



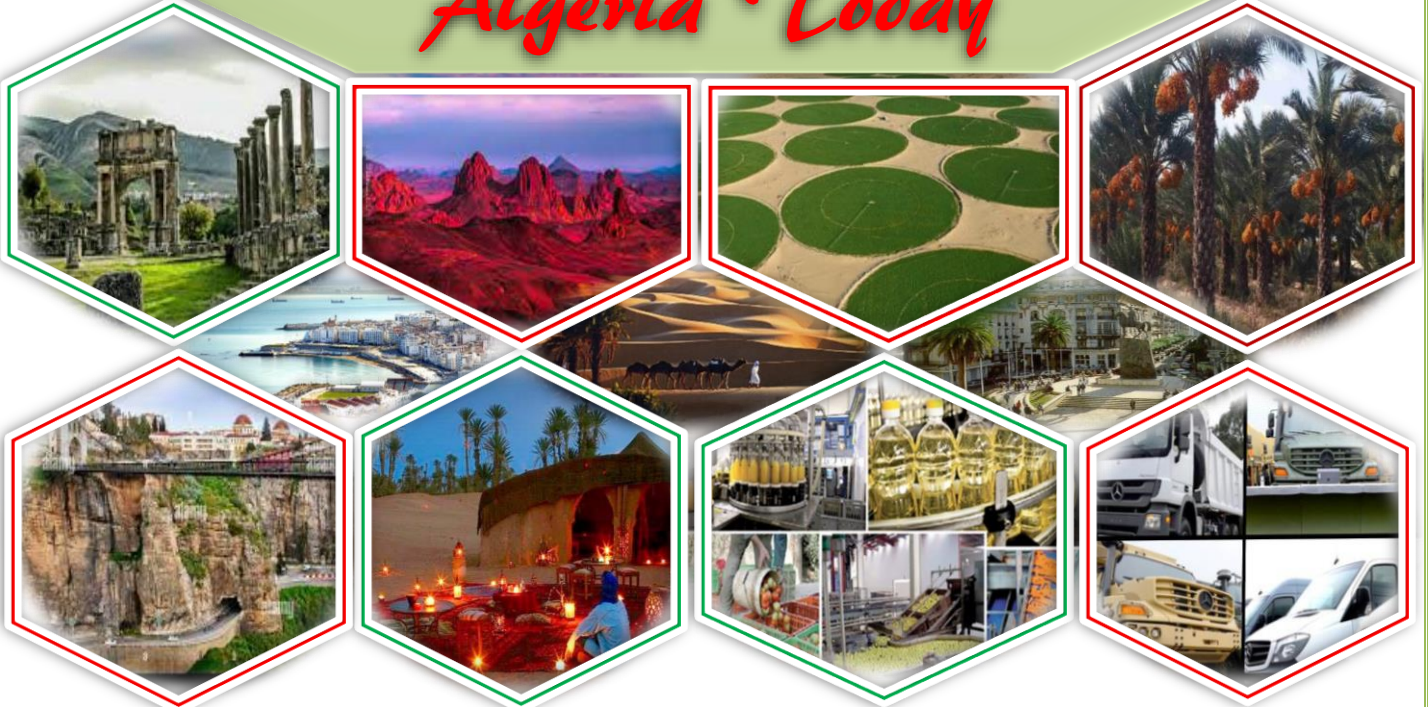
Embassy of Algeria to Finland



Monthly Newsletter



Algeria Today



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The President of the Republic paid a State visit to Russia



At the invitation of the President of the Federation of Russia, Vladimir Putin, the President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, paid on 13 June 2023, a three-day State visit to Russia, as part of the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries.

During his visit, the President of the Republic took part in the works of the International Economic Forum of Saint-Petersburg (SPIEF).

Algeria and Russia had signed a strategic partnership declaration and several other agreements in the fields of Justice, Telecommunications, Agriculture, Culture, Water Resources and the exploration of space for peaceful purposes aimed at strengthening this partnership, which testifies to the solid historical and privileged relations between the two countries.

For the President of the Republic, this visit "testifies the deep friendship and quality of relations between the two countries, "welcoming Russia's support for Algeria's application to join the BRICS. The President of the Republic said that the two parties were working to "promote these relations by encouraging economic and commercial exchanges and establishing partnerships, in order to benefit from the economic complementarity between the two countries and from the experience of the Russian Federation in all areas of bilateral cooperation.

