

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Morocco Monthly Briefing November 2021

#### Morocco Summary 18 November 2021

*Morocco's delegation to the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) summit in Glasgow (United Kingdom) signs onto a global commitment with 49 other countries to ease the use of coal and to transition to clean power. Algeria's presidency announces the termination of commercial relations between state-run energy company Sonatrach and Morocco's Office National de l'Electricité et de l'Eau Potable (ONEE) (office for electricity and drinking water), effectively ending the Maghreb-Europe pipeline contract. The finance ministry presents the finance draft bill for 2022 to parliament. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reports that foreign direct investment (FDI) in Morocco dropped significantly in the first quarter of 2021, from MAD 16.7 billion (\$1.9 billion) in Q1 2020 to MAD 2.8 billion (\$311.7m). Hundreds of Moroccans stage protests in several cities across the country to oppose government's decision to introduce a mandatory Covid vaccine pass.*

#### Morocco partially signs COP26 deal against coal...

**Morocco** has taken cautious steps to reduce its use of coal and transition to clean energy. The country's delegation to the **United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)** summit in **Glasgow (United Kingdom)** on 4 November signed onto a global commitment with about 49 other countries to ease the use of coal and transition to clean power.<sup>1</sup> Clause two of the agreement, to which Morocco's COP26 delegates refused to commit, requires signatories to:

*"... rapidly scale up technologies and policies in this decade to achieve a transition away from unabated coal power generation in the 2030s (or as soon as possible thereafter) for major economies and in the 2040s (or as soon as possible thereafter) globally, consistent with our climate targets and the **Paris Agreement**..."<sup>2</sup>*

Under previous agreements, developing countries had until 2050 to transition from coal. However, Morocco agreed to endorse clauses one, three and four of the agreement. Clause one requires signatories to agree to the deployment of new clean power generation and energy efficiency measures in their economies.<sup>3</sup> Clause three requires countries to cease constructing and issuing new permits for coal-fired power projects.<sup>4</sup> Clause four requires the strengthening of domestic and international efforts to provide "a robust framework of financial, technical, and social support to affected workers, sectors and communities" impacted by the transition from coal.<sup>5</sup>

Morocco is regarded as a country that is vulnerable to climate impacts due to a combination of political, geographic and social factors.<sup>6</sup> According to **ReliefWeb**, a humanitarian information service provided by the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**

<sup>1</sup> UN Climate Change Conference, 4 Nov 2021

<sup>2</sup> UN Climate Change Conference, 4 Nov 2021

<sup>3</sup> UN Climate Change Conference, 4 Nov 2021

<sup>4</sup> UN Climate Change Conference, 4 Nov 2021

<sup>5</sup> UN Climate Change Conference, 4 Nov 2021

<sup>6</sup> ReliefWeb, 5 Feb 2021

(OCHA), “climate change tends to put pressure on the country's natural resources, affecting the resilience of forest ecosystems and the agriculture sector, particularly due to water scarcity”.<sup>7</sup>

However, Morocco is not a member of the **African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group**, a specialised agency of the **African Union (AU)** established to help governments improve their capacities to better plan, prepare, and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters.<sup>8</sup> ARC is working to include more countries to support its mechanism, which currently has 35 AU member states.

### Algeria terminates Maghreb-Europe pipeline...

The **Algerian** presidency has announced the termination of commercial relations between state-run energy company **Sonatrach** and Morocco’s **Office National de l’Electricité et de l’Eau Potable (ONEE)** (national electricity and drinking water office), effectively ending the Algeria-Morocco-Spain pipeline agreement known as the **Maghreb-Europe** pipeline.<sup>9</sup> The pipeline, operational since November 1996, transports over 13,500 million cubic meters of natural gas annually. In a statement on 31 October, Algeria’s presidency cited “hostile” acts by Morocco to undermine Algerian unity as the reason it is no longer willing to extend the Europe-Maghreb pipeline contract.<sup>10</sup> The Algerian government had announced on 24 August that it would sever diplomatic relations with Morocco on the same grounds.

