

EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA



ALGERIA TODAY

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PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES

PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA HOSTS FRENCH PRIME MINISTER JEAN-MARC AYRAULT

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, hosted on Dec. 16 French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, who was in Algeria on an official visit.

Discussions between the president and the head of the French government dealt with bilateral relations between Algeria and France and with the ways and means to strengthen further in various areas.

President Bouteflika and Prime Minister Ayrault also discussed issues of mutual interest as well as developments in the region, namely the situation prevailing in the Sahel.



PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA HOSTS QATAR'S FOREIGN MINISTER

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, hosted on Dec. 19 in Algiers the minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Mr. Khaled Bin Mohamed al-Attia, who arrived in Algeria for an official visit.

During the meeting, Mr. Bin Mohamed al-Attia conveyed to President Bouteflika a message from the Emir of Qatar Tamim ben Hamad Al-Thani.

The meeting was an opportunity for the president and the Qatari foreign minister to discuss the economic partnership between the two countries, namely the agreement to build a steel plant at Bellara, Province of Jijel.

The presidential audience also enabled the president and his guest to discuss bilateral relations between Algeria and Qatar and ways and means to strengthen them in various areas.



PRESIDENT ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA HOSTS CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI

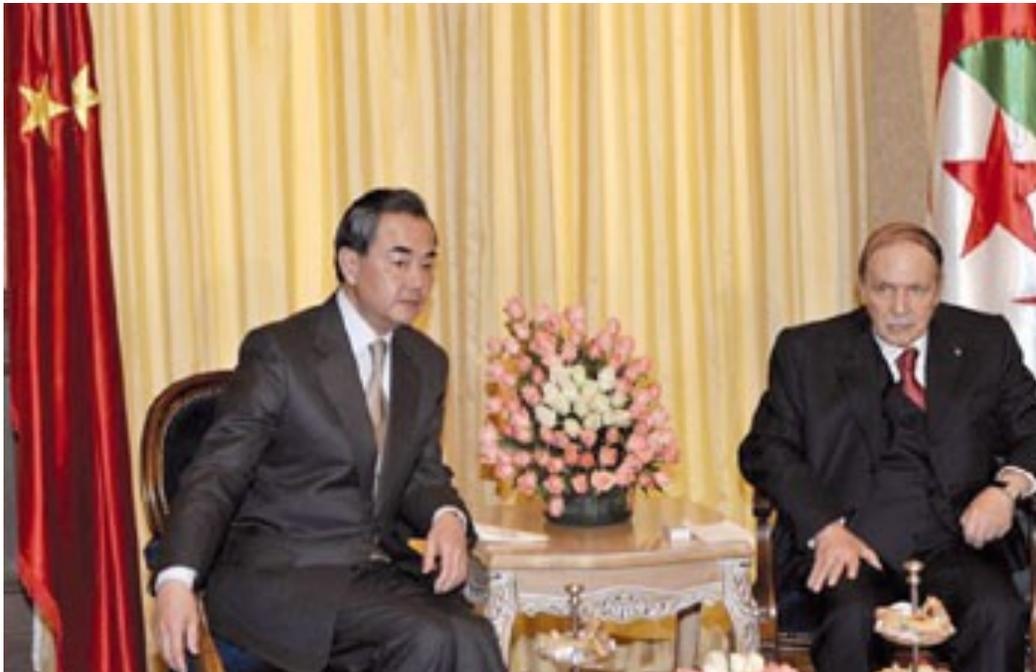
The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, hosted on Dec. 22 in Algiers Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who arrived in Algeria for an official visit.

During his meeting with the President, the Chinese official conveyed to the head of state good wishes and a message from Chinese President Xi Jinping.

During their meeting, as well, the two sides exchanged views on the prospect of achieving a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries and on the adoption of a five-year plan over 2014-2018 for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

President Bouteflika and the Chinese minister for Foreign Affairs have also exchanged views on the situation prevailing in Africa, Palestine and Syria.

The official visit by the head of Chinese diplomacy coincides with the 55th anniversary of the historic establishment of diplomatic relations between Algeria and the People's Republic of China.



PRESIDENT ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA SIGNS SIX PRESIDENTIAL DECREES

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, signed on Dec. 18 six decrees ratifying adhesion by Algeria to a protocol as well as five bilateral cooperation conventions, in keeping with Article 77-11 of the Constitution.

