

Format: by invitation

Spain-Morocco Relations: Sharing Perspectives in a Dynamic Neighborhood

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Monday, January 27th, 2020
Madrid, Spain

Brief

Its location at the intersection of Europe and Africa makes Morocco a real crossroads, and the importance of Morocco as a trading route between both continents is key in its historic and cultural development. In the last decades, the bilateral relations between Morocco and Spain have become more extensive, deep and interdependent. Morocco is for Spain a key partner in multiple aspects, and vice versa. To discuss more thoroughly these aspects, the Policy Center for the New South is organizing in partnership with Casa Árabe a seminar on Monday, January 27, in Madrid.

This seminar will provide a platform to discuss the current challenges Morocco is facing but also the opportunities in working with Spain and the European Union towards a common objective in the domain of migration, security and economy. Due to their geographical proximity, the partnership between Morocco and Spain not only reflects the strength of political ties, but also their key role in acting as a valuable link between Africa and the European Union.

The African Union and the European Union promote a constructive and multidimensional approach to migration that complement existing dialogues and frameworks.

The first session will focus on the region of the Sahel, the increasing armed conflicts and regional and international efforts on peacebuilding. As the issue of security is closely tied to migration, the second session will highlight the role of the African Union in the migration policy following the La Valletta Summit in 2015, and experts will discuss the main outcomes of the policy. In the third session, experts will engage in a discussion about the African Continental Free Trade Area, the potential and difficulties of such an initiative.

Agenda

Venue: Casa Árabe, Calle de Alcalá, 62, 28009 Madrid, Spain

- 09:00 – 09:15** **Registration**
- 09:15 – 09:45** **Opening remarks**
Karim El Aynaoui, President, Policy Center for the New South
Pedro Martínez-Avial, Director-General, Casa Árabe
Eva Martínez, Director-General for Maghreb, Mediterranean and Middle East, Spain’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation
- 09:45 – 11:15** **Panel I: “The Sahel: One Region, Multiple Threats”**
- Chair:
Javier Puig, deputy Director-General for the Maghreb, MOFA, Spain
- Speakers:
El Mostafa Rezrazi, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South
Angel Losada, Ambassador, EU Special Representative for the Sahel
Sergio Altuna, Researcher, Real Instituto Elcano
- Q&A session**
- 11:15 – 11:30** **Coffee break**
- 11:30 – 13:00** **Panel II: “Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue”**
- Chair:
María Jesús Herrera, Spain office director, International Organization for Migrations
- Speakers:
Nouzha Chekrouni, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South
Len Ishmael, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South
José Luis Pardo, Ambassador on Special Mission for Migration Affairs, MOFA, Spain
- Q&A session**
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch break**
- 14:00 – 15:30** **Panel III: “Maghreb: geopolitics of a non-integrated space”**
- Chair:
Haizam Amirah Fernández, Senior Researcher, Real Instituto Elcano
- Speakers:
Rachid El Houdaigui, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South
Martín Ortega Carcelén, Senior Lecturer, Complutense University of Madrid
Leila Zniber, Economist, Department of Economic Studies and Financial Forecast, Moroccan Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Q&A session**
- 15:30 – 15:45** **Closing remarks**
Rachid El Houdaigui, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South
Karim Hauser, Head of International Relations, Casa Árabe

Biographies

Sergio Altuna, Associate Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute



Sergio Altuna Galán is an Associate Analyst in the Programme on Violent Radicalisation and Global Terrorism at the Elcano Royal Institute. He holds a BA in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Valladolid, an MA in Arabic Language, Literature and History from the University of Tunis al-Manar and a further MA in Terrorism Studies from the International University of La Rioja. He is also a Ph.D. candidate in International Security with a thesis on the determining factors of the jihadist narrative. He has developed a career as an international consultant between Spain and Tunisia, where he has been based since 2010, focusing on security in North Africa and the Sahel. He specialises in the creation of monitoring and evaluation tools to measure impacts in unstable environments. He has also taught Applied Rhetoric and Discourse Techniques at the University of Jendouba (Tunisia) and at the University of the Ionian Islands (Greece).