Morocco, which has two power stations, **Tahaddart** and **Beni Mathar**, powered by the pipeline, described the termination as “insignificant” to the performance of its power grid.<sup>11</sup> According to official data, Tahaddart and Beni Mathar power plants account for only 9% of Morocco’s national energy demand.<sup>12</sup> Following Algeria’s announcement, ONEE and the **Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM)** (national office for hydrocarbons and mines) said in a joint statement that arrangements had been made, in anticipation of Algeria’s decision, to shield the national electricity system.<sup>13</sup> They noted that “other options are being explored for sustainable, medium, and long-term alternatives”.<sup>14</sup>

Algerian news outlet **Algerie Part Plus** on 1 November released a detailed report stating that Algeria’s government was not forthright about its reasons to terminate the pipeline contract. **Algerie Part Plus** claims that the Algerian government’s decision to terminate the Maghreb-Europe pipeline is due to a significant decrease in the country’s natural gas reserves and collapse of its natural gas export capacity.<sup>15</sup> According to the report, Algeria’s decision was also motivated by a “consequent” increase in internal consumption which exceeds 52% of gas produced in the country.<sup>16</sup> Domestic consumption of gas in Algeria has exceeded the volume of gas exports since the 2018-2019 season. The report also revealed that Algeria can only export a limited quantity of oil to other countries:

*“Since 2020, Algeria can only export 45 or 49 billion cubic metres per year of natural gas, whereas it exported more than 65 billion cubic meters/ year at the beginning of the 2000s.”<sup>17</sup>*

<sup>7</sup> ReliefWeb, 5 Feb 2021

<sup>8</sup> African Risk Capacity, 18 Nov 2021

<sup>9</sup> Morocco World News, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>10</sup> Morocco World News, 31 Oct 2021

<sup>11</sup> Bloomberg, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>12</sup> Bloomberg, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>13</sup> Bloomberg, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>14</sup> Morocco World News, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>15</sup> **Algerie Part Plus**, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>16</sup> **Algerie Part Plus**, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>17</sup> Morocco World News, 31 Oct 2021

Algeria's gas exports are projected to decrease to less than 40 billion cubic metres in the coming years while domestic consumption is expected to exceed 55% of locally produced gas:<sup>18</sup>

*"It is for these purely economic reasons that Algeria can no longer afford to maintain the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline."*<sup>19</sup>

Spain will continue to receive Algerian gas via the **Medgaz** pipeline across the **Mediterranean Sea**. However, overflows from Algeria are set to fall this month. Algerian gas accounts for about half of Spain's total gas supplies, leaving it highly dependent on imports of additional natural gas, where it may have to compete with higher priced bidders in **Asia**.<sup>20</sup>

### Finance ministry presents draft 2022 budget...

Morocco's finance ministry on 18 October presented the new finance draft bill for 2022 to parliament, offering a glimpse into the incoming government's plans. The bill anticipates economic growth of 3.2% and a budget deficit of 5.9%. The main figures of the first draft proposed by prime minister **Aziz Akhannouch**'s new government allow for additional state expenses and a slight decrease in resources.<sup>21</sup> Total expenses for the upcoming fiscal year are set at MAD 519.2 billion (\$57 billion), a 9.1% increase over the 2021 expenditure of MAD 476 (\$52 billion).<sup>22</sup> Analysts say the increase is expected of the new **Rassemblement National des Indépendants (RNI)** government, as many of its goals require significant state funding. Foreseen expenses also exceed those of 2020, estimated to be MAD 507.5 billion (\$56 billion). Revenue is estimated at MAD 460.6 billion (\$50 billion) in 2022, against MAD 432.1 billion (\$47 billion) in 2021.

According to government, the new draft bill was prepared on the basis of an estimated agricultural campaign of 80 million quintals and an average butane gas price of \$450 per ton.<sup>23</sup> The budget aims to promote employment, particularly for youth, with an estimated 250,000 jobs to be created over the next two years starting in 2022, with a budget of MAD 2.25 billion (\$242m).<sup>24</sup> Giving priority to health and education, the finance bill allocates more than MAD 9 billion (\$1 billion), however, it does not specify whether it is for investment, share of social protection or increase in operating expenditures.<sup>25</sup> The draft budget also allocates MAD 245 billion (\$27.13 billion) to improve public services and streamline administration management. Other plans include:

*"...the activation of universal social protection, lifetime financial assistance to people with disabilities, and compulsory health insurance for people in precarious situations and workers of Morocco's significant informal sector".*<sup>26</sup>