The first decree related to the adhesion by Algeria to the protocol on the Madrid agreement on international registration of trademarks, adopted in Madrid on June 27, 1989, amended on Oct. 3, 2006, and Nov. 12, 2007.

President Bouteflika also signed two decrees ratifying an extradition convention passed between Algeria and Vietnam and the convention on mutual judicial assistance in penal matters between the two countries, signed in Algiers on April 14, 2010.

The president signed as well a decree ratifying a convention on mutual judicial assistance in civil and commercial matters passed between the Algerian and Iranian governments and signed in Tehran on Nov. 22, 2010.

Furthermore, the president signed two decrees ratifying a convention on trade cooperation passed between the Algerian and Kuwaiti governments, signed in Algiers on Sept. 11, 2012, as well as a convention on maritime commercial and harbor transport passed between the Algerian and Qatari governments, signed in Algiers on Jan. 7, 2013.

PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA CHAIRS A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



The President of the Republic, MR. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, chaired, Monday Dec.30, a meeting of the Council of Ministers, whose agenda includes the review of several bills.

During this meeting, the President of the Republic signed the Finance Act 2014.

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES

MR. SELLAL CONDUCTS SERIES OF TALKS IN PARIS

Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal was hosted on Dec. 5 in Paris, France, by Mayor Bertrand Delanoë, a day before participating as representative of the president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in the proceedings of the Elysée Summit meeting on Peace and Security in Africa convened in the French capital.

Conducted in a friendly atmosphere, talks between Mr. Sellal and Mr. Delanoë dealt with Algerian-French bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest, which included the partnership between the French and Algerian capital cities.

Prior to his meeting with Mayor Delanoë, Prime Minister Sellal had been hosted by French President François Hollande, a few hours after his arrival in Paris heading a ministerial delegation taking part in the Elysée summit proceedings.

The Algerian prime minister also kept a busy agenda on the sidelines of the summit meeting. On Dec. 7, he was hosted at the ministerial conference center in Paris by Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz and by Nigerien President Issoufou Mahamadou.



MR. SELLAL TAKES PART IN THE ELYSÉE SUMMIT MEETING ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

Representing the president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal joined on Dec. 6 in Paris in the Elysée Palace some forty African heads of state and government taking part in the summit meeting on peace and security in Africa.

In an address delivered before the delegates, Mr. Sellal insisted that the action undertaken by the African countries through the African Union to support peace and security on the Continent "is integrated within the United Nations peace and security system and constitutes a substantial contribution to the global action for the settlement and prevention of conflicts."

In that regard, he argued in support of strengthening the ongoing AU-UN partnership in order to "consolidate the progress achieved in the co-management of conflicts" and that "it is important to grant particular attention to the legitimate concerns expressed by Africa with regards to its representation within the UN Security Council."

Moving on to the issue of counterterrorism, Mr. Sellal reiterated Algeria's position on ransom-payment, stressing that the fight against terrorism includes "a resolute action intended to dry up sources of financing of terrorism."

Furthermore, he discussed the "instability" of the Sahel region caused by "the combined action led by terrorism and organized crime, principally drug-trafficking."

In that respect, the Algerian prime minister noted that the African Union has played a "significant role" in mobilizing the international community in supporting this (the Sahel) region lead an efficient fight against that scourge and that it has made a "significant" contribution in designing a way out of the crisis in Mali.

"Today, Africa is pursuing that effort by strengthening security cooperation between the countries of the region and by setting in place a system of security governance through the promising Nouakchott process," he insisted.



PRIME MINISTER SELLAL AND FRENCH COUNTERPART AYRAULT HOLD TALKS IN ALGIERS

French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault started on Dec. 15 an official three-day visit in Algeria, on the occasion of the convention of the high-level intergovernmental committee, with the goal of put in place regular political dialogue and strengthening economic partnership between the two countries.

Mr. Ayrault was hosted for talks by Prime Minister Sellal. The meeting was later expanded to include the members of their two delegations.

Heading a large delegation including nine Cabinet ministers, members of the French Parliament, and entrepreneurs, the French prime minister co-presided with Mr. Sellal the proceedings of the first session of the high-level intergovernmental committee and he took part in the economic forum attended by members of the business communities of the two countries.