Algeria's Security Council membership: International support to continue its contribution to world peace



Algeria was elected on 7 June 2023, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, earning it broad international support to continue its contribution to the achievement of international peace and security, the defense of regional and international causes, the strengthening of international cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development, principles and objectives which have been set out by the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune. Algeria's diplomatic achievements and its contributions to the resolution of regional and international crises and conflicts, as well as common global threats such as terrorism and organized crime, entitle it to a seat on the Security Council. This is reflected in reports from the United Nations and international organizations over the past three years, listing Algeria as a strategic partner and a state that contributes to the achievement of peace and security. Algeria's priorities in the Security Council also concern the countries of the African Union (AU). To this end, Algeria will work to increase the number of seats held by African countries in this body and contribute to the unification of Africa's voice to better defend the continent's priority issues and legitimate aspirations.

Minister Attaf holds working meeting with UN Secretary General in New York



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad, Mr. Ahmed Attaf, who was on a working visit to New York, held on Friday 2nd June 2023, meeting with the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres during which Mr. Antonio Guterres said that he was "proud of the meetings

he had with the President of the Republic and his concern for the strengthening of the UN's role and multilateral action against the challenges facing the international community worldwide".

The UN Secretary General "highly commended the role of Algerian diplomacy in the restoration of stability in Libya and Mali, and its contributions to the meeting of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the region and throughout Africa."

Minister Attaf holds working meeting with Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs in New York



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad, Mr. Ahmed Attaf held talks on Saturday 3rd June 2023, in New York, with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo.

He discussed political issues that constitute the main thrust of cooperation between Algeria and the UN with a view to promoting peace, security, and stability in North Africa and throughout the continent.

The two officials focused on developments in the crises in Mali, Libya, and Sudan, as well as the growing security challenges in the Sahel-Sahara region.

They also discussed the prospects for reviving the political process in Western Sahara and direct negotiations between the two parties to the conflict, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front, to achieve a just and lasting solution guaranteeing the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination.

Minister Attaf holds working meeting with the UN Deputy Secretary-General in New York



During his visit to New York, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad, Mr. Ahmed Attaf held talks with the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, on Saturday 3rd June 2023

The two officials discussed the prospects for strengthening international support for the African continent in order to bolster its efforts to achieve growth and shared prosperity in the context of the relaunch of major continental projects such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Mr. Attaf seized the opportunity to present the steps taken by Algeria under the leadership of President Tebboune to support the security stability of the African continent and encourage its economic growth through various economic development projects whose financing and implementation are supervised by the Algerian Agency for International Cooperation for Solidarity and Development in several brotherly African countries.

Foreign Policy

The Minister Attaf holds working meeting with his Italian counterparts in Rome.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad, Ahmed Attaf, held on Tuesday 6 June 2023, a working meeting with Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Tajani, as part of a visit to Italy, the first in his European tour.

The discussions focused on the assessment of the implementation of the outcomes of the high-level meetings and visits by the officials of the two countries, mainly President Tebboune's visit to Italy in 2022, in addition to visits to Algeria by his counterpart, Sergio Mattarella, and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The two sides welcomed the achievements made, reflected in the unprecedented levels of bilateral trade and investments in the hydrocarbons sector and other fields, including public works, agriculture and mechanical and manufacturing industries.

Algeria is Italy's first largest commercial partner in Africa and the Middle East. They also reiterated their commitment to the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighborliness and Cooperation, whose 20th anniversary was marked early 2023.

Mr. Attaf paid a working visit to Serbia



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad, Mr. Ahmed Attaf, was received Wednesday 7 June 2023, in Belgrade by Serbia's President, Aleksandar Vucic and by Serbian Prime Minister. In same day, he held discussions with his Serbian counterpart, Ivica Dacic.

The two sides discussed the ways to give a fresh impetus to Algerian-Serbian relations after a decline over the last nine years. The two Ministers also discussed how to develop and promote the common historical heritage relating to the fight against colonialism, the fruitful economic cooperation and the permanent political coordination as part of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The two sides agreed on an action plan to upgrade the legal framework, activate the mechanisms of cooperation, mainly the joint commission and the Algerian-Serbian Business Council, increase official visits between the two countries and encourage economic operators to take advantage of the investment and trade opportunities offered.