The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**, in its *"World Investment Report"* published on 21 June noted that foreign direct investment (FDI) in Morocco dropped significantly in the first quarter of 2021. The net flow of FDI amounted to MAD 2.8 billion (\$311.7m), decreasing from MAD 16.7 billion (\$1.9 billion) recorded in the same period last year.<sup>27</sup> The decrease is part of a negative trend as a result of the global covid-19 health crisis, with FDI in most countries taking a negative trajectory in the first quarter of the year.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Algeria Part Plus, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>19</sup> Morocco World News, 31 Oct 2021

<sup>20</sup> Bloomberg, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>21</sup> Morocco World News, 21 Oct 2021

<sup>22</sup> Morocco World News, 21 Oct 2021

<sup>23</sup> Morocco World News, 21 Oct 2021

<sup>24</sup> Morocco World News, 21 Oct 2021

<sup>25</sup> Morocco World News, 21 Oct 2021

<sup>26</sup> Morocco World News, 21 Oct 2021

<sup>27</sup> Morocco World News, 2 Nov 2021

<sup>28</sup> World Investment Report, 21 Jun 2021

UNCTAD noted that Morocco holds a diversified FDI portfolio, with the established presence of multinational corporations in important sectors such as mining and manufacturing.<sup>29</sup> According to an earlier report, UNCTAD noted that the flow of foreign investment into Morocco between 2019 and 2020 resisted negative global trends in 2020. Morocco's investments abroad experienced a 45% decrease in investment outflow in 2020. However, the outflow of investment remained significant in 2020 at MAD 4.462 billion (\$492m).

### Protesters call for suspension of Covid passports

Hundreds of Moroccans staged protests on 24 and 31 October in several cities across the country to oppose government's decision to introduce a mandatory vaccine pass. The cities of **Rabat, Tangier, Marrakech, Casablanca, Agadir, Oujda** and **El Jadida** saw large numbers of protestors calling for "*freedom, dignity and social justice*" and gathering in defiance of government restrictions to chant anti-vaccine passport slogans.<sup>30</sup> With restrictions on mass gatherings in effect and Covid-19 cases still being recorded in Morocco, police forces intervened to ban further protests.<sup>31</sup> Several media outlets reported arrests of protestors, although the number of people detained is unknown. The **National Coordination of Moroccans**, which opposes the vaccine pass, called for the immediate release of arrested protestors and vowed to organise a march of solidarity on 1 November.<sup>32</sup> A local source noted that the vaccine passport represents the first unpopular measure by the new government:

*"With other countries dropping this passport, I don't understand why government introduced it here. It's not a good start."*<sup>33</sup>

Despite repeated assurance that Covid-19 vaccination is optional, government on 18 October decided to adopt the vaccine pass for access to public spaces, and domestic and international travel starting 21 October.<sup>34</sup> The vaccine pass is also mandatory for access to all enclosed spaces, including hotels, restaurants, cafes, shops, gyms and hammams. Failure to abide by the directive can result in up to three months' imprisonment or a fine of up to \$143.<sup>35</sup> Justifying its decision to implement the vaccine pass on 18 October, government said the pass is intended to contain the spread of covid-19.

Government spokesperson **Mustapha Baitas** said on 4 November that the vaccine pass does not intend to restrict citizens' freedom and seeks to ensure a responsibility of movement to protect lives and the local economy amid an international context characterised by "*confusion and high prices*".<sup>36</sup> Baitas emphasised that the mass vaccination campaign gives Morocco an opportunity to avoid a lockdown that will directly impact business owners and employees. Prior to the demonstrations, owners of restaurants, cafes and movie theatres issued statements denouncing the vaccine mandate and said they will not check vaccination passes for customers.<sup>37</sup>

Despite the demonstrations against the vaccine passes, government has expressed satisfaction with increasing vaccination numbers since the vaccine pass was introduced. Health authorities continue calls for non-vaccinated residents to get Covid injections as soon as possible, and

<sup>29</sup> World Investment Report, Jun 2021

<sup>30</sup> Morocco World News, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>31</sup> Morocco World News, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>32</sup> Morocco World News, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>33</sup> ARC Source, local resident

