.459	1.768	1.931	1.969
Construction	1.609	2.880	3.188	3.438
Services*	**14.667**	**20.707**	**21.778**	**23.312**
Wholesale and retail trade*	7.216	9.735	9.955	10.570
Financial intermediation**	3.192	5.071	5.609	6.027
Public administration***	4.245	5.913	6.274	6.716
(Share, in %)				
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishin(	**2,5%**	**1,6%**	**1,6%**	**1,4%**
Industry	**16,9%**	**18,1%**	**19,2%**	**18,6%**
Mining and quarrying; electricity, gas and	8,0%	6,9%	7,0%	6,8%
Construction	8,8%	11,2%	11,6%	11,8%
Services*	**80,7%**	**80,3%**	**79,5%**	**80,1%**
Wholesale and retail trade*	39,7%	37,7%	36,3%	36,3%
Financial intermediation**	17,6%	19,7%	20,5%	20,7%
Public administration***	23,3%	22,9%	22,9%	23,1%

Notes:
* Including repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants;
** Including real estate, renting and business activities
*** Including defence, compulsory social security; education; health and social work; other community, social

Source: Eurostat
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 4:

Outermost Regions (Canary Islands, Madeira and Azores)

Employment by economic activity

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
(Thousands)					
All branches	1.024,7	1.058,5	1.105,2	1.139,2	1.091,4
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	**61,2**	**52,8**	**54,7**	**59,2**	**54,3**
Industry	**228,8**	**224,4**	**245,8**	**251,7**	**226,0**
Industry excluding construction	65,8	71,8	84,6	75,9	81,2
Construction	163,1	152,7	160,9	175,8	144,8
Services	**734,7**	**781,3**	**804,9**	**828,2**	**811,2**
Wholesale and retail trade*	373,0	389,3	404,0	422,5	409,1
Financial intermediation**	77,9	89,3	91,6	95,5	91,4
Public administration***	283,8	302,7	309,2	310,1	310,6
(Share, in %)					
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	**6,0%**	**5,0%**	**4,9%**	**5,2%**	**5,0%**
Industry	**22,3%**	**21,2%**	**22,2%**	**22,1%**	**20,7%**
Industry excluding construction	6,4%	6,8%	7,7%	6,7%	7,4%
Construction	15,9%	14,4%	14,6%	15,4%	13,3%
Services	**71,7%**	**73,8%**	**72,8%**	**72,7%**	**74,3%**
Wholesale and retail trade*	36,4%	36,8%	36,6%	37,1%	37,5%
Financial intermediation**	7,6%	8,4%	8,3%	8,4%	8,4%
Public administration***	27,7%	28,6%	28,0%	27,2%	28,5%

Notes:

* Including repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants; transport, storage and communication

** Including real estate, renting and business activities

*** Including defence, compulsory social security; education; health and social work; other community, social and personal service activities; private households with employed persons

Source: Eurostat

Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 5:

Population

	Average 2000-2007	2008	Estimation 2009	2010
(Millions)				
Mauritania	2,7	3,0	3,1	3,2
Morocco	29,7	31,4	31,9	32,3
ECOWAS	**251,4**	**283,5**	**291,3**	**299,4**
Benin	7,1	8,1	8,4	8,6
Burkina Faso	12,6	14,0	14,4	14,7
Cape Verde	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5
Côte d'Ivoire	18,2	20,8	21,4	22,0
Gambia, The	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,7
Ghana	20,1	22,5	23,1	23,7
Guinea	8,9	10,3	10,6	11,0
Guinea-Bissau	1,5	1,7	1,8	1,8
Liberia	3,4	3,9	4,1	4,3
Mali	12,1	13,4	13,7	14,0
Niger	12,0	13,8	14,2	14,6
Nigeria	131,1	147,8	151,9	156,1
Senegal	11,3	12,5	12,8	13,1
Sierra Leone	5,3	5,9	6,0	6,2
Togo	5,9	6,6	6,8	7,0
ECCAS	**112,6**	**127,6**	**131,2**	**134,8**
Angola	14,8	16,808	17,312	17,831
Burundi	7,2	7,949	8,108	8,271
Cameroon	17,1	19,383	19,926	20,424
Central African Rep.	4,0	4,355	4,442	4,531
Chad	8,5	9,73	9,973	10,223
Congo, Dem. Rep.	55,3	62,885	64,772	66,715
Congo, Rep.	3,2	3,65	3,756	3,865
Equatorial Guinea	1,1	1,24	1,276	1,313
Gabon	1,3	1,454	1,475	1,496
S. Tomé et Príncipe	0,1	0,16	0,163	0,165