The Minister Attaf paid a working visit to Germany



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad, Mr. Ahmed Attaf, was on Thursday 22 June 2023 in Berlin for a working visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.

At the outset of the visit, Attaf co-chaired with his German counterpart, Annalena Baerbock, a working session during which the two sides discussed the Algerian-German partnership as well as other regional and international issues of common interest. The two ministers expressed satisfaction with "the dynamics of bilateral relations in various sectors, especially the major joint projects the two sides want to carry out in the fields of renewable energy and green hydrogen."

The need to transform the Trans-Saharan route into an economic corridor



The Minister of Public Works and Basic Infrastructures, Lakhdar Rakhroukh, said on Monday 5 June 2023, in Algiers at the 75th session of the Trans-Saharan Road Liaison Committee (CLRT) meeting, that the countries involved in the Trans-Saharan Highway, which has reached 90% completion, must prepare to make this continental route an economic corridor par excellence.

The 73rd session of the Committee, which brings together representatives from Algeria, Tunisia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad, and representatives of the Islamic Development Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, examined the progress of work on this "strategic" road, as well as the mechanisms for turning it into an economic corridor, with a view to "promoting trade, which is one of the most important axes on the agenda, and mobilizing resources for this project, which should open up the populations of the countries involved in the Trans-Saharan Highway.

With regard to the sections on which work has not yet begun, notably in Mali, Mr. Rakhroukh spoke of "Algeria's possible contribution to the launch of work, particularly for the sections linking the Algerian-Malian borders and the Kidal region". Referring to the importance of this continental route, "a vector for socio-economic development and the improvement of living conditions and stability" in the countries concerned, the Minister stressed that "Algeria's continued support for the completion of the Trans-Saharan Highway is part of the efforts of the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, in favor of African issues, through his vision for the promotion of cooperation and development mechanisms".

2,318 investment projects worth over 7 billion USD registered since November 2022



The number of investment projects registered by the Algerian Investment Promotion Agency (AAPI) between 1st November 2022 and 25 May 2023, amounted to 2,318 projects worth over 7 billion USD.

The Agency's Managing Director, Mr. Omar Rekkache, said that of the 2,318 projects registered over the last seven (7) months, 49 were foreign investment projects (16 direct and 33 in the form of partnerships).

According to AAPI's CEO, the total value of these investments amounts to more than 1,014 billion DA, or over 7 billion USD. Self-financing for these projects stands at over 52%, "which means we can expect greater participation from banks in investment financing, particularly with the imminent entry into force of the law on land-grant procedures".

This law, he pointed out, will "accelerate investment", which requires "greater support from the banks for the operation, something we have sensed from bank managers".

Mr. Rekkache considered investment financing to be "a vital and decisive issue", stressing the importance of continuing the process of reforming the banking system in order to "put in place a more flexible, modern and efficient financial system, capable of mobilizing savings and participating in the development of bank loans, in addition to creating new financing mechanisms to meet investors' financial needs through the broadening and diversification of financing mechanisms, products and financial services".

Algeria's trade balance: surplus of 3.5 billion dollars in the first four months of 2023



Algeria's balance of trade recorded a surplus of \$3.5 billion in the first four months of 2023, Minister of Trade and Export Promotion Tayeb Zitouni announced on Monday 5 June 2023.

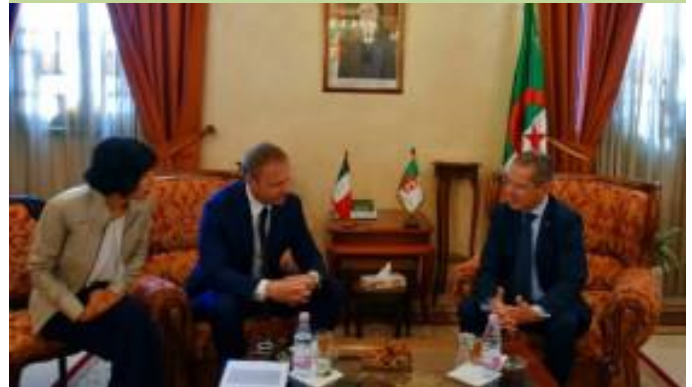
Mr. Zitouni pointed out that the value of imports for the period from January to April of the current year reached \$13.89 billion, while exports totaled \$17.39 billion over the same period, representing a surplus of \$3.5 billion.

Non-hydrocarbon exports amounted to \$1.7 billion in the first four months of 2023, said the Minister.

