Message

From: Revilla, Belen [Revilla.Belen@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/20/2018 12:48:28 PM
To: Kasman, Mark [Kasman.Mark@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Cable + a question -- RE: Morocco: EPA Administrator Pruitt Promotes U.S. Energy and Environmental Technology Exports

Morning Mark, I believe that's the same version we used for you and Jane, but I'll double check...!

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Belén D. Revilla *(Bé)*
Office of Regional & Bilateral Affairs (ORBA)
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Washington, DC 20004
Tel: 202/ 564-6421
Revilla.belen@epa.gov

From: Kasman, Mark
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 3:28 AM
To: Revilla, Belen <Revilla.Belen@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Cable + a question -- RE: Morocco: EPA Administrator Pruitt Promotes U.S. Energy and Environmental Technology Exports

Hi Belen,

It appears they want the copy of the trip report out of FIAT just like you did previously. Can you get a copy of the FIAT trip report from Morocco?

Thanks, Mark

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2018, at 5:43 PM, Revilla, Belen <Revilla.Belen@epa.gov> wrote:

> Mark, I wasn't sure to delete dialogue of Cam and Jane, the summary Morocco DOS cable is at the bottom ...
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Hill-Macon, Cam
> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 10, 2018 1:39 PM
> **To:** Nishida, Jane <Nishida.Jane@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Almodovar, Lisa <Almodovar.Lisa@epa.gov>; Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Cable + a question -- RE: Morocco: EPA Administrator Pruitt Promotes U.S. Energy and Environmental Technology Exports
>
> Hi Jane,

Post sent us the attached version of the cable with apologies for not sending it earlier. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Also, do you expect to comment on the Morocco work plan that Cristina sent you yesterday? We'd like to provide State an ETA for final EPA comments.

Thanks,

Cam

Cam Hill-Macon
EPA/OITA
+202-564-6408

From: Nishida, Jane
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 8:32 AM
To: Hill-Macon, Cam <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>
Cc: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Almodovar, Lisa <Almodovar.Lisa@epa.gov>; Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Morocco: EPA Administrator Pruitt Promotes U.S. Energy and Environmental Technology Exports

Thanks, it will be good if we had the cable from Post that I could share with AO.

From: Hill-Macon, Cam
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 8:23 AM
To: Nishida, Jane <Nishida.Jane@epa.gov>
Cc: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Almodovar, Lisa <Almodovar.Lisa@epa.gov>; Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Morocco: EPA Administrator Pruitt Promotes U.S. Energy and Environmental Technology Exports

Hi Jane,

Randy Robinson from OES forwarded us a copy of the Morocco reporting cable. I haven't received anything yet from post but will ask.

The highlights come from the person who sent the cable to Randy, not Randy himself. Unfortunately, I can't seem to get rid of them from my phone. I will send a clean version when I get to the office.

Thanks,

Cam

Cam Hill-Macon
EPA/OITA
202-564-6408

Sent from a phone with a small keyboard and an overly aggressive autocorrect program. Please excuse any typos.

MRN:	18 RABAT 26
Date/DTG:	Jan 08, 2018 / 081432Z JAN 18
From:	AMEMBASSY RABAT
Action:	WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.:	13526
TAGS:	BEXP, BTIO, EAID, ECON, EIND, EINV, EMIN, ENRG, EPA, EPET, ETRD, KGHG OVIP, PGOV, PREL, SENV
Captions:	SENSITIVE
Subject:	Morocco: EPA Administrator Pruitt Promotes U.S. Energy and Environmental Tech Exports during December 11-13 Visit