Notes:

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 6:
Gross domestic product based on purchasing-power-parity (PPP)

	Average 2000-2007	2008	Estimation 2009	2010
(Billions of Current of International Dollars)				
Mauritania	4,6	6,2	6,4	6,8
Morocco	99,5	136,7	144,1	151,1
ECOWAS	**344,3**	**487,7**	**507,7**	**525,9**
Benin	9,6	13,0	13,6	14,1
Burkina Faso	13,3	17,8	18,6	19,4
Cape Verde	1,2	1,8	1,8	1,9
Côte d'Ivoire	28,9	34,0	35,6	37,3
Gambia, The	1,6	2,3	2,4	2,5
Ghana	23,8	34,3	36,1	38,0
Guinea	8,5	10,3	10,7	11,2
Guinea-Bissau	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9
Liberia	1,1	1,5	1,6	1,7
Mali	10,8	15,0	15,8	16,5
Niger	7,1	10,2	10,6	11,1
Nigeria	214,1	315,4	327,4	337,5
Senegal	16,5	21,7	22,6	23,5
Sierra Leone	2,8	4,3	4,5	4,8
Togo	4,2	5,4	5,5	5,7
ECCAS	**157,3**	**249,2**	**250,2**	**265,8**
Angola	54,5	106,4	103,6	113,7
Burundi	2,4	3,1	3,2	3,4
Cameroon	32,7	41,7	43,1	44,5
Central African Rep.	2,6	3,2	3,3	3,4
Chad	11,5	16,1	16,7	17,2
Congo, Dem. Rep.	14,4	20,6	21,4	22,7
Congo, Rep.	10,8	14,3	15,8	17,7
Equatorial Guinea	11,4	22,4	21,3	20,8
Gabon	16,9	21,0	21,4	22,1
S. Tomé et Príncipe	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,3

Notes:
ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States
Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 7:

Gross domestic product per capita based on purchasing-power-parity (PPP)

	Average 2000-2007	2008	Estimation 2009	2010
(Current International dollar)				
Mauritania	1.682,3	2.051,8	2.070,0	2.124,5
Morocco	3.347,6	4.349,4	4.519,4	4.673,1
ECOWAS	**1.357,7**	**1.720,3**	**1.742,7**	**1.756,7**
Benin	1.351,9	1.605,3	1.630,5	1.634,2
Burkina Faso	1.052,5	1.265,7	1.292,9	1.321,2
Cape Verde	2.538,6	3.498,7	3.550,8	3.602,5
Côte d'Ivoire	1.585,5	1.639,9	1.666,7	1.693,2
Gambia, The	1.102,6	1.389,3	1.421,1	1.452,7
Ghana	1.172,1	1.520,5	1.563,7	1.603,7
Guinea	947,1	1.002,8	1.005,6	1.018,5
Guinea-Bissau	474,4	485,4	485,0	487,8
Liberia	342,2	372,7	376,2	389,4
Mali	888,6	1.126,2	1.154,3	1.179,2
Niger	584,5	738,4	744,7	758,2
Nigeria	1.614,8	2.133,8	2.156,0	2.162,4
Senegal	1.460,7	1.736,4	1.764,9	1.790,5
Sierra Leone	523,3	724,7	744,9	767,9
Togo	714,6	810,2	811,1	811,2
ECCAS	**1.380,6**	**1.952,6**	**1.907,0**	**1.971,5**
Angola	3.624,5	6.331,1	5.981,8	6.376,0
Burundi	330,5	389,2	398,8	407,7
Cameroon	1.902,2	2.152,6	2.165,3	2.176,9
Central African Rep.	657,2	738,7	748,5	759,6
Chad	1.320,3	1.656,6	1.677,4	1.685,0
Congo, Dem. Rep.	258,2	328,2	330,3	339,9
Congo, Rep.	3.323,6	3.912,9	4.204,4	4.590,8
Equatorial Guinea	10.237,4	18.028,5	16.721,1	15.859,4
Gabon	12.786,6	14.477,9	14.507,5	14.756,2
S. Tomé et Príncipe	1.289,4	1.748,8	1.824,1	1.910,2