The high-level intergovernmental committee was established by the Algiers Declaration which sanctioned the state visit made by President François Hollande in Algeria in December 2012.

Nine cooperation agreements covering various areas were signed between the two countries on the occasion of the convention of that first meeting of the high-level intergovernmental committee.

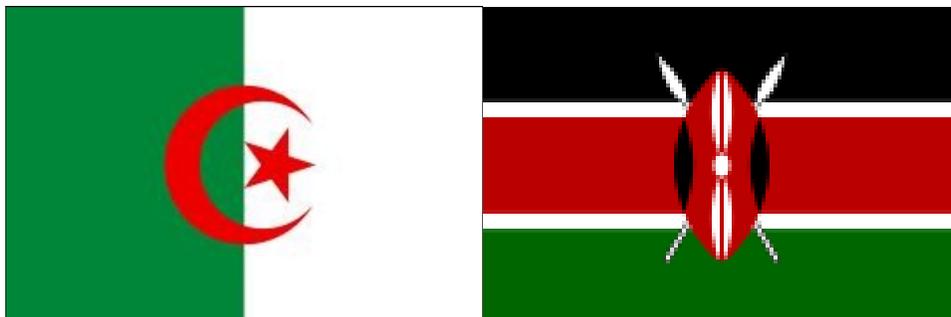


PRIME MINISTER ABDELMALEK SELLAL HOSTS THE SPEAKER OF KENYA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal hosted on Dec. 2 in Algiers Kenya's National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi, who had arrived in Algeria for a working and friendship visit.

Talks between Mr. Sellal and the Kenyan official examined bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the economic and political areas as well as ways and means to strengthen and develop them further.

Speaking to members of the media after his five-day visit in Algeria, Mr. Muturi said "a number of decisions have been reached jointly with the Algerian leaders, namely one relating to the creation of a joint Algerian-Kenyan commission aimed at boosting current relations" between the two countries.



MR. LAMAMRA MEETS IN PARIS WITH FRENCH COUNTERPART

Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra met on Dec. 4 in Paris with his French counterpart Laurent Fabius, on the eve of the Élysée summit meeting for peace and security in Africa, which is attended by an Algerian delegation.

During their meeting, the two ministers reviewed Algerian-French bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, including security in Africa and more particularly in the Sahel region.



FOREIGN MINISTER LAMAMRA HOLDS TALKS WITH HIS COUNTERPART FROM QATAR

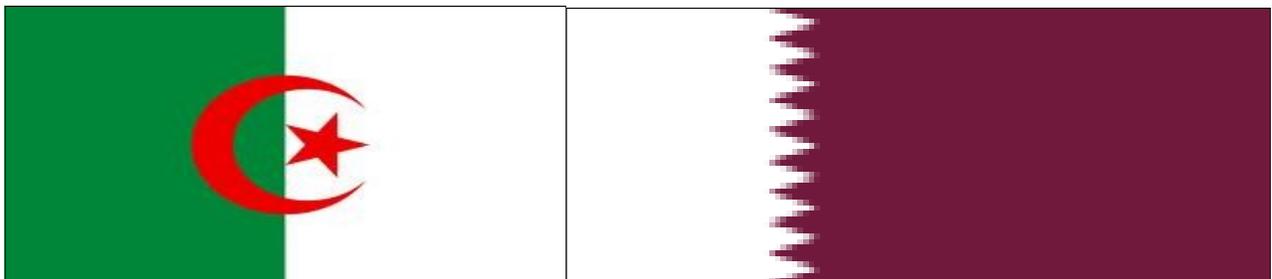
Qatar's Minister for Foreign Affairs Khaled Ben Mohamed Al Attia, who arrived in Algeria for a three-day working visit, met with his Algerian counterpart Ramtane Lamamra on Dec. 19 in Algiers. Their meeting was later expanded to include the members of their respective delegations.

At a joint press conference held with his Qatari counterpart, Mr. Lamamra declared that their meeting provided an occasion for an exchange of views on bilateral relations and on the state of implementation of the conventions concluded between the two countries and on the ways and means needed to develop further the partnership between Algeria and Qatar.