The sector is working to increase this figure and achieve the target set by the President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Measures taken by the public authorities to facilitate exports have increased the number of effective exporters from 475 in 2010 to 1,628 today, said the Minister of Trade and Export Promotion

Algeria/Italy: strengthening the bilateral partnership in agriculture



The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mohamed Abdelhafid Henni, received Italy's Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry, Francesco Lollobrigida, on Monday. The two ministers discussed ways of strengthening cooperation and partnership between the two countries in the agricultural field. The meeting examined ways of developing bilateral programs in agriculture, food processing and manufacturing.

Mr. Henni highlighted the investment opportunities offered in this field under the new investment law, with all its facilities and advantages for investors.

On this occasion, he expressed Algeria's willingness to develop relations between the two countries, to support efforts in the agricultural field, and strengthen the means of cooperation and partnership with a view to increasing and diversifying agricultural production.

For his part, the Italian Minister said he had discussed with Mr. Henni the ways and means of cooperation between the "two friendly countries, and an important nation in Africa in terms of its productive and development potential". He expressed his willingness to expand cooperation and partnership between the two countries, stressing that his country was ready to "place all its knowledge and technologies in the agricultural field at Algeria's disposal, and to work together for the development of both countries".

Contract signed for new polypropylene production complex in Arzew



SONATRACH subsidiary STEP Polymers signed a contract with the British-Chinese consortium Petrofac-HQC on Sunday 11 June 2023 in Algiers to build a new petrochemical complex for polypropylene production in Arzew (Oran), as well as a financing agreement with the Banque Nationale d'Algérie (BNA) for the same project.

The EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) contract covers the construction of an 88-hectare petrochemical complex in the Arzew industrial zone, designed to produce 550,000 tonnes/year of polypropylene. The construction period has been set at 42 months. Polypropylene production at the new complex is expected to meet national market needs estimated at 120,000 tonnes/year in various sectors, including pharmaceuticals, agriculture, transport, textiles and infrastructure, as well as the construction, automotive and shipbuilding industries, while the surplus will be exported to markets in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Algeria/EU: an expert workshop on renewable hydrogen in Algiers



As part of the strategic dialogue between Algeria and the European Union (EU) in the field of energy, the Ministry of Energy and Mines co-organized with the European Union, on Tuesday 13 June 2023, an expert workshop on the development of the renewable hydrogen sector.

The workshop, which aimed to lay the foundations for cooperation in the field of hydrogen, saw the participation of European and Algerian experts and representatives of various organizations from the sectors concerned.

The workshop program included three panel sessions dedicated to strategies on the role of renewable hydrogen for 2030 and 2050 in Algeria and the EU, regulatory aspects and incentive mechanisms for hydrogen development, and transport, distribution and storage infrastructures.

Energy: Sonatrach joins the Global Gas Centre



Sonatrach Group, Africa's leading gas company, announced in a press release on Thursday 15 June 2023, that it had joined the Global Gas Center (GGC), a non-profit organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, dedicated to executives and experts from natural gas companies wishing to share their views and experiences via a neutral, independent and inclusive platform.

Membership of the GGC also enables Sonatrach to consolidate its position on the international gas market, offering valuable opportunities to benefit from the exchange of views and experience within this global organization of key players and experts in the gas industry.

Seawater desalination: Mr. Arkab examines Norwegian company's proposal



The Minister of Energy and Mines, Mohamed Arkab, received a delegation from the Norwegian company MWP in Algiers on Monday 19 June 2023, to hear their proposal for the construction of floating seawater desalination plants using cutting-edge technologies

On this occasion, the executive chairman of the Norwegian company MWP, Rasmus Sunde, gave an overview of his company and "presented proposals for solutions in the field of seawater desalination, in particular through the construction of floating desalination stations using new technologies by the Norwegian company.

In this context, Mr. Arkab underlined "the government's unlimited support for the national seawater desalination program to ensure water supply and strengthen water security".

The Minister stressed "the need for advanced seawater treatment technologies for this type of facility", inviting the Norwegian side to "submit a complete technical file on the proposed solution for in-depth study with AEC (Algerian Energy Company) experts".

