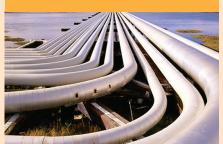
Weekly highlights by ECONO STE







The Morocco-Spain Gas Pipeline operational in reverse flow



Electric and hybrid cars: The fleet has doubled in two years in Morocco

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Saint-Peter cathedral in Rabat, a centerpiece of the capital's heritage

EDITORIAL Spies Khalid BELYAZID

UR James Bonds, at least as the Algerian regime describes them, are back home safe and sound. We knew that the Moroccan intelligence services were powerful, but going to the extent of using journalists, experts in penalties or judo grips, to learn about the military strategies of neighboring countries, is to be badly...informed. Our journalists were simply detained, sequestered in an airport, pushed back, prevented from covering the Mediterranean Games, against the rules of international sporting events; people are surprised at the silence of the organizers of the games. In fact, the will of the Algerian regime was simply to humiliate and oppress; this behavior has lasted since 1975 when thousands of Moroccans living in the Algerian area bordering Morocco were expelled for the same futile pretext of espionage. Today, through our journalists who have fallen into its hands, this

Algerian regime wants to hurt our athletes, our public, our population, and the whole country of Morocco which it cannot destabilize. Yet major sporting events are still used by regimes, tyrannical or democratic, to restore their image. They are an opportunity for a country to show its capacity to organize, to welcome, to be a host with all the required nobility in terms of gestures... a great skill of Morocco for which we should be spied on. And in this case, in Oran, a historically cosmopolitan and festive city, we should have added the serenity, that of the Mediterranean, celebrated by these games. Once again, this was an opportunity for this Algerian regime to show its hostility, sometimes ridiculous, historical, systematic, to divert its population from its problems. This is not new. And you don't need spies to know it.

Weekly highlights

The Morocco-Spain Gas Pipeline operational in reverse flow

PAIN has just confirmed the delivery to Morocco of natural gas purchased on international markets. Indeed, since Tuesday, June 28, the Northern neighbor has been transporting gas to the Kingdom, through the Maghreb-Europe Gas Pipeline (GME). It was the Spanish media that announced the reactivation of the pipeline. On the Moroccan side, officially no information has yet been leaked out concerning this subject. "Based on business relations and good neighborliness, last Tuesday took place the first shipment by the Maghreb Gas Pipeline of LNG (liquefied natural gas) previously acquired by Morocco on international markets and landed in a Spanish regasification plant", the AFP agency quotes sources at the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition. According to the Spanish general information newspaper La Vanguardia: the Moroccan facilities are ready.

"The compressor stations have been adapted. This technical work was done calmly before Morocco and Spain announced their reconciliation last March", reads the paper, adding that "the shipment of gas from Spain to Morocco is part of a package of measures for the resumption of relations between the two countries". Given



fer of this gas requires a "minor" technical adaptation.

According to the Catalan daily published in Barcelona (El Periódico), "there are already gas flows to Morocco via Tarifa, with which the gas pipe*line opens in the opposite direction for* the first time". The same Spanish me-

this decision, Morocco will now be will operate according to the technical able to use the Maghreb gas pipeline in rules of the European Union, like those the opposite direction, with which the already existing linking Spain to Portutwo electricity production plants which gal and France". In concrete terms, the were paralyzed will restart, underlines principle consists of buying liquefied the Spanish press, noting that the trans-natural gas (LNG) on the international market. Then, the gas is transported to regasification plants in Spain in accordance with the agreement entered into between the two governments after the closure in November 2021 by Algeria of the gas pipeline which supplied the Iberian Peninsula via Morocco. Thus, an LNG carrier bought by Morocco dia specifies that "the interconnection carried out its first unloading in one