Haizam Amirah-Fernández, Senior Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute



Haizam Amirah-Fernández is Senior Analyst at the Elcano Royal Institute and Associate Professor at the Instituto de Empresa (IE). BA from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and an MA in Arab Studies on a Fulbright scholarship from Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. He completed his studies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium) and at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He has lectured at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Georgetown University, Saint Louis University, Universidad San Pablo-CEU, and the Universitat de Barcelona. He has also worked for the United Nations in New York and for Human Rights Watch in Washington DC. He is a frequent commentator in the Spanish and international media.

Nouzha Chekrouni, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South



Dr. Nouzha Chekrouni is a Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South. She has extensive experience in academia, diplomacy and political leadership. She has served as His Majesty's Ambassador to Canada (2009-2016), and Dean of the Council of Arab League Ambassadors to Canada (2015-2016). Dr. Chekrouni was Minister for the Moroccan Community Living Abroad (2002-2007), a Member of Parliament (2002-2007), and the Minister for Women and Social Issues (1998-2002). She holds a Bachelor Degree from the Philological Faculty at the University of Fez, a Post-Graduate Diploma and a PhD in Linguistics from the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris. Dr. Chekrouni has also completed a Certificate in Ethics and International Relations at Harvard University. She is a 2016 Senior Fellow in Advanced Leadership at Harvard University and has taught linguistics at the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at the University of Meknes.

Karim El Aynaoui, President, Policy Center for the New South



Karim El Aynaoui is Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University. He is also President of the Policy Center for the New South, previously known as OCP Policy Center, a think tank based in Rabat and serves as advisor to the CEO and Chairman of OCP Group, a global leader in the phosphate sector. From 2005 to 2012, he worked at Bank Al-Maghrib, the Central Bank of Morocco. Before joining Bank Al-Maghrib, Karim El Aynaoui worked for eight years at the World Bank, both in its Middle Eastern and North Africa, and Africa regions as an economist. He has published papers, books and articles in scientific journals on macroeconomic issues in developing countries. Karim El Aynaoui is a board member of the OCP Foundation and serves as a member in the Strategic Advisory Board of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), the COP22 Scientific Committee, the Malabo-Montpellier Panel, the Scientific Council of the Moroccan Capital Market Authority (AMMC), and the Trilateral Commission. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Bordeaux, where he taught for three years courses in statistics and economics.

Rachid El Houdaigui, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South



Mr. Rachid EL Houdaïgui is professor of International Relations at Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Tangier's Law Faculty and Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, previously known as OCP Policy Center who focuses on International relations, geopolitics, Mediterranean region, North Africa and the Arab world.. He is also professor at Royal College of Advanced Military Studies (Kenitra) and professor invited at Cergy-Pontoise University (Paris), Cadix University (Spain) and at La Sagesse University (Beirut, Lebanon). Mr. EL Houdaïgui is the author of numerous books and articles dealing with International relations and geopolitics: the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Arab world. Also, he is co-director of the Moroccan-Spanish review "Peace and International Security" and in charge of the Observatory of Mediterranean Studies (Abdelmalek Essaadi University).

Karim Hauser, Coordinator of International Relations, Casa Árabe



Karim Hauser works as Coordinator of International Relations at Casa Árabe, where his areas of expertise include the socio-political transformations occurring in the Arab world. He previously led at Casa Árabe the *Arabia Americana* Program, designed to create a space for triangulation between the Americas, Spain and the Arab world, for which he edited three books on the Arab presence in the Americas. He has worked as a journalist for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), where he worked on the flagship program *Newshour* and as a Middle East correspondent for *BBC Mundo*. He studied International Relations at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and earned a Master's degree in Journalism at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

María Jesús Herrera, Head of Mission, International Organization for Migrations



She has a Law degree from the Autonomous University of Madrid. Currently she is the Head of Mission in the International Organization for Migrations (IOM). She was General Coordinator of the Movement for Peace (MPDL) between 2004 and 2010. Previously she worked as Assistant to the Diplomatic Advisor of Latin America in the Permanent Representation to the European Union in Belgium, for the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2001 to 2002.