Notes:

Sub-regionales calculations in population-weighted averages
ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States
Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 8:
Population

	Average 2000-2007	2008	Estimation 2009	2010
(Variación anual, en %)				
Mauritania	2,4%	2,4%	2,4%	2,4%
Morocco	1,2%	1,4%	1,4%	1,4%
ECOWAS	**2,8%**	**2,8%**	**2,8%**	**2,8%**
Benin	3,2%	3,2%	3,2%	3,2%
Burkina Faso	2,8%	2,3%	2,3%	2,3%
Cape Verde	1,9%	2,6%	1,8%	1,9%
Côte d'Ivoire	2,6%	3,0%	3,0%	3,0%
Gambia, The	2,7%	2,6%	2,6%	2,6%
Ghana	2,6%	2,6%	2,6%	2,6%
Guinea	3,2%	3,2%	3,2%	3,2%
Guinea-Bissau	4,8%	2,9%	2,9%	3,0%
Liberia	3,3%	5,1%	4,9%	4,3%
Mali	2,3%	2,3%	2,3%	2,3%
Niger	3,1%	3,1%	3,1%	3,1%
Nigeria	2,8%	2,8%	2,7%	2,8%
Senegal	2,4%	2,4%	2,4%	2,4%
Sierra Leone	2,6%	2,6%	2,6%	2,6%
Togo	2,8%	2,5%	2,5%	2,5%
ECCAS	**2,9%**	**2,8%**	**2,8%**	**2,8%**
Angola	2,9%	2,9%	3,0%	3,0%
Burundi	2,7%	2,0%	2,0%	2,0%
Cameroon	3,0%	2,8%	2,8%	2,5%
Central African Rep.	1,9%	2,0%	2,0%	2,0%
Chad	3,4%	2,5%	2,5%	2,5%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	2,8%	3,0%	3,0%	3,0%
Congo, Rep.	2,9%	2,9%	2,9%	2,9%
Equatorial Guinea	4,1%	2,9%	2,9%	2,9%
Gabon	2,5%	1,5%	1,4%	1,4%
S. Tomé et Príncipe	1,7%	1,3%	1,9%	1,2%

Notes:

Sub-regionales calculations in population-weighted averages

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States
Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 9:
Producto Interior Bruto - ajustado por Paridad de Poder Adquisitivo (PPA)