<sup>34</sup> Map News, 18 Oct 2021

<sup>35</sup> Garda, 29 Nov 2021

<sup>36</sup> Map News, 4 Nov 2021

<sup>37</sup> Morocco World News, 1 Nov 2021

encouraged those who were vaccinated against Covid-19 more than six months ago to take a booster shot.<sup>38</sup>

According to the health ministry's update on 16 November, it has fully vaccinated 22,460,518 of its 36.4 million citizens against Covid-19 since beginning its vaccination campaign at the end of January.<sup>39</sup> At least 24,373,815 people have received a first dose and 1,586,991 have received a third or booster dose. The health ministry announced that Morocco had recorded 120 new cases throughout the country on 16 November.<sup>40</sup> The seven-day average as of 17 November is 112 daily cases.<sup>41</sup> As of 17 November, Morocco had recorded a total of 948,539 cases, with 930,494 recoveries and 14,754 Covid-19-related deaths.<sup>42</sup>

Health officials have stressed the need for citizens to continue to follow the precautionary measures set by the health ministry.<sup>43</sup> The government has extended its health state of emergency through 30 November.<sup>44</sup> However, night curfew was lifted on 9 November due to the improving epidemiological situation and the large national Covid-19 vaccination campaign.<sup>45</sup>

Security services will allow movement across the country without restrictions if travellers present their vaccination pass or a movement permit signed by authorities.<sup>46</sup> Restaurants, cafes, public baths, gyms and stores can operate with up to 50% capacity.<sup>47</sup> Public transport may operate at a maximum of 75% capacity. Domestic flights and public transport, including bus and rail service, are in operation but private and public gatherings are banned.

For Covid-19 tracking and monitoring purposes, government has classified areas in the country as either "Zone-1" or "Zone-2" regions based on their local levels of Covid-19 activity. Restrictions in Zone-1 areas have been eased due to lower disease activity and residents can leave their homes without special permits; however, they must carry national identity cards at all times.<sup>48</sup> Establishments in Zone-1, such as restaurants, beaches, hotels, cafes and all businesses, can only operate at 50% capacity and must adhere to social distancing guidelines. In Zone-2 areas, government has eased only some restrictions and residents may not travel outside their municipalities of residence without special permits.

For entry to Morocco, government classifies countries into "List A" and "List B". List A includes countries with positive indicators regarding their control of the Covid-19 epidemiological situation. Travellers from such countries, whether Moroccan or foreigners living there, can enter Morocco subject to providing a vaccination certificate and a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken not more than 72 hours before departure.<sup>49</sup> List B includes countries experiencing a spread of variants or lacking precise Covid-19 case statistics. Travellers from these countries must obtain exceptional authorisation prior to travel, present a compulsory vaccine pass and negative PCR test result taken less than 48 hours prior to arrival, and undergo mandatory quarantine on arrival. In the most recent update to Morocco's travel restrictions published on 14 November, the foreign ministry announced that Moroccan residents will be able to self-isolate for five days at home upon arriving from a List B country.<sup>50</sup> The foreign affairs ministry updates the countries on List A and List B regularly and at least twice a month.

<sup>38</sup> Morocco World News, 1 Nov 2021

<sup>39</sup> Liqah Corona, 17 Nov 2021

<sup>40</sup> Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, 17 Nov 2021

<sup>41</sup> Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, 17 Nov 2021

<sup>42</sup> Worldometers, 17 Nov 2021

<sup>43</sup> Map News, 4 Nov 2021

<sup>44</sup> Garda, 28 Oct 2021

<sup>45</sup> Garda, 9 Nov 2021

<sup>46</sup> Morocco World News, 4 Nov 2021

<sup>47</sup> Garda, 29 Nov 2021

<sup>48</sup> Garda, 29 Nov 2021

<sup>49</sup> Garda, 29 Nov 2021

<sup>50</sup> Garda, 29 Nov 2021

## Planner

Dec 2021 (**Morocco**) Scheduled start date for **Sothema** laboratory to begin manufacturing the **Sinopharm** Covid-19 vaccines;

2021 (**Morocco**) Scheduled construction of five new dams;

2021 **Oued Zem (Morocco)** Scheduled opening of automotive testing centre;

2022 **Marrakech (Morocco)** **International Monetary Fund** and **World Bank** annual meetings to take place in Morocco;

## Chronology

17 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Delegate minister in charge of national defence administration **Abdellatif Loudiyi** announces that Morocco will resume compulsory military service in 2022 and will conscript 20,000 people;