of the Spanish regasification plants, indicates the Spanish website El Periódico. This same gas cargo was sent, in the afternoon of Monday, through the GME gas pipeline to Morocco, confirms the Spanish outlet. This is "a small quantity of 5,900 Nm3/h, which was exported, i.e. 55 MWH", according to data from the Enagás company in charge of this operation. It should be noted that at the end of last April, Algiers had threatened Madrid "to break the contract for the supply of natural gas if part of it reached Morocco" with whom Algeria broke off its diplomatic relations unilaterally. The Spanish executive then assured Algiers that Morocco would only receive the LNG that it regasifies in Spain. It is therefore in no way a question of gas from Algeria. Moreover, "a certification process guarantees that this gas (shipped from Spain to Morocco) is not of Algerian origin" say the Spanish institutions. In the same vein, the manager of the Spanish gas network (Enagás) is tasked with "verifying the origin of the LNG tanker transporting the ga" purchased by Morocco. After each unloading, the manager issues a certificate... specifies the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition.

Amin RBOUB

Economic juncture: Limited damage in agriculture

T is against a backdrop of an increasingly uncertain international situation that the new contours of the economic situation are taking shape. The latest economic report from the Ministry of Economy and Finance only confirms this volatility. Barely getting out of the pandemic phase, economic operators must now deal with tensions in Eastern Europe and galloping inflation in the price of raw materials. Nevertheless, the balance of the major macroeconomic aggregates, albeit fragile, remains. At the primary level, the negative effect of the rainfall deficit at the beginning of the year would have been mitigated by the heavy rainfall in March and April 2022.

According to the Directorate of Studies and Financial Forecasting (DEPF), the 2021-2022 agricultural campaign posted a good performance in terms of exports of fresh fruits and vegetables. A record volume is said

to have been recorded by citrus exports, despite the unfavorable weather conditions that characterized this campaign. At the end of the first four months of the year, the export turnover of the agriculture and agribusiness sector reached 32.8 billion Moroccan Dirhams (MAD), up by

■ Cereal production down sharply

Concerning the three main cereals, the first forecasts of the department in charge of Agriculture count on a production of the order of 32 million quintals. These expected results would be down by 69% compared to those of the previous exceptional campaign, due to the difficult climatic conditions which marked the beginning of the year, in particular the significant and generalized rainfall deficit. Overall, the government's effort and the improved climatic conditions in March and April, which allowed good establishment and development of spring crops, have largely contributed to a resumption of the momentum in the agricultural

■ Phosphate saves the day

Regarding industry, the production index of the extractive sector fell for the second consecutive quarter, i.e. -10.1% in the first quarter of 2022, after a drop of 1.9% in the fourth quarter 2021 and an increase of 6.3% in the first quarter of the same year. The growth in the value of exports of phosphates and derivatives is further consolidated, benefiting from the notable increase in the prices of phosphate products. Thus, these exports increased by 98.6% to 36.1 billion Dirhams, at the end of April 2022, including an increase of 104.1% for phosphate derivatives and 58.1% for phosphate rock.

■ Tourism finally sees the end of the tunnel

After two years of barren spell, tourism is recovering. During April 2022, the third month after the reopening of national borders, tourism receipts continued to consolidate. This development should accelerate in the coming months, following the easing of travel restrictions, which came into force on May 18, 2022, and other government measures aimed at supporting and reviving activity in the sector, analysts of the Ministry of Economy and Finance say. In addition to the emergency program in favor of the tourism sector, Operation Crossing the Strait 2022 was launched on June 05, 2022, with, in particular, its new facilitation measures and its extension aimed at offering the best reception and transit conditions to Moroccans residing abroad.

Abdessamad NAÏMI

Friday 1st July 2022

Weekly highlights

Justice: "The Guardians of Ethics" start their functions

HE implementation of the Code of judicial ethics has started. After its publication in the Official Gazette, the Superior Council of the Judiciary Power launched a series of measures for the effective implementation of this

new tool. In addition to the Ethics Commission, created within the Higher Council, the ethics advisers, provided for by this Code, have also been appointed within the various courts. A first meeting was held with these new "guardians of judicial ethics" last Thursday, June 21 in Rabat. This meeting, chaired by the Deputy President of the Superior Council, Mohamed Abdennabaoui, was an opportunity to take stock of the missions with which they are equipped, within the framework of the overall strategy of this body, "based on the reconstruction of the system of values in the judicial sector, through an approach consisting in awareness-raising, supervision, and repression".

