



U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition

The U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition supports the negotiation and passage of a comprehensive and commercially meaningful U.S. - Morocco Free Trade Agreement

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U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition Applauds Completion of U.S.-Morocco FTA

Washington, DC – The U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition roundly praised U.S. and Moroccan officials for today's conclusion of the U.S.-Morocco FTA negotiations.

“The U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition is very pleased with the timely conclusion of the FTA negotiations between our two countries. We strongly believe this important and historic agreement will strengthen and expand our bilateral economic and trade relationship,” said Bill Reinsch, President of the National Foreign Trade Council. “While we look forward to closely reviewing the final text, the U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition commends our two governments for demonstrating that if the will exists, trade barriers can be eliminated and transparent and commercially meaningful trade rules can be negotiated to strengthen relationships and foster economic growth between and among nations.”

“This agreement is a very significant development for our two countries and has many notable provisions. Coalition members are particularly pleased that the tariff elimination for industrial goods will be accomplished swiftly and there are high standards in a range of areas, including intellectual property rights and e-commerce,” stated the two business Co-Chairs of the U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition, George Pickart of CMS Energy and Laura Lane of Time Warner.

Jeff Donald, Vice President of the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) applauded Ambassador Zoellick and Minister Fassi Firhri, and the entire US and Moroccan negotiating teams, for concluding the agreement in time for congressional action in 2004, and commended the efforts of the Congressional Morocco Caucus, led by Congressmen Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Phil English (R-PA), Chris John (D-LA) and John Tanner (D-TN), for championing the U.S.-Morocco FTA negotiations. “We commend the leadership of our two governments on reaching this important milestone in our bilateral relationship with Morocco, a steadfast ally of the United States, and we look

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forward to swift implementation of the agreement once it is submitted to the US Congress.”

In early 2003, the Bush Administration announced the beginning of the FTA talks and the goal of completing them by the end of 2003. The U.S. business community through the U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition has championed the conclusion of a comprehensive, high-standard FTA with Morocco since the coalition’s formation in early 2003. Currently, the coalition has more than 75 members.

In addition to economic benefits of the FTA, the ability to strengthen U.S. economic ties in the region has been seen as a vital tool in support of U.S. diplomatic efforts. The U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition views the FTA agreement as building on the recently enacted U.S.-Jordan FTA, and as an important component of the Bush Administration’s plan to achieve a U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Area by 2013.

The National Foreign Trade Council is a leading business organization advocating an open, rules-based world economy. Founded in 1914 by a group of American companies that supported an open world trading system, the NFTC now serves 350 member companies through its offices in Washington and New York.

The Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU), a U.S. business association founded in 1959 at White House initiative, is dedicated to promoting dialogue and action between the business and government communities for the purpose of expanding international commerce.

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