14 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco reinforces border control system requiring **Covid-19** vaccination certificates and negative PCR tests from travellers;

12 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *MAP News*. **Belgium's** minister of state and federal deputy **Andre Flahaut** criticises **Algeria** for terminating the **Maghreb-Europe** gas pipeline describing it as a source of additional uncertainty in **Europe** amid a health crisis and looming energy crunch due to gas supply issues;

12 Nov 2021 **Paris (France)** *Diplomatie*. Foreign affairs minister **Nasser Bourita** presents King **Mohammed VI's** approach to the **Libyan Crisis** as part of the **Libya** conference in **Paris**;

11 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Government spokesperson **Mustafa Baitas** announces the potential removal of day light savings time changes in Morocco;

11 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. Youth, culture, and communication minister **Mehdi Bensaid** and **Pan-African Youth Union** president **Aliou Oumarou** and secretary general **Souleymane Satigui** sign an agreement to relocate the Union's headquarters to **Rabat**;

11 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Tourism minister **Fatima Zahra Ammor** announces that Morocco will allocate MAD 616.66m (\$67.5m) to revive its tourism sector in 2022, excluding staff expenses;

11 Nov 2021 **Khemisset (Morocco)** *Proactive Investors*. Global mining company **Emmerson Plc** secures a strategic investment of up to MAD 423m (\$46.75m) to support the development of a potash plant near **Khemisset**, 94 km from **Rabat**;

10 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *SP Global*. **Spanish** natural gas company **Naturgy** holds talks with Morocco and **Algeria** in an attempt to reach an agreement that would extend the contract of the **Maghreb-Europe Pipeline** following Algeria's announcement on 31 October that it would terminate the contract;

10 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Finance minister **Nadia Fettah Alaoui**, announces that Morocco will host the annual meetings of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **World Bank** in **Marrakech** in October 2022;

10 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *New.in-24*. **China's** ambassador to Morocco, **Li Changlin**, expresses satisfaction with the existing strong, "good, and strategic" relations between **Rabat** and **Beijing**;

10 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. **United Nations (UN)** high commissioner for human rights **Michelle Bachelet** appoints former Moroccan justice minister **Mohamed Aujjar** as chairman of the **Libya Independent Fact-Finding Mission**;

10 Nov 2021 **New York (United States)** *Morocco World News*. The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopts a resolution reaffirming its support for the UN-led political process to find a solution to the dispute over **Western Sahara**;

9 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield Twitter Page*. **United States (US)** ambassador to the **United Nations (UN)**, **Linda Thomas-Greenfield**, says she has “full confidence” in **Staffan de Mistura** to succeed in his mission as the new UN secretary general’s personal envoy for **Western Sahara**;

9 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. Interministerial delegate for human rights announces launch of a Special Review on allegations of human rights abuse in Morocco’s southern provinces and will release a report in early 2022;

9 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The **United Kingdom (UK)** embassy in **Rabat** says the British government has recognised all **Covid-19** vaccines administered in Morocco;

9 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Garda*. Government says it will lift the night curfew on 10 November on recommendation of its scientific and technical committee which noted the improving epidemiological situation and the large national Covid-19 vaccination campaign;

8 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Reuters*. Energy minister **Leila Benali** says Morocco’s local gas production capacity is expected to reach 110 million cubic meters in 2021, with Morocco’s annual gas consumption currently at one billion cubic meters;

8 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Spain’s** far-right party **Vox** expresses its intention to tighten conditions for obtaining Spanish citizenship, mainly for **Moroccan** citizens;

8 Nov 2021 **Tel Aviv (Israel)** *Centre for Aviation*. **Israel’s Israir Airlines** announces it will resume flights from **Tel Aviv** to **Marrakech** on 11 November;

7 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ynet News*. Morocco reportedly considers buying **Israel’s** iron dome missile system which is designed to keep short-range rockets and artillery shells from falling in populous areas and has a success rate of over 90%;

6 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *New.in-24*. **United Kingdom**-based energy company **Sound Energy** announces plans to commission a gas pipeline linking Morocco and **Spain**, in partnership with Morocco-based petroleum refining company **Afriquia Gaz**;