tablishing the Higher Council instructed this body to put in place a code of series of commitments, set by Article 34 ethics "setting the principles, values, of the Code of ethics". These include



Mohamed Abdennabaoui recalled, during his meeting with the ethics advisers, that the latter are required to alert the Commission to identified breaches of ethics, in addition to the generalization of the provisions of the code of ethics withing the courts under their jurisdiction and in addition to encouraging magistrates to comply with such a code (Ph. L'Economiste)

and rules that magistrates are required to comply with when performing their duties". Ethics advisors are appointed, under this code, within the various courts. According to Article 33 of this code, these advisers are "appointed within the various courts of appeal". These are "the first presidents and the King's attorneys general, according to ■ Commitments: Law 100-13 esthese judicial officials, Abdennabaoui recalled that this mission "imposes a

the «generalization of its provisions within the courts of their jurisdiction and the encouragement of magistrates to comply with such provisions». Added to this is "the support of judges facing constraints, problems or ambiguities in the application or interpretation of the articles of this code". This must be done with "respect for the confidentiality of those requesting a consultation" The Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors also challenged these advisors on their other responsibilities, in particular with regard to the development of proposals or recommendations to be submitted to the Ethics Commission under this authority. They should focus on "the proper application of the code, with concrete measures in this direction, in addition to the proposal of training and awareness programs". As for the annual activity report, provided for by the Code of ethics, Abdennabaoui called on these judicial officers to submit it at the end of next December.

■ **Disciplinary proceedings**: For the Deputy President of the Higher Council, "if the goal of this code is to protect the judiciary from all excesses and to restore the trust of citizens, the assimilation of such a code by the officials concerned by its application will make it possible to limit the case of disciplinary or legal proceedings, through the strengthening of their ethical sense". The Deputy President of the Higher Council felt that ethics advisors must act as a "good father", in particular by "providing advice to magistrates and encouraging them to surpass themselves in the exercise of their function".

Khadija MASMOUDI

Electric and hybrid cars

The fleet has doubled in two years in Morocco

brands, 44 electric and hybrid models will be circulating in Morocco in 2022. In 2020, the vehicle fleet in hybrid and electric mode had barely 7 brands and 21 models. Despite the low proportion of clean mobility in Morocco, this type of vehicle has doubled in the space of just 2 years! From year to year, the offering is expanding with hybrid and electric technologies, less polluting engines, and very inexpensive in terms of maintenance. In 2018, this type of cars did not exceed 25 units. In 2019, it increased to 89 vehicles, then to 139 in 2020, before rising to 688 in 2021, including 421 plug-in hybrids. These are essentially passenger cars equipped with hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and electric technologies. The observation today is that there are more sales on the hybrid than on the electric. Admittedly, Morocco is still in the infancy of clean mobility and of the electric ecosystem.

The challenge is to succeed in the transition from internal combustion

engines to electric

ones. "The transition

took 10 years in Europe. In Morocco, it should take much less time", said Fabrice Crevola, General Manager of Renault Commerce Morocco. To achieve this, one will first have to remove the barriers to the purchase of vehicles. This requires incentives, assistance, subsidies, as well more affordable and accessible prices. The goal is to make electricity accessible to as many

Today, the whole challenge consists in developing public infrastructure in cities, streets, garages, multiplying charging stations in hypermarkets, businesses, servicing and maintenance networks, spare parts, etc. Incentives will speed up the transition (Ph. AR)

buyers as possible. "Prices will be more

affordable if there are Government incentives. The emergence of electricity goes first through an incentive system", say the car dealers, unanimously. That's what the whole challenge is all about! Until then, the existing offering remains very limited, mainly in the high-end closed circle.