Len Ishmael, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South



Dr. Len Ishmael is the former Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean States to the Kingdom of Belgium and European Union, and past President of the seventy-nine-member African, Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) Committee of Ambassadors in Brussels. She is a former Director for the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean; Director General for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Alternate Governor for the World Bank and Director for the Foundation - Leadership for Environment &

Development of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City. She is a German Marshall Fund Fellow (GMF) and Distinguished Visiting Scholar, and a Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South (Morocco). Dr. Ishmael is also The Fletcher School Tufts University GMAP Endowment Fellow and is a member of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy GMAP Advisory Council. Dr. Ishmael was conferred a Doctoral Degree in Development Planning/Development Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, in 1988 and Global Master of Arts from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in 2018.

Angel Losada, Ambassador, EU Special Representative for the Sahel



Angel Losada (Bern, 1953) is a Spanish diplomat who serves as EU Special Representative for the Sahel. He graduated in Law at the University of Navarre with Honours. He started his career at NATO when Spain joined the organisation and has a wide experience in multilateral affairs after his relevant posts in the Spanish Mission to the UN (1990-93) and NATO itself (1996-2000). He has also worked in conflict situations after serving as Spanish Ambassador to the ISAF Command Chain in Afghanistan after the end of the war (2004-

2005). Mr Losada occupied other significant post in the Spanish Diplomatic Service such as Ambassador in Nigeria (2006-11) and Kuwait (2011-14). After working as Spanish Ambassador at Large for Libya and the Sahel, he was named EU Special Representative for the Sahel in December 2015.

Pedro Martínez-Avial, Director-General, Casa Árabe



A civil servant in the diplomatic corps since 1987, he has been stationed at the Embassies of Spain in Iraq, the Czech Republic, Cuba, Chile and Mexico, and until July 2017, he held the position of Consul General in Hamburg, Germany. When working in Spain, he has held various positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, where he was the Sub-Director General of the Institute of Cooperation with the Arab World and Sub-Director General for Cooperation with the Arab and Mediterranean Countries at the Spanish International Cooperation Agency from 1992 through 1997. From 2006 to 2008, he held the position of advising member of the Directorate General for the Mediterranean, Near East and Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Since August 1, 2017, he has held his current position as General Director of Casa Árabe.

Eva Martínez, Director-General for Maghreb, Mediterranean and Middle East, Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation



A career diplomat since 1991, before her current position, Eva Martínez was deputy Director for the Maghreb (2013-2017) at the same Ministry. Previously, she worked as Counselor for African affairs in the Spanish Representation before the EU (2008-2013) and Counselor at the Spanish embassy in Mexico (2003-2005). She has also served as Counselor to the Spanish Embassy in Egypt, Deputy Director-General for the Middle East, and president of the African Cooperation Group of the Council of the European Union during Spanish presidency in 2010.

Martín Ortega Carcelén, Senior Lecturer in International Law and International Relations at the Complutense University of Madrid



Martin Ortega Carcelén was Head of Policy Planning at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and Senior Research Fellow at the EU Institute for Security Studies in Paris. He is Senior Lecturer in International Law and International Relations at the Complutense University of Madrid, and teaches at IE University and Deusto Business School. He also contributes with op-ed articles in *El País* newspaper and with commentaries at *TV Canal 24h* (Spanish public TV). Martin Ortega conducted research at St. Antony's College (Oxford University) and the Max Planck Institute of International Law in Heidelberg. He also participated in the International Visitors Programme of the United States Government, as well as in the International Law Seminar organised by the United Nations office in Geneva.

José Luis Pardo, Ambassador in Special Mission for Migration Issues, Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.



José Luis Pardo is a career diplomat, joining the Spanish diplomatic service in 1993. His professional career has focused on three areas: the Arab world and the Mediterranean (Second Headquarters at the embassies in Libya 1996-1999 and Jordan 1999-2002 and Counselor for Euromed-Processes of Barcelona-UPM 2005-2007), the European Union (Counselor for Community Affairs at the embassy in Berlin between 2002 and 2005 and Deputy Director General for Foreign Affairs and Commercial Affairs of the EU between 2007 and 2014) and Global approaches to migration since 2014 with his appointment as Ambassador of Spain in Niger, and since 2017 as Ambassador in Special Mission for Migration Issues.

