



Bureau sous régional pour l'Afrique du Nord

Rapport de mission

Par :	Lilia Naas
Objet :	Représenter la SE et participer au Forum Economique Africain
Date :	24-25 Avril 2018
Lieu :	Tunis, Tunisia
Compte rendu	<p>Last week I represented ES at the Africa Economic Forum organized by the ministry of Trade of Tunis. The event was sponsored by BADEA, ITFC, GIZ and many Tunisian companies. The event was focused on promoting regional integration and building business relations between North Africa (Tunisia in particular) and the rest of Africa. I contributed to the panel on “Regional integration: driver for economic growth of the African continent”. The panel was composed of Mr. Taieb Baccouche, secretary general of UMA, Ms. Treasure Maphanga, Director Trade and Industry at African Union, M. Mohamed Al Azizi, AfDB Director General North Africa, Mr. Tei Konzi, ECOWAS Commissioner for trade, customs and free movement, Mr. Francis Mangeni, COMESA Director of trade and customs. The panel focused on the implications of the recently signed AfCFTA on promoting and advancing regional integration at subregional and continental levels. The discussions also covered how regional economic communities will adjust and support implementation of AfCFTA and the role of development banks such as the African Development Bank. The session was well attended and many questions asked regarding AfCFTA.</p> <p>The forum focused on four thematic areas: 1) building, public work and engineering services, 2) higher education, 3) Agribusiness sector, and 4) health services. B2B and B2I meetings were organized in parallel to thematic panels and discussions.</p> <p>I took advantage of my visit to Tunis to organize the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Meeting with Tunisian Minister of trade: we discussed the impact study for Tunisia in joining COMESA. The minister insisted on the importance of this study and to have preliminary analysis before the official announcement of Tunisia joining COMESA in June 2018. A task force at national level has been set up to work with us on the impact study. SRO-NA will for now hire a national consultant to initiate the work and provide first hand analysis to the ministry. Additional extra budgetary resources are needed to have more in-depth analysis work done. I also discussed with the minister the upcoming COM and the importance for Tunisia to be represented at highest level. He promised to do his best to come, but that it will be difficult for him to make full commitment given the municipal elections that are organized on 6th May 2018.- Meeting with DG BADEA: the discussion focused on the impact study on Tunisia joining COMESA requested by the ministry of trade, and particularly the need for additional resources for us to do an in-depth

	<p>analysis. DG BADEA recommended to request this funding under the Arab Africa Trade Bridge, managed by ITFC and partially funded by BADEA. This will be further discussed with CEO ITFC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with ITC representative: I met Mondher Mimouni, Chief Market Analysis section at ITC, and discussed with possible joint activities that we could undertake to activate the partnership between ECA and ITC. We identified specific analytical work related to economic integration and identifying trade opportunities and potential at sub-regional level. This will be further discussed with Stephen who is leading the discussion with ITC. - Meeting with «Banque Maghrebine de l'Investissement et du Commerce Extérieur». The bank, established under the auspices of UMA, works on developing financing mechanisms to support trade development and increase investments within the Maghreb sub-region. We discussed the draft partnership agreement to be signed by the two institutions. The draft will be submitted to Legal Unit for review and clearance as the next step. - Meeting with new President of « Union Tunisienne de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat (UTICA) », Mr. Samir Majoul and the Vice President, Mr. Kooli. This is a courtesy visit to present UNECA to the new head of the private sector institution in Tunisia, and to explore areas of possible collaboration, knowing that UTICA is a member of SRO-NA's ICE. One suggestion was for SRO-NA to organize a private sector forum, bringing together private sector institutions (union of heads of enterprises) and selected governmental institutions from the seven member countries to explore potential for increased investments, improved partnerships and public-private dialog. This will be discussed internally to assess feasibility before taking any commitment.
Personnes rencontrées :	As indicated above
Recommandations et suivi requis	<p>Follow up with BADEA and ITFC regarding funding for impact study (LN with OA)</p> <p>Initiate work on impact study (OA)</p> <p>Discuss with Stephen regarding follow up on the discussion with ITC (LN)</p> <p>Follow up on partnership agreement with BMICE (LN and MB)</p> <p>Follow up on suggestions from UTICA (LN and OA)</p>
Annexes :	

Signature :



date : 4 May 2018