6 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Diplomatie*. King **Mohammed VI** describes Morocco’s sovereignty as “non-negotiable” in his televised speech to mark the 46th anniversary of the Green March when 350,000 Moroccan civilians marched into the **Sahara** desert to protest **Spain’s** occupation of the **Western Sahara** region;

6 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco’s permanent representative to the **United Nations (UN)**, **Omar Hilale**, emphasises the need for the UN to prevent **Algeria** and the separatist **Polisario Front** from turning the youth of the Polisario-run **Tindouf** camps into “potential terrorists”;

6 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The **United Nations (UN)** confirms that **Algeria’s** regime violated the international law and ceasefire agreement in the **Western Sahara** after three Algerian truck drivers died in **Bir Lahlou**, a restricted area in Western Sahara;

5 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de la Santé*. The health ministry says the government will start issuing exemption certificates for citizens and residents who cannot take the **Covid-19** vaccine for medical reasons;

5 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. **United Nations (UN)** secretary general **Antonio Guterres** calls for dialogue between **Algeria** and Morocco to avoid further tensions;

5 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Templar Executives Twitter Page*. Moroccan company **Marita Group Holding** and **United Kingdom (UK)**-based company **Templar Executives** announce the opening of **Maritemex**, a new international joint-venture to establish a 'Cyber Security Center of Excellence for Africa' alongside the Moroccan government;

4 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Electronic manufacturer **Samsung** expands its presence in Morocco opening three additional storefronts in **Meknes, Temara,** and **Marrakech** bringing its sales locations across Morocco to 21;

4 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The **Africa Centre for Disease Control (CDC)** designates Morocco's **Pasteur Institute** a "Centre of Excellence" for demonstrating efficiency in terms of **Covid-19** vaccination;

4 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. Government spokesperson **Mustapha Baitas** says the **Covid-19** vaccine pass does not intend to restrict citizens' freedom but seeks to ensure responsible movement to protect lives and the economy;

4 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. Government spokesperson **Mustapha Baitas** says the termination of the **Maghreb-Europe** gas pipeline contract has no impact on the production of electricity in Morocco;

3 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Remittances from Moroccans living abroad amount to MAD 71.88 billion (\$7.92 billion) as of September;

3 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Washington Post*. The **Mauritanian National Army** issues a statement denying news accusing Morocco of attacking **Algerian** trucks in northern **Mauritania**;

3 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Exchange office September trade indicators show Morocco's automotive exports reached a new nine-month high of \$6.4 billion, increasing by 16.4% compared to the same period last year due to increased sales in the construction, wiring, and interior sectors;

3 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco Latest News*. The **Office National des Chemins de Fer (ONCF)** (National Railways Office) announces plans to invest MAD 7.7 billion (\$84m) between 2022-2024 to upgrade the country's rail network and train stations;

2 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Pharmaceutical-technology*. **Canada**-based pharmaceuticals manufacturer **Resverlogix** has begun discussions with Morocco's health ministry for the launch of Covid-19 clinical studies;

2 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Equipment and water minister **Nizar Baraka** highlights Morocco's progress in water management policy, with its major hydraulic infrastructure including 149 large dams with capacity exceeding 19 billion cubic meters;

2 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Morocco took a hit in 2021 with net flow amounting to MAD 2.8 billion (\$311.7m) in 2021, decreasing from MAD 16.7 billion (\$1.9 billion) recorded last year;

1 Nov 2021 **Glasgow (Scotland)** *New.in-24*. Prime minister **Aziz Akhannouch** reads a speech sent by King **Mohammed VI** to the 26th **United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP26)** in **Glasgow (United Kingdom)**;

1 Nov 2021 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algerie Part Plus*. Algeria's decision to terminate the **Maghreb-Europe** gas pipeline is reportedly due to a significant drop in the country's natural gas production and collapse of its natural gas export capacity;

1 Nov 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Electricity and hydrocarbon authorities say that termination of the **Maghreb-Europe** gas pipeline will "only" have an insignificant impact on the performance of the national electricity system;

31 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Atalayar*. **Algeria's** President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** announces the termination of the **Maghreb-Europe** gas pipeline;

31 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *AP News*. Hundreds of Moroccans stage protests in several cities across the country as they continue to oppose the government's decision to introduce a mandatory vaccine passport;