1. (SBU) **Summary**: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt discussed U.S. prioriti updating the environmental cooperation workplan under the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement and promote exports and business solutions, particularly for liquefied natural gas (LNG), biofuels, and waste management, in meetings with Moroccan ministers and senior officials during a December 11-13 visit to Rabat and Marrakesh. M of Energy, Mines, and Sustainable Development Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Justice Mohammad Aujjar, and Secreta State for Foreign Affairs Mounia Boucetta underscored to Administrator Pruitt—the first member of the Cabinet Morocco under the Trump Administration—that Moroccan-U.S. relations remained strong, notwithstanding rece disagreements in policy over the Paris Agreement on climate change and Jerusalem. Administrator Pruitt advise Rabbah to consider U.S. technologies for Morocco's energy needs, including for the upcoming LNG tender, and f waste management and renewable energy solutions. Administrator Pruitt reiterated these messages to officials Moroccan renewable energy institutions in meetings to discuss the Kingdom's energy goals. **End Summary.**

Administrator Discusses Moroccan Renewable Energy Goals

2. (U) During his December 11-13 visit to Morocco, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott held his first meeting with Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (MASEN) Executive Board Member Obaid Ar Director for Strategic Pilot Projects Fatima Hamdouch, and Head of Infrastructure Nadia Taobane. In the Decem meeting, Amrane and Hamdouch provided an overview of MASEN's evolution from initially focusing only on sola energy to leading the charge for Morocco's ambitious renewable energy strategy, which aims to reach 50 percer Morocco's installed power generation capacity from renewable sources by 2030. Amrane noted that in 2009 Mo realized it needed to shift towards renewables as the country's high dependence on imported energy and scant domestic hydrocarbon resources made the national economy vulnerable to price shocks in international oil markets. Due to Morocco's rich potential in solar energy, the number of applications for renewable energy is enormous and could have far-reaching social and economic implications. Hamdouch outlined for Administrator P Morocco's plans to develop solar, wind, and hydro over the next decade as the main sources of renewable energ reach the 2030 target. Administrator Pruitt suggested Morocco could also look to biofuels as a source of renewa energy and mentioned that many U.S. biofuel companies would be interested in working with Morocco, to which Moroccans responded positively.

3. (U) Taobane presented Morocco's legal framework that supports the renewable energy goals and strategic directions to the U.S. delegation. Morocco has envisioned an integrated approach, with the government providi and acting as the sole lender to companies interested in bidding on tenders. Taobane noted this approach woul reduce risks and keep premiums low, as the government intends to uphold the most stringent standards for bidders. She emphasized Morocco's vision to create local development activities—including training programs a jobs for youth—around its renewable energy projects, particularly its solar infrastructure. Taobane mentioned t each solar site was distinct in Morocco, as opposed to countries like Spain that have deployed uniform models. Designs are tailored to account for local conditions and energy storage needs. Ultimately, Morocco aim build 6,000 megawatts (MW) of new solar capacity by 2030, with these new plants boasting up to seven hours o energy storage. Amrane added that Morocco hoped to export its energy successes to the rest of Africa, and that were already assisting several African countries.

Foreign Affairs Secretary of State Suggests U.S.-Moroccan Partnerships for Africa

4. (U) In a December 12 meeting with Administrator Pruitt, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mounia Boucett welcomed the visit as a demonstration of the strong U.S.-Moroccan partnership. She provided an overview of Morocco's recent political and economic evolution, dating from the 2011 constitutional reform, and highlighted Morocco's achievements, including a strong and growing economy and political stability. Boucetta added that Morocco stands out among its North African neighbors, having invested in a democratic system that respects hu rights and the rights of women and children. Morocco has also devoted energy to countering radicalism, by focu both on security and economic and social stability, she said. The Secretary of State mentioned Morocco's elevat interest in Africa, a "win-win partnership" in both economic and political terms, which resulted this year in Moro return to the African Union after a 34-year hiatus and its application to join ECOWAS. She encouraged the Administrator to view Morocco as a potential platform to Africa. She noted that Morocco was the largest Africa investor in West Africa and second largest investor in Africa overall, providing capacity training in a variety of Afr countries. Given African needs across a variety of sectors, including transportation, pharmaceuticals, infrastruct banking, insurance, and telecommunications, Boucetta offered that Morocco could potentially partner with the States in financing development in these areas. She highlighted Morocco's pipeline project with Nigeria that wo cross 12 countries in West Africa. She stated the project was currently undergoing a feasibility study to determi legal, financial and technical aspects that could take up to two years to complete. Administrator Pruitt thanked Secretary of State for her hospitality and noted the Environmental Working Group meeting in February which wi discuss new areas of cooperation. He encouraged future meetings to discuss potential U.S.-Moroccan cooperati Africa, including environmental infrastructure and technologies in areas such as water management, food waste security, and energy.