Javier Puig, Deputy Director-General for the Maghreb, Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation



Javier Puig is Deputy Director-General for the Maghreb at the Spanish Foreign Minister since May 2017. A career diplomat since 2002 he has served at the Spanish Embassies in Tunisia (2003-2007), Morocco (2007-2010), Guatemala (2010-2012) and Vietnam (2014-2017). From 2012 to 2014 he was assistant deputy director for the Maghreb at the Foreign Minister.

El Mostafa Rezrazi, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South



Dr El Mostafa Rezrazi is a professor of Crisis Management, and Security Studies and a Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, previously known as OCP Policy Center, who focuses on Terrorism, Security and East Asia studies. His area of Expertise covers Afro-Asian Affairs, Strategic & Security Studies, Terrorism, Extremism and Deradicalization, mainly from the view of Criminal; Legal and Forensic Psychology. He got his Ph.D. in Regional & International Affairs from the University of Tokyo in 1998, and later a Doctorate from the University of Mohammed V on the Psychological dynamisms of Suicide Bombers (2014). He is the executive director of the Moroccan Observatory on Extremism and Violence, Director of the African Center for Asian Studies, Rabat. Currently, he is Visiting Professor at the University Mohammed V Rabat.

Leila Zniber, Research Analyst in Economic Competitiveness, Moroccan Ministry of Economy and Finance and Administration Reform



Mrs Leila Zniber is a Research Analyst in Economic Competitiveness Department of the Directorate of Studies and Financial Forecasting, within the Ministry of Economy and Finance and Administration Reform. She is active in a number of fields related to imports, current account, exchange rate and outward FDI. She got her Master in Economics from the ESCP-EAP Business School in Paris in 2008.

About Policy Center for the New South

The Policy Center for the New South is an independent Moroccan think tank that has the ambition to improve the understanding of political, economic and social issues at the national, continental and international levels. Created in 2014 under the name OCP Policy Center, the center defends the concept of a new modern, inclusive and open South that defines its own narratives as part of an uninhibited relationship with the world.

Accompanying the dynamics inherent to the new south, the Policy Center for the New South aims to strengthen its anchor, as a force of proposal, to inform decision-makers in the development of public policies adapted to the major challenges of the populations.

The Policy Center for the New South contributes to the production of knowledge aligned with the requirements and needs in line with its mission. Having become a real platform of exchange, the center capitalizes on in-house expertise, resident and non-resident researchers, as well as a large network of renowned partners.

By organizing national and international forums including the Atlantic Dialogues and other major meetings, the Policy Center for the New South creates spaces where the north meets the south.

The think tank is developing a community of young leaders through its Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders Program, a platform that aims to connect and enhance cooperation between high-potential change makers who want to contribute to shaping the regional and global agenda in politics, finance, business, civil society and more. Through this initiative, the Policy Center contributes to: intergenerational dialogue, the transformation of the South by its youth, and training the leaders of tomorrow.

www.policycenter.ma

About Casa Árabe

Casa Árabe was established as an inter-administrative entity under public law, run as part of the General Administration of the Spanish State, with its own legal status, full capacity to act and own assets. The consortium is made up of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC), the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECID), the Autonomous Regional Government of Andalusia, the Autonomous Region of Madrid, the Municipal Government of Madrid and the Municipal Government of Cordoba.

Casa Árabe is operated as the strategic center for Spain's relations with the Arab world, a meeting point where different role-players and institutions, both private and public, from the worlds of business, education, academia, politics and culture can dialogue, interact, establish lines of cooperation and undertake joint projects.

Since it was founded in 2006, Casa Árabe has carried out its tasks as an active platform and tool for Spain's public diplomacy, with activities which it has integrated into those of a strong network of similar Casas, including the Casa de América, Casa Asia, Casa África, Casa del Mediterráneo and Centro Sefarad-Israel.

In order to complete its mission, Casa Árabe possesses two headquarters, one located in Madrid and the other in Cordoba, which provide it with a privileged geographic position not only in the Mediterranean region, but also as a mediator of exchanges between the Americas and the countries on the Arabian Gulf, where the presence of Spanish companies and professionals is growing larger and larger.

<http://en.casaarabe.es/>