31 Oct 2021 **Larache (Morocco)** *Morocco Latest News*. **British** gas exploration company **Chariot Oil & Gas** says it has located a buyer for its **Anchois** field, off **Larache** in northern Morocco;

31 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Atalayar*. The newly re-elected leader of the **Parti de la Justice et du Développement (PJD)**, **Abdelilah Benkirane**, says the entire party must bear responsibility for the recent defeat in the general election;

31 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco receives shipment of 850,000 doses of the **Pfizer** covid-19 vaccine from the **United States (US)** and an additional \$2m to assist the country's response to the pandemic;

30 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Le360*. Morocco reportedly to upgrade two air bases in order to receive a new fleet of the **United States (US)**-manufactured F16 fighter jet with infrastructure projects at the two sites expected to cost Morocco over \$4 billion;

30 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The **United States (US)** has again confirmed that it sees Morocco's 2007 Autonomy Plan as a "serious, credible and realistic" solution to the **Western Sahara** conflict;

29 Oct 2021 **New York (United States)** *Africa News*. Morocco's permanent representative to the **United Nations (UN)**, **Omar Hilale**, says the Moroccan government welcomes the adoption of Resolution 2602, which extends the mandate of **MINURSO**, the peacekeeping operation in **Western Sahara**, until October 2022;

29 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Commission Nationale de Contrôle de la Protection des Données à Caractère Personnel*. The **Commission Nationale de Contrôle de la Protection des Données à Caractère Personnel (CNDP)** (national commission for the control of data) says the adoption of a vaccine pass in Morocco does not seek to restrict the movement of citizens;

28 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **L'Instance Nationale d'Évaluation du Système d'Éducation, de Formation et de Recherche Scientifique (INE-CSEFRS)** (national evaluation body of the higher council for education, training and scientific research) reports that 69.4% of higher education graduates are employed while 13.3% are actively looking for a job;

28 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Garda*. Morocco's government extends the state of emergency until 30 November;

27 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. Morocco and **Nigeria** reportedly to sign a biotechnology development agreement that will foster bilateral collaboration and promote the development of biotechnological products;

27 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Maroc Telecom** is Morocco's largest company in the telecommunications sector and reportedly brings in over \$3.6 billion in revenue;

26 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Diplomatie*. Foreign minister **Nasser Bourita** says it is time for the **African Union (AU)** and **European Union (EU)** partnership to be strategically updated;

26 Oct 2021 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *Maroc*. **Rwanda's** president **Paul Kagame** receives Morocco's foreign affairs minister, **Nasser Bourita**, in **Kigali** as Morocco participates in the second ministerial preparatory meeting prior to the next **European Union-African Union Summit** in Kigali;

26 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Finance minister **Nadia Fattah Alaoui** blames Morocco's economic crisis on what she describes as ten years of mismanagement under the leadership of the **Parti de la Justice et du Développement (PJD)**;

26 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de la Santé*. The ministry of health announces that the number of new critical covid-19 cases requiring hospitalisation in Morocco's intensive care departments has decreased sharply in the past two weeks;

25 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. As of September 2021, Morocco has spent MAD 6.79 billion (\$671m) for the purchase of Covid-19 vaccines with funds from the Special Fund for the Management of the Covid-19 pandemic;

25 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco and **Algeria** to increase military spending in 2022 to \$12.8 billion and \$9.7 billion respectively;

25 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Xinhua*. The **Israeli National Security Council** lifts its travel warning for Morocco after more than a decade of applying the measure;

25 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The government requests that the **World Tourism Organization (WTO)** cancel its 24<sup>th</sup> general assembly, scheduled to be held 30 November to 3 December in **Marrakech**, to avoid "a worsening sanitary situation" in the country;

25 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Spain's** minister of foreign affairs, **Jose Manuel Albares**, says the relationship between **Madrid** and **Rabat** has improved recently;

22 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Afrik21*. The **African Development Bank (AfDB)** is set to finance a \$21m drinking water project in Morocco, which is expected to be completed by 2023;

21 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco Latest News*. Morocco announces plans to produce and distribute the **Russia**-manufactured **Sputnik V** covid-19 vaccine, with Moroccan company **Galenica laboratories** to handle the project;

18 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. Government decides to adopt a vaccine pass for travel and access to public spaces, starting 21 October;

18 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco's finance bill for 2022 is tabled in parliament;

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