According to Mr. Lamamra, the meeting was an opportunity to "assess prospects for this partnership and the opening of new areas with a view to deepening, expanding, and diversifying the promising economic relations between Algeria and the State of Qatar," namely the project involving the construction of a steel plant at Bellara, in the Province of Jijel, which was signed in Algiers the day before.

The two sides agreed to "intensify" their diplomatic consultations at all levels, namely cooperation and solidarity between the Arab and African regions, as well as consultation and coordination of actions within the United Nations and in the concert of nations. The two sides also agreed to consolidate cooperation between the diplomatic institutes in Algiers and in Qatar.

The Qatari foreign minister, for his part, declared that Algeria is "a strategic partner" and expressed the willingness of his country to "further develop bilateral relations" with Algeria in various areas.



FOREIGN MINISTER LAMAMRA HOLDS TALKS WITH SPEAKER OF KENYA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The meeting between the head of Algerian diplomacy and the Speaker of the Kenyan National Assembly involved exchanges of views on a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Speaking after his talks with Mr. Lamamra, Speaker Justin Muturi reaffirmed his country's support for the right to self-determination of the Sahrawi people in accordance with United Nations decisions.

Addressing the fight against terrorism, the Kenyan official argued in support of a "solution" and a "counterterrorism strategy safeguarding human rights and peace."

In the same context, Mr. Lamamra noted that Kenya "is involved in the fight against terrorism in the framework of Onusom, the United Nations mission in Somalia" but also at home, "having been hit in its own capital", and in fighting piracy at sea.

At the bilateral level, Mr. Lamamra recalled that "there are of course consultations and convergent objectives and approaches" between Algeria and Kenya, recalling in that respect "the instruments set up" with a view to consolidating bilateral cooperation, including opening a Kenyan embassy in Algeria, the establishment of a "joint economic commission" and finally an agreement on "political consultation."



MR. LAMAMRA AND BRAZILIAN DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE HOLD TALKS IN ALGIERS

In remarks made after a meeting held on Dec. 1 in Algiers with Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra, Brazil's Deputy Minister for Investment Development and Trade Ricardo Schaefer, who was in Algeria on a three-day visit at the head of a major delegation including representatives from public authorities and economic operators, called for "creating a business platform" with Algeria intended to increase trade exchanges between the two countries and create new jobs.

Mr. Schaefer added that Algeria and Brazil are meant to strengthen their cooperation and to increase contacts among economic operators of both countries with the goal of creating partnerships between them.

The Brazilian official also expressed his country's willingness to further boost its economic relations with Algeria and underlined that "Brazilian investments in Algeria were an important item" discussed in meetings with Algerian high officials.



MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS RAMTANE LAMAMRA TAKES PART IN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

The Algerian capital hosted on Dec. 8 a high-level meeting on peace and security in Africa intended to help the new African non-permanent members of the UN Security Council gear up and stand ready to defend the interests of the Continent within the United Nations.

Convened one day after the Élysée meeting on peace and security in Africa, the Algiers meeting aimed at preparing Chad and Nigeria, who were elected on Oct. 17, 2013 to non-permanent seats on the UN Security Council for a two-year mandate commencing on Jan. 1, 2014, to get ready to deal with issues of peace and security on the African Continent.

In remarks made at the meeting, Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra reiterated Algeria's "commitment" and "availability" to contribute to the "intensification" of joint African action on the international scene.

The foreign minister also recalled that Africa has achieved a "breakthrough" in peace and security as he highlighted "emblematic programs" such as NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) and APRM (African Peer Review Mechanism) and "the whole architecture of good governance which contributes to strengthening the African architecture of peace and security."

In the same vein, the head of Algerian diplomacy recalled that 60% of the UN Security Council agenda deals with crises and conflicts affecting mainly Africa and argued in support of "close" coordination between the African Union and the countries representing the Continent within the UN Security Council.

In that regard, speaking at a press conference held after the closing of the meeting's proceedings, Mr. Lamamra reiterated the African claim of two permanent seats on the UN Security Council, calling it a "clear and urgent" claim and underlined that, "as opposed to other continents, Africa is not represented among the current permanent membership of the UN Security Council."