	Average 2000-2007	2008	Estimation 2009	2010
(Annual growth rate)				
Mauritania	6,9%	4,4%	3,3%	5,1%
Morocco	7,2%	7,7%	5,4%	4,9%
ECOWAS	**9,4%**	**7,4%**	**4,1%**	**3,6%**
Benin	7,1%	7,3%	4,8%	3,4%
Burkina Faso	6,7%	7,3%	4,5%	4,5%
Cape Verde	9,2%	8,2%	3,4%	3,4%
Côte d'Ivoire	2,2%	4,6%	4,7%	4,6%
Gambia, The	7,4%	8,1%	5,0%	4,8%
Ghana	7,9%	9,5%	5,5%	5,2%
Guinea	4,4%	6,2%	3,5%	4,5%
Guinea-Bissau	3,2%	5,6%	2,8%	3,6%
Liberia	3,3%	9,5%	5,9%	8,0%
Mali	7,7%	7,3%	4,9%	4,5%
Niger	7,1%	11,9%	4,0%	5,0%
Nigeria	11,4%	7,6%	3,8%	3,1%
Senegal	6,6%	4,7%	4,1%	3,9%
Sierra Leone	13,6%	7,8%	5,5%	5,8%
Togo	4,7%	3,3%	2,6%	2,5%
ECCAS	**10,4%**	**11,3%**	**0,6%**	**6,4%**
Angola	13,6%	17,3%	-2,7%	9,8%
Burundi	4,9%	6,8%	4,5%	4,3%
Cameroon	6,0%	5,7%	3,4%	3,0%
Central African Rep.	3,7%	4,4%	3,4%	3,5%
Chad	12,2%	1,8%	3,8%	3,0%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	6,0%	8,5%	3,7%	6,0%
Congo, Rep.	7,2%	7,9%	10,6%	12,4%
Equatorial Guinea	26,6%	13,7%	-4,6%	-2,4%
Gabon	4,2%	4,2%	1,7%	3,2%
S. Tomé et Príncipe	8,4%	8,1%	6,1%	6,4%

Notes:

Sub-regionales calculations in PPP GDP-weighted averages

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States
Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 10:
Gross domestic product per capita based on purchasing-power-parity (PPP)

	Average 2000-2007	2008	Estimation 2009	2010
(Annual growth rate)				
Mauritania	4,4%	2,0%	0,9%	2,6%
Morocco	6,0%	6,2%	3,9%	3,4%
ECOWAS	**6,0%**	**4,5%**	**1,4%**	**1,0%**
Benin	3,9%	3,9%	1,6%	0,2%
Burkina Faso	3,8%	4,9%	2,1%	2,2%
Cape Verde	7,2%	5,6%	1,5%	1,5%
Côte d'Ivoire	-0,4%	1,5%	1,6%	1,6%
Gambia, The	4,6%	5,4%	2,3%	2,2%
Ghana	5,2%	6,8%	2,8%	2,6%
Guinea	1,1%	2,9%	0,3%	1,3%
Guinea-Bissau	-1,5%	2,6%	-0,1%	0,6%
Liberia	0,3%	4,1%	0,9%	3,5%
Mali	5,2%	4,9%	2,5%	2,2%
Niger	3,9%	8,5%	0,9%	1,8%
Nigeria	8,4%	4,7%	1,0%	0,3%
Senegal	4,1%	2,3%	1,6%	1,4%
Sierra Leone	10,8%	5,1%	2,8%	3,1%
Togo	1,9%	0,7%	0,1%	0,0%
ECCAS	**4,5%**	**5,5%**	**0,1%**	**2,9%**
Angola	10,4%	14,0%	-5,5%	6,6%
Burundi	2,2%	4,7%	2,4%	2,2%
Cameroon	2,9%	2,8%	0,6%	0,5%
Central African Rep.	1,7%	2,4%	1,3%	1,5%
Chad	8,5%	-0,7%	1,3%	0,4%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	3,1%	5,3%	0,6%	2,9%
Congo, Rep.	4,2%	4,8%	7,4%	9,2%
Equatorial Guinea	21,4%	10,5%	-7,3%	-5,2%
Gabon	1,7%	2,7%	0,2%	1,7%
S. Tomé et Príncipe	6,6%	6,4%	4,3%	4,7%

Notes:
Sub-regionales calculations in population-weighted averages
ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States
Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 11:
Inflation (Consumer Price Index)