Development of Gara Djebilet-West mine: Partnership agreement between FERAAL, Chinese CMH



A partnership agreement was signed Saturday 24 June 2023, in Tindouf between the Algerian company of iron and steel FERAAL and the Chinese consortium CMH, on the mining of the iron ores of Gara Djebilet-West and the development of its production through a steel plate plant project in Bechar. According to details provided at the signing ceremony, the agreement is aimed at the extraction of two million tonnes of iron ore a year from the Gara Djebilet-West mine by 2026, before reaching an annual extraction capacity of 50 million tonnes of iron ore by 2040.

The execution of the mining and metallurgical integrated project is due to highly contribute to the reduction of carbon emission and the achievement of sustainable development in the iron and steel industry worldwide, in addition to yielding significant revenues to Algeria.

Seven pistols dating from Ottoman era recovered



The Ministry of Culture and the Arts has announced that, in coordination with the services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad, it has recovered "seven pistols dating from the Ottoman era, historical pieces of extreme importance from an archaeological and artistic point of view,".

These vintage pistols were offered for sale at an online charity auction, in London, before the Algerian Government intervened to recover them.

"These weapons will be included in the national museum's catalogue,"

International Book Fair of Beijing: Algeria, guest of honour



Algeria was the guest of honor at the 29th edition of the Beijing International Book Fair in China, held from 15 to 18 June 2023. Algeria was represented by a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Culture and Arts, made up of leading names in literature and the arts, in addition to an exhibition of Algerian books.

The welcome extended to Algeria by China at the 29th Beijing International Book Fair, under the slogan "Algiers-Beijing: Crossroads of Cultures and Civilizations", is part of the strengthening of cooperation and cultural exchanges between the two countries, testifying to the depth of bilateral relations.

China was the guest of honor at the 23rd Algiers International Book Fair in 2018, which marked the 60th anniversary of Algerian-Chinese relations. Over 200,000 Chinese and foreign books were on display at the 29th Beijing International Book Fair, in addition to a virtual fair showcasing emerging publishing methods.

Inauguration of the provisional headquarters of the Grand Musée d'Afrique in Algiers



The provisional headquarters of the Great Museum of Africa (GMA) was inaugurated on Wednesday 14 June 2023, in Algiers, at the Boulkine Villa in Hussein-Dey, which houses this pioneering continental project, part of the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, to depict the historical roots of the African continent, its culture, and its diverse and centuries-old heritage

Bechar: 6 archaeological and historical sites added to the supplementary inventory list



Six new archaeological and historical sites have been added to the supplementary inventory of tangible cultural heritage in the wilaya of Bechar.

These are the ancient mosque of the Bechar ksar, the ksour of Boukais (60 km west of Bechar), Lahmar (35 km west of Bechar) and Ouled Aayad (commune of Abadla, 88 km south of Bechar), The "El Mnassba" and "Chabka" sites, located respectively 30 and 40 km north of the commune of Kenadza (18 km south of Bechar) and containing several stones bearing tifinagh inscriptions dating from prehistoric times (1st millennium before J-C) and several rock drawings of elephantidae, bovids and rhinocerotidae, were also included on the same list.

Several other traditional artistic expressions forming part of the local intangible heritage have also been included on the indicative list of the culture and arts sector's database, including "Houbi" and "Haydouss" dances, Diwane dance and music, Fondou lute music, Karkabou dance, traditional religious song (Hadra) and "Maya" music and song, as part of the region's intangible cultural heritage.

The 23rd European Music Festival opened in Algiers



Held at the Théâtre national Mahieddine-Bachtarzi (TNA) from June 15 to 21 under the slogan "The Sounds of Europe", the opening show of the 23rd edition of this festival was led by the female duo Karima Nayt and Lena Jansson, representing Sweden and the prince of Rai 2.0 Sofiane Saidi present for Algeria and the Delegation of the European Union.

An acoustic duo open to Swedish folk and World Music, Lena Jansson and Karima Nayt performed a special program prepared for the occasion, entitled "ViBe: Vikings-Berbers". Accompanied by Swedish musicians Olle Linder (guitar and double bass), Johan Graden (piano) and Fredrik Gille on percussion, with Algerian Youcef Grim, the "ViBe" duo seduced the audience with pieces in the Swedish folk genre, written and composed by Lena Jansson and others by Karima Nayt, conceived in several styles open to world music.

Among other instrumentals drawn from traditional Swedish heritage, performed by violin virtuoso Lena Jansson, were "Trollpolskan", "Gladlaten", "Ispolskan" and "Flinken".