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS RAMTANE LAMAMRA MADE COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL ORDER BY NIGER PRESIDENT ISSOUFOU



Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra was made Commander of the National Order of Niger at a ceremony held on Dec. 18 in the Nigerien capital of Niamey.

Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou has personally decorated Mr. Lamamra at a ceremony presided by the Nigerien head of state on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Niger, in the presence of heads of national institutions, members of the government and senior officers of the country's armed forces, as well as members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Niger.

In remarks made on that occasion, President Issoufou said the decoration was awarded to Mr. Lamamra "in recognition of the services he has rendered to the Republic of Niger and to the African Continent in the performance of missions he has accomplished as African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security."



MADJID BOUGUERRA TAKES PART IN THE 40TH SESSION OF OIC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

The proceedings of the 40th session of the Council of Ministers for Foreign affairs of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) got started on Dec. 9 in Conakry, Guinea. Held under the theme of "Dialogue of Civilizations - Factor of Peace and Sustainable Development", the meeting examined various issues, including the Palestinian issue, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situations prevailing in a number of Muslim countries, the fight against transnational terrorism, the fight against illiteracy, solidarity among the countries of the Islamic Umma, and issues relating to economic and social development.

In remarks made before the delegates, Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs Madjid Bouguerra, who led the delegation attending the proceedings, called for "intensifying efforts within the organization and for setting up operational plans aimed at supporting the Palestinian people."

He also called on the member countries of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to practice better coordination to "curb the disastrous impact" of Israeli occupation of El Qods (Jerusalem). He also submitted concrete measures aimed at "efficient implementation of the development strategic plan for El Qods and financing additionally to voluntary contributions that could be assessed based on member state quotas in OIC budget."

Addressing the Syrian conflict, Mr. Bouguerra stressed that Algeria, "who has steadfastly argued in support of a political solution to the conflict, notes with satisfaction the announcement of the convening of the Geneva-2 Conference on Jan. 22, 2014, and urges the Syrian, regional, and international parties to strive to put an end to the bloodletting of the Syrian people, and to commit in support of a comprehensive solution for a transition and likely to meet the aspirations of the Syrian people for justice and freedom and to protect the country from destruction and foreign interference."

With regards to the situation prevailing in Mali, Mr. Bouguerra called on the international community to "sustain its support to Mali to help consecrate stability and advance development in that country," all the while affirming that "Algeria will continue its cooperation with the countries of the Sahel region to address the threats posed by terrorism, drug-trafficking and organized crime.

He also called for "intensification of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and for drying up its sources of financing, including ransom-payment.

On that occasion as well, Algeria has urged the OIC to sustain its efforts to combat Islamophobia through a full-throttled awareness campaign, in international fora, and through the dissemination of the real image of our religion and the promotion of the dialogue among civilizations.

TALKS HELD BY MR. BOUGUERRA IN CONAKRY

Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African affairs Madjid Bouguerra held meetings on Dec. 10 in Conakry, Guinea, on the margins of the 40th session of the foreign ministers of the Organization for Islamic Conference (OIC), with ministers of OIC member countries.

In talks with Guinean Minister of Security and Public Safety Madifine Diallo, he discussed ways and means to boost bilateral cooperation. He also met with the new OIC secretary general, Mr. Iyad Madani, to whom he reiterated the "support of Algeria and its availability" to work in concert to the strengthening of the OIC.

Mr. Madani, who will take up his duties starting next Jan. 1, has confirmed a planned visit to Algeria during the first quarter of next year.

Mr. Bouguerra also met with the foreign minister of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissou, with whom he examined ways and means of "increasing" bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Finally, Mr. Bouguerra was hosted by the president of the Republic of Guinea Alpha Condé. Their talks centered on examining ways and means of fostering a revival of bilateral cooperation, the outcome of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the OIC, and current African issues.



MR. BOUGUERRA HOLDS TALKS WITH THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE SAHEL

Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs Madjid Bouguerra held talks on peace and security issues in the region on Dec. 18 in Algiers with Mr. Antonio Sanchez Benedito, the Spanish government Special Envoy for the Sahel.

Their talks dealt with the situation in the Sahel-Saharan region, particularly in northern Mali, and with contributions that could be made by the Spanish side "to cooperate with the countries of the region with a view to resolving counterterrorism and contraband issues faced by the Sahel countries."