	Average 2000-2007	2008	Estimation 2009	2010
(Annual growth rate)				
Mauritania	7,6%	7,3%	5,0%	5,8%
Morocco	1,8%	3,9%	3,0%	2,8%
ECOWAS	**10,0%**	**11,1%**	**11,7%**	**7,9%**
Benin	2,9%	8,0%	4,0%	2,8%
Burkina Faso	2,1%	10,7%	4,7%	2,3%
Cape Verde	1,5%	6,8%	3,5%	2,7%
Côte d'Ivoire	2,5%	6,3%	5,9%	3,2%
Gambia, The	7,2%	4,5%	6,4%	5,8%
Ghana	18,5%	16,5%	14,6%	7,6%
Guinea	14,3%	22,9%	18,4%	5,9%
Guinea-Bissau	2,1%	10,4%	3,6%	3,6%
Liberia	8,9%	17,5%	2,0%	4,5%
Mali	1,8%	9,1%	2,5%	2,8%
Niger	2,0%	11,3%	5,0%	2,3%
Nigeria	12,4%	11,2%	14,2%	10,1%
Senegal	2,0%	5,8%	1,1%	2,2%
Sierra Leone	6,6%	14,8%	10,6%	8,9%
Togo	2,3%	8,4%	2,8%	2,1%
ECCAS	**26,2%**	**12,1%**	**10,1%**	**7,1%**
Angola	97,1%	12,5%	12,1%	8,9%
Burundi	9,4%	24,4%	10,9%	7,5%
Cameroon	2,3%	5,3%	2,3%	2,0%
Central African Rep.	2,7%	9,3%	5,2%	2,6%
Chad	2,4%	8,3%	3,0%	3,0%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	125,1%	18,0%	33,9%	19,9%
Congo, Rep.	2,4%	6,0%	9,5%	5,1%
Equatorial Guinea	5,7%	5,9%	4,1%	6,1%
Gabon	1,3%	5,3%	2,6%	3,0%
S. Tomé et Principe	13,9%	26,1%	17,5%	12,8%

Notes:
ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States
Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 12
Current Account Balance

	Average 2000-2007	2008	Estimation 2009	2010	Average import tariff	Acces to WTO
(Percent of GDP)						
Mauritania	-15,7%	-15,7%	-9,0%	-16,4%	11,9%	1995
Morocco	2,0%	-5,6%	-2,5%	-3,0%	23,0%	1995
ECOWAS	**-95,0%**	**-146,6%**	**-170,1%**	**-201,1%**		
Benin	-7,3%	-8,3%	-9,6%	-9,0%	11,9%	1996
Burkina Faso	-10,3%	-11,0%	-10,1%	-10,7%	11,9%	1995
Cape Verde	-9,5%	-12,3%	-13,3%	-14,3%	10,4%	2008
Côte d'Ivoire	1,2%	2,4%	1,6%	-1,6%	11,9%	1995
Gambia, The	-9,4%	-17,1%	-19,4%	-18,2%	13,0%	1995
Ghana	-5,9%	-18,2%	-10,9%	-14,0%		
Guinea	-2,9%	-10,3%	-1,2%	-3,2%	11,9%	1995
Guinea-Bissau	-2,0%	-2,0%	-3,6%	-5,6%	11,9%	1995
Liberia	-21,3%	-26,3%	-43,2%	-62,7%		
Mali	-7,4%	-8,2%	-6,7%	-7,0%	11,9%	1996
Niger	-8,0%	-12,6%	-22,1%	-30,9%	12,0%	1995
Nigeria	3,9%	4,5%	-9,0%	-3,5%	11,9%	1995
Senegal	-7,2%	-12,3%	-11,9%	-10,0%	13,6%	1995
Sierra Leone	-5,3%	-8,4%	-4,8%	-4,6%		
Togo	-3,7%	-6,6%	-6,1%	-5,9%	11,9%	1995
ECCAS	**-62,3%**	**-37,4%**	**-133,6%**	**-90,7%**		
Angola	5,9%	21,2%	-8,1%	0,1%	7,3%	1996
Burundi	-7,7%	-11,1%	-7,4%	-5,6%	12,7%	1995
Cameroon	-2,2%	0,4%	-5,8%	-5,1%	17,9%	1995
Central African Rep.	-3,0%	-8,6%	-8,0%	-8,6%	17,9%	1995
Chad	-28,1%	-11,4%	-14,9%	-5,5%	17,9%	1996
Congo, Dem. Rep.	-3,1%	-15,4%	-26,1%	-28,7%	12,0%	1997
Congo, Rep.	-4,9%	-6,8%	-12,7%	1,2%	17,9%	1997
Equatorial Guinea	-13,2%	9,8%	-7,7%	-2,9%	17,9%	
Gabon	13,7%	17,3%	1,5%	3,6%	17,9%	1995
S. Tomé et Príncipe	-19,7%	-32,8%	-44,3%	-39,1%		