Today, the challenge is to develop public infrastructure in cities, streets,

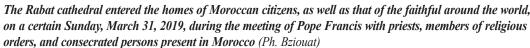
and garages, and to multiply charging stations in hypermarkets, businesses, upkeep, and maintenance networks, etc. In addition, the vehicle fleet of the Government, state-owned enterprises, public agencies, and the like, will have to set an example and show the way to other stakeholders, in particular the vehicle fleets of private groups, the institutions which defend the energy transition, the research centers, and other stakeholders ... More important still, the buy-in from the general public depends on efforts in terms of awareness, communication, and demos, with supporting scientific arguments. In the meantime, the Moroccan electricity market is starting with an equation with several unknowns (incentives, terminals and infrastructure, enthusiasm, acceptance of uses, etc.). It should be noted that within 6 years (in 2028), one out of three cars sold in the world will be electric! In other words, sales of electric cars should explode in the coming years.

Amin RBOUB

Weekly highlights

Saint-Peter cathedral in Rabat, a centerpiece of the capital's heritage







The lighting installations, created by a group of Moroccan artists, on the occasion of the centenary of the cathedral, attracted a large audience (Ph. Bziouat)

city of Rabat thronged, on Friday, June 24 and Saturday, June 25, the Saint Pierre cathedral! It was not a question of a religious service but of a monumental artistic installation, installed in the middle of the church, which attracted a very large public, curious to discover this iconic religious building of the capital. The Saint-Peter cathedral thus celebrated its hundredth anniversary with a mapping show, under the theme of "Weaving a fire". Fruit of a partnership between the French Institute of Rabat and the bishopric of Rabat, the luminous work was designed by a young Moroccan group of artists who are graduates of the Labdigital (creative space for people carrying out multimedia projects), and the architectural agency Method, to translate this notion of solidarity or how to weave the bonds through the fire that brings people together. Artists Zineb Sekkat, Youssef Chajai, and Mouad Laalou have chosen fire as the theme for this performance. "Fire is the most primitive form that brought humans together, its warmth

crowd of inhabitants of the *material form*", explains the group of artists, who wanted to place the facility at the heart of the church and not on the facade like a classic mapping. "We found it more interesting to invite the public to invest and discover this place, because we often have the idea that this cathedral is a forbidden place, which does not belong to us as Muslims. However, this building is as much a part of our heritage as any other", underline the three artists. The lighting installation was thought as a celebration of the past and future evolution of the monument with the city and the communities that coexist there, offering a visual experience derived from representations of fire such as flames, ashes, smoke, heat, and lights. On November 20, Cardinal Cristobal Lopez Romero, Archbishop of Rabat, celebrated a mass, officially launching the jubilee marking the centenary of the building. In a "letter to the People of God" published on October 31, the archbishop explained the meaning of this anniversary, thanking above all those, mainly Franciscans, who built this church. "To build commu-

diversities, and to live in communion with each other: here is a beautiful goal for this centenary ", had written the cardinal. Because the Saint-Peter Cathedral has become a place of communion par excellence, over time. A place of welcome for many migrants, as during lockdown pe-

nion among all from our abundant riods when many meals were served there for these vulnerable people. Several activities were scheduled during this jubilee, such as choirs, conferences, and other activities which were scheduled to end on June 29, day when people celebrate St. Peter and St. Paul.

Amine BOUSHABA

For the record...

THE Rabat cathedral entered the homes of Moroccans, as well as the homes of the faithful around the world, on March 31, 2019, during the meeting of Pope Francis with priests, religious and consecrated persons present in Morocco. A moving and joyful meeting entirely filmed by the national television of the Kingdom as well as several international TV stations. A mixture of art deco and Islamic influence, the building's white facade, with its two turrets and sharp edges, is now an integral part of the capital's landscape. The building is the work of architect Adrien Laforgue, brother of poet Jules Laforgue, to whom

we also owe the Post Office and the beautiful Rabat-Ville train station, as well as the former Palace of Justice which now houses the Parliament. The cathedral is part of an architectural tradition that is specific to the city of Rabat, a fruitful dialogue between the Arab-Muslim tradition and Western modernism. The building was not yet fully completed on November 17, 1921 when it was inaugurated by French marshal Hubert Lyautey. It was only two years later that Pope Pius XI created the Apostolic Vicariate of Rabat, and the church officially became the city's cathedral in 1955, when the diocese was created. 🖵