The two sides also discussed, among others, "the issue of ransom-payment and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the Gulf of Aden, as well as the efforts deployed by the African Union to develop a mechanism dealing with peace and security issues on the Continent."

Saying that he was on an "in-depth" fact-finding mission about the role of the countries of the region, Mr. Sanchez insisted to say that Algeria is "a pioneering state in the Sahel region in view of its experience in fighting terrorism, which Spain and the European Union have recognized."



COOPERATION

ALGERIAN-FRENCH ECONOMIC FORUM: 13 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Algerian and French public and private enterprises and bodies active namely in the areas of standardization, metrology, agro-industries and energy have signed thirteen partnership agreements on Dec. 16 in Algiers.

Signed at the end of the proceedings of the Algerian-French economic gathering in the industrial sector, the agreements cover the creation of a trade school in the industrial sector and a national school of industrial economics.

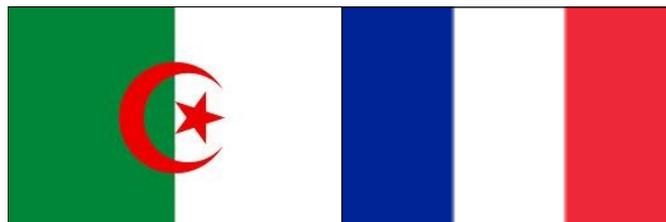
The partnerships also cover the creation of a national logistics institute to provide training and qualification in logistics as well as a management school for executives from public industrial enterprises.

Another agreement was passed between Afnor, the French standardization association, and Ianor, the Algerian standardization institute.

The agreements passed between the Algerian and French sides aim at strengthening bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries and include building a national metrology reference laboratory in Algeria, as part of a partnership between the national metrology office and the French testing laboratory.

The Algerian-French partnership will be further strengthened with the creation of joint ventures in the building and public works area (production of support equipments and pavement coupling joints), in the energy sector (future production of photovoltaic panels), and in the agri-business sector, with the production of fruit jams and installation of spare parts for milk packaging equipment.

Other partnerships were also concluded during the meeting of the business communities of the two countries. They involve boat construction, creation of a subsidiary of the French mobile telephone provider Orange Horizons for sale of mobile telephone prepaid cards, as well as design of computer solutions.



ALGERIA-FRANCE: NINE BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Nine cooperation agreements were signed in various sectors between Algeria and France, on the occasion of the first meeting of the high-level intergovernmental committee co-chaired by Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal and his French counterpart, Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault, who made a three-day official visit to Algeria.

The agreement signature ceremony was chaired by the two prime ministers, in the presence of the members of the two delegations at the headquarters of the Government Palace.

The agreements include a convention on political dialogue and operations of the high-level intergovernmental committee and an agreement on reciprocal suppression of visas for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

A partnership convention on technical assistance in the sector of transportation, a statement of intent in the sector of urban planning and an agreement on a program of cultural exchanges for the period of 2014-2016 were also signed.

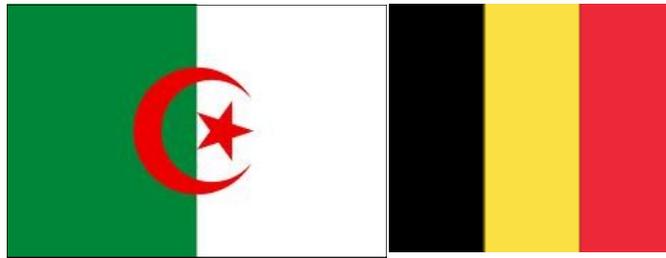
Additionally to an agreement in the sector of communication, a memorandum of understanding and cooperation between the public establishment of sound radiobroadcast and France-Médias monde, a protocol of collaboration between Algerian Television and France-Médias monde, the two sides have also signed on the same occasion a statement of intent for the creation of a center of excellence for energy and electricity trades.



ALGERIA-BELGIUM: NEW COOPERATION PROGRAM APPROVED FOR 2014-2017

The second session of the Algerian-Belgian joint commission for cooperation to development, held on Dec. 10 in Algiers, ended with agreement on a new cooperation program between the two countries for 2014-2017, according to a statement issued by the foreign ministry.