Notes:

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States
Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 13:
Economic structure

	Agriculture	Industry	Services	Exports + Imports of goods and services	Gross capital formation
(En % GDP)					
Mauritania	13%	47%	41%	123%	26%
Morocco	14%	27%	59%	81%	33%
ECOWAS	**35%**	**22%**	**43%**	**73%**	**22%**
Benin	32%	13%	54%	39%	20%
Burkina Faso	33%	22%	44%	39%	18%
Cape Verde	9%	17%	75%	75%	41%
Côte d'Ivoire	24%	25%	51%	88%	9%
Gambia, The	29%	15%	56%	83%	23%
Ghana	34%	26%	41%	93%	34%
Guinea					
Guinea-Bissau	64%	12%	24%	89%	17%
Liberia	54%	19%	27%	117%	20%
Mali	37%	24%	39%	64%	23%
Niger	38%	18%	44%	44%	11%
Nigeria	33%	39%	28%	70%	
Senegal	14%	23%	62%	68%	33%
Sierra Leone	45%	24%	31%	49%	13%
Togo	44%	24%	32%	97%	18%
ECCAS	**21%**	**47%**	**32%**	**89%**	**21%**
Angola	10%	86%	4%	128%	12%
Burundi	35%	20%	45%	56%	11%
Cameroon	20%	33%	48%	57%	19%
Central African Rep.	53%	14%	32%	37%	10%
Chad	23%	42%	35%	78%	15%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	41%	27%	31%	65%	20%
Congo, Rep.	5%	60%	35%	116%	27%
Equatorial Guinea	3%	94%	3%	150%	47%
Gabon	5%	74%	22%	115%	27%
S. Tomé and Príncipe	17%	21%	63%		

Notes:

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

Source: World Bank's Development Indicators
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of Canary Islands

Table 14:
Destination of exports by commercial partner

	Main clients			(share, in %)		
	1°	2°	3th	1°	2°	3th
Mauritania	European Union	Japan	Algeria	75,9%	13,8%	2,5%
Morocco	European Union	India	Brazil	72,4%	3,8%	3,2%
ECOWAS						
Burkina Faso	Ghana	European Union	Côte d'Ivoire	60,9%	15,4%	3,8%
Cape Verde	European Union	Côte d'Ivoire	Marruecos	60,3%	30,7%	1,2%
Gambia, The	European Union	Senegal	Mauritania	60,1%	25,2%	7,5%
Ghana	South Africa	European Union	Switzerland	37,1%	31,1%	5,9%
Côte d'Ivoire	European Union	Nigeria	United States	49,9%	8,0%	6,8%
Mali	South Africa	European Union	Switzerland	67,1%	5,9%	4,6%
Niger	European Union	Japan	Switzerland	48,3%	14,1%	12,5%
Nigeria	United States	European Union	India	45,0%	21,1%	9,3%
Senegal	European Union	Mali	India	25,7%	24,0%	6,7%
Sierra Leone	United States	Saudi Arabia	European Union	1,0%	0,4%	0,2%
Togo	Niger	Benin	India	12,7%	10,9%	9,8%
ECCAS						
Angola						
Burundi	United Arab. Emirates	European Union	Switzerland	34,2%	12,9%	10,9%
Cameroon	European Union	United States	China	74,3%	6,4%	3,4%
Central African Rep.	European Union	Switzerland	Cameroon	55,9%	13,7%	11,9%
Chad						
Congo, Dem. Rep.						
Congo, Rep.						
Equatorial Guinea						
Gabon	United States	European Union	China	58,4%	12,1%	10,6%
S. Tomé and Príncipe	European Union	Angola	Gabon	62,5%	34,1%	1,4%

Notes:

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

Source: World Trade Organisation
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 15:
Origin of imports by commercial partner