Administrator and Minister of Energy Discuss Climate, Natural Gas, and Waste Management

5. (SBU) Moroccan Minister of Energy, Mines, and Sustainable Development Aziz Rabbah voiced his government desire for the USG to reverse its stance on the Paris Agreement in a December 12 meeting with Administrator Pruitt. Rabbah stated that the Moroccan government was closely monitoring the USG's position on climate char that Morocco was "proud to be a leader" having hosted COP-22 last year and promoting its proactive stance in adopting renewable energy and carbon emissions reductions targets. However, he also emphasized that regard the U.S. position on the Paris Agreement, Morocco remained committed to working with the United States on sh priorities including environmental protection, adopting cleaner energy sources, using technology to enhance ene

efficiency and waste recycling, protecting maritime ecosystems, water conservation, and forestry management. Rabbah observed that U.S. and Moroccan policies were largely complimentary, with the exceptio the December 6 announcement on Jerusalem; however, he noted that this topic was not the focus of discussion the EPA delegation. Rabbah explained that Morocco took into account the effects of its clean energy policies on economic growth, but with the view that growth "should not be at the expense of humanity" and should focus o finding areas of convergence between the interests of corporations and environmental protection. Referring to compatibility as a "transformational economy," he pointed out the United States' unique ability to contribute to research, development, and adoption of "transformational" technology as the world's leader in laboratory facilit scientific knowledge, and hubs for innovation.

6. (U) Administrator Pruitt agreed with the minister that resource extraction and environmental protection coul compatible, and he welcomed future prospects for U.S.-Moroccan collaboration. He highlighted the potential fo United States to export LNG and/or ethanol to Morocco as an opportunity for the U.S. economy, as well as for M to adopt a cleaner source of energy to complement its renewable strategy. Using the example of Harvest Power Florida, which has contracted with Walt Disney World to generate clean energy from food waste biomass produ the theme park, Administrator Pruitt emphasized that using technology to reduce emissions was the best approa clean energy.

7. (U) Rabbah expressed an interest in learning more about U.S. technology, urging more commercial exchanges Morocco could continue to learn about the most innovative options. He emphasized the new national strategy f energy efficiency, currently being considered by the Council of Ministers, would require technological solutions t achieve its ambitious goals. The minister hoped the strategy would be enacted in 2018, and he said it formed a Morocco's larger pursuit of a "circular economy" in which nearly all waste would be recycled. As an example, Ra cited a project in Marrakesh that used wastewater for energy production. Both Rabbah and Administrator Pruitt identified other areas for potential U.S.-Moroccan collaboration under the revised environmental work plan, incl academic partnerships between universities and sharing technological solutions for waste management, desalini and energy innovation. Administrator Pruitt also expressed interest in continuing collaboration on solid waste management, public participation and crisis communication, as well as environmental enforcement and rule of l

Minister of Justice Welcomes USG Collaboration and Seeks Further Visits

8. (SBU) Minister of Justice Mohamed Aujjar expressed appreciation for the very positive strategic and enduring partnership between Morocco and the United States in a December 12 meeting with Administrator Pruitt. He stated the United States and Morocco would remain strong allies despite occasional criticisms, such as over the December 6 Jerusalem announcement. He stressed that Morocco was a moderate Muslim country dedicated to democratic principles and fighting radical extremism, which also aimed to be a leader in Africa, working with other African nations to fight terrorism and extremism and promote economic development. Aujjar emphasized that Morocco was undergoing a fundamental change in its judicial system, which he believed would create a more independent judiciary. Aujjar thanked the USG for the extensive

and continuing collaboration that has helped to develop and support these justice sector reforms and stated that he welcomed the continuation of these programs.