With 20 million euros in financing allotted for that period, the program will focus on dealing with environmental issues, including environment, health, water resources, and the sector of transportation.



ALGERIA-EU: FOUR FINANCING CONVENTIONS FOR 94 MILLION EUROS SIGNED

Algeria and the European Union signed on Dec. 19 in Algiers four conventions with total financing amounting to 94 million euros for the financing of cooperation programs in the sectors of environment, fisheries, governance support, and implementation of the Association Agreement between Algeria and the EU.

The agreements were signed in the presence of Minister of Fisheries and Sea Resources Sid Ahmed Ferroukhi, Minister of Land Planning and Environment Dalila Boudjemaa, Minister for Maghreb and African Affairs Madjid Bouguerra, for the Algerian side, and Mr. Marek Skolil, Head of the EU Delegation in Algeria.



ALGERIA-UN:**SIGNATURE OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS CREATING THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The president of the National Economic and Social Council (CNES), Mr. Mohamed-Séghir Babès, and Provost Prof. David M. Malone of the United Nations University signed on Dec. 22 the legal instruments creating the Institute for Sustainable Development, part of the United Nations University (UNU-IRADDA).

Active throughout the world, the institute is located in Algiers. It will become operational by the end of 2014, the two signatories declared at a joint press conference, explaining that building the institute's structures, namely the advisory council and the administration, results from a "competitive process."

The resolution backing creation of UNU-IRRADA was adopted by the United Nations University's board of directors at its 60th session, held on Nov. 21-22 in New York.



SPORTS**SOCCER: ISLAM SLIMANI NAMED GOLDEN BALL 2013**

Algerian international forward operating at Sporting of Lisbon, Portugal, was awarded the Golden Ball for best Algerian soccer player for the year 2013. The event was held by the sports dailies "Le Buteur" and "El Haddaf". He succeeds his fellow player Sofiane Feghouli, who won the same award in 2012.

Slimani was named best scorer of the Algerian squad at the playoffs for the World Cup in Brazil, with 5 goals. Formerly with the Algiers soccer club CR Belouizdad, Slimani joined the Lisbon sporting club last summer.

The event was attended by stars of world soccer Rivaldo of Brazil and Javier Zanetti of Argentina, who play for the Italian soccer club of Inter de Milan.



CULTURE

CINEMA: 4TH ALGIERS INTERNATIONAL CINEMA FESTIVAL (FICA) OPENS

Featuring special events dedicated to activist cinema, the third edition of the FICA opened on Dec. 19 at El Mouggar movie theater in Algiers with a showing of "Omblin", a French social drama movie by director Stéphane Cazes. The festival will continue until Dec. 26, 2013, and will feature eight fiction movies and eleven documentaries.

These movie productions, by directors from South Africa, Palestine, Vietnam, Senegal, the United States of America, France, Greece, and Serbia, cover a wide range of political and social issues in several countries and will be competing for FICA's Grand Prix at El Mouggar movie theater.

The Apartheid system, the Palestinian condition, the Sahrawi cause, the forced enrollment of Vietnamese in the French army, the difficulty in acceding to education, the condition of women in various social contexts will be covered in the movies featured at the festival.

South African movie "Beyond enemy lines" by director K. Lentswe Serote, "No" by Chilean director Pablo Larrain, "Palestine Stereo" by Palestinian director Rashid Masharawi, and "Cong Binh - The Long Indochinese Night" by Vietnamese director Lam Nê will also be competing for the trophy.

In the documentary movie category, which is an increasingly popular trend used to bear witness or to speak up on issues all the while sticking to current event, presents a line-up including "Président Dia" by the Senegalese Ousmane William Mbaye, "Let's not live like slaves any longer" by Greek director Yanis Youlountas, and "Sugarman" by American director Malik Bendjelloul.

After American director Oliver Stone and French-Greek director Costa Gavras, two great names of activist cinema, FICA will pay tribute this year to American director Charles Burnett, who made "Namibia", among others, and who was selected to make a historic movie on Emir Abdelkader.

This edition of the festival will include a novelty, though: A new prize called "Grand Prix du Public" will be awarded through audience vote. This prize will be among the awards given by the festival, including "FICA Grand Prize" and "Special Jury Award".