	Main suppliers			(share, in %)		
	1º	2º	3th	1º	2º	3th
Mauritania	European Union	United States	Brazil	43,0%	8,0%	2,4%
Morocco	European Union	United States	China	51,9%	6,1%	5,9%
ECOWAS	European Union	China	Ghana	38,5%	8,8%	7,2%
Burkina Faso	European Union	Côte d'Ivoire	Japan	29,7%	17,9%	13,1%
Cape Verde	European Union	Brazil	Japan	78,7%	6,2%	3,6%
Gambia, The	European Union	United States	China	46,3%	13,0%	10,6%
Ghana	European Union	China	United States	32,6%	11,1%	7,6%
Côte d'Ivoire	European Union	Nigeria	China	36,1%	24,1%	6,6%
Mali	European Union	Senegal	Côte d'Ivoire	25,1%	19,8%	12,7%
Niger	European Union	United States	Côte d'Ivoire	35,9%	9,0%	7,9%
Nigeria	European Union	United States	China	37,1%	15,7%	13,8%
Senegal	European Union	Nigeria	China	46,6%	8,4%	5,7%
Sierra Leone	Côte d'Ivoire	European Union	Canada	36,7%	18,5%	6,5%
Togo	European Union	China	United States	43,3%	15,8%	4,2%
ECCAS						
Angola						
Burundi	Saudi Arabia	European Union	Uganda	27,4%	21,9%	10,7%
Cameroon	European Union	Nigeria	China	35,0%	23,3%	6,3%
Central African Rep.	European Union	Cameroon	Congo, Dem. Rep.	20,8%	15,7%	6,1%
Chad						
Congo, Dem. Rep.						
Congo, Rep.						
Equatorial Guinea						
Gabon	United States	European Union	Cameroon	66,9%	7,3%	3,5%
S. Tomé and Principe	European Union	Angola	Gabon	73,7%	19,7%	1,0%

Notes:

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

Source: World Trade Organisation
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

Table 16
Stock (inward) of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Year 2007	US Dollars at current prices per capita	Millions of US dollar	% of GDP	% of total world
Mauritania	609,9	1.805,9	67,3%	0,0%
Morocco	1.041,4	32.282,6	44,1%	0,2%
ECOWAS	**273,8**	**75.545,2**	**45,6%**	**0,5%**
Benin	47,9	376,2	7,9%	0,0%
Burkina Faso	52,1	714,5	11,3%	0,0%
Cape Verde	1.519,2	745,9	59,6%	0,0%
Côte d'Ivoire	296,0	5.966,6	27,9%	0,0%
Gambia, The	296,9	471,8	78,4%	0,0%
Ghana	154,8	3.400,8	25,3%	0,0%
Guinea Bissau	47,8	81,1	21,3%	0,0%
Liberia	607,5	2.278,1	278,1%	0,0%
Mali	107,5	1.403,2	19,3%	0,0%
Niger	13,2	176,5	4,7%	0,0%
Nigeria	424,0	60.993,8	41,5%	0,4%
Senegal	44,8	548,2	4,9%	0,0%
Sierra Leone	91,3	524,1	25,1%	0,0%
Togo	130,6	843,9	33,4%	0,0%
ECCAS	**2.491,4**	**309.280,3**	**45,1%**	**0,3%**
Angola	717,0	11.708,1	18,6%	0,1%
Burundi	5,6	43,6	4,7%	0,0%
Cameroon	204,6	3.858,1	17,8%	0,0%
Central African Rep.	47,0	200,8	12,3%	0,0%
Chad	471,7	4.477,6	69,7%	0,0%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	24,1	1.474,1	53,5%	0,0%
Congo, Rep.	1.013,5	3.594,8		0,0%
Equatorial Guinea	21.172,3	25.512,7	93,7%	0,1%
Gabon	539,0	772,4	6,4%	0,0%
S. Tomé and Príncipe	719,6	113,7	129,4%	0,0%

Notes:
ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

Source: UNCTAD
Illustration: Vicepresidency of the Government of the Canary Islands