9. (U) Addressing environmental issues, Aujjar described how Morocco was pushing a green economy, investing heavily in renewable energy, and developing the largest solar energy facilities on the continent. He offered that Morocco was developing a number of projects with other African countries, including the construction of a gas pipeline from Nigeria to Morocco. He stated that Morocco had created a positive climate for investment by striving to ensure its laws, policies, and security environment were fully compliant with the highest international norms and standards. The minister pointed to companies from China and Europe doing business in Morocco and expressed hope that U.S. companies would increase their investments in the country. Administrator Pruitt noted that as a hub for commerce in Africa, Morocco has tremendous influence over African affairs, adding that the country's reforms were extremely important to attracting and retaining investor interest. He discussed the importance of rule of law and noted that EPA can provide assistance on environmental crimes and environmental police under the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement. Aujjar expressed the desire for other Cabinet-level officials from the United States, particularly the Attorney General, to visit Morocco in order to further joint cooperation initiatives. Administrator Pruitt promised that he would take that message to his counterparts, and that he looked forward to further engagement with the Ministry and other sectors of the Moroccan government.

Moroccan and U.S. Solar Energy Technologies at Ben Guerir Green Energy Park

10. (U) Director General of the Research Institute for Solar Energy and New Energies (IRESEN) Badr Ikken showcased the institute's initiatives to develop and adapt solar energy solutions to the unique climate conditions in the Moroccan desert, during Administrator Pruitt's December 12 visit to the Green Energy Park in Ben Guerir, about 50 miles north of Marrakesh. Currently one MW of various photovoltaic and concentrating solar power technologies are installed at the park, which IRESEN uses to power its own operations—including an on-site small-scale desalination facility—and test the different platforms for dust accumulation, water usage, response to extreme temperatures, and other variables that can affect power output efficiencies. Some of the technologies on display had achieved local integration rates of up to 90 percent of Moroccan content, though photovoltaic products from U.S. firms SunPower and FirstSolar were also installed, he added. Administrator Pruitt noted that the technologies displayed and Green Energy Park's research facilities were impressive, and he mentioned that many U.S. companies were at the forefront of the desalination and water treatment sectors.

11. (U) OCP Group Chairman Mostafa Terrab provided an overview of the company's history, organizational operations and business objectives. OCP is one of the world's leading exporters of phosphate rock, phosphoric acid and phosphate fertilizers, and Morocco possesses 80 percent of the world's phosphates reserves. The Mohammed VI

Polytechnic University in Ben Guerir is at the center of OCP, according to Terrab. The university provides training, research and development and has partnered with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Columbia University, and Penn State University. Terrab said OCP sees engineering services as a new growth area and has a joint venture with Jacobs Engineering in Africa, and another joint venture with Dupont and IBM. The chairman noted OCP believes Morocco is strongly positioned as the gateway to Africa and can address Africa's food security, water, and other environmental challenges. For example, 60 percent of Africa's land is arable, and Morocco can bring fertilizer investments to increase food production. OCP is partnering with MIT to organize a science and technology forum for Africa next year and is also working with multilateral development banks. OCP noted its interest in ammonia and is looking at the experiences of a shale gas plant in Pennsylvania. Administrator Pruitt offered assistance with information on U.S. shale gas.

12. (U) The EPA Administrator's Office cleared this cable.

Randall Robinson

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Office of Policy and Public Outreach

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

United States Department of State

202-647-6827

Official

UNCLASSIFIED