

## UK deeply appreciates Morocco's 'long history of religious tolerance and diversity', ambassador

Tuesday, 09 September 2008

(Audio Article)

The ambassador of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland to Morocco, Timothy Colin Morris, said that the United Kingdom "has very deep respect" for Morocco's "long history of religious tolerance and diversity," highlighting "the enormous contribution of British Muslims in our country."

In an interview published Monday by the Moroccan daily [Le Matin du Sahara et du Maghreb], Timothy Colin Morris said "the Moroccan community in the United Kingdom makes a very important contribution to the British economy."

Referring to the excellence of Moroccan-British relations which are characterized by deep mutual respect, the British diplomat said that "these relations are those of partnership."

"We have always opted to make them very dynamic, seeking new areas of positive cooperation," He explained.

At the political level, Mr. Morris said that the two countries hold regular consultations through a ministerial forum for dialogue, whose next meeting will take place at a date to be decided shortly.

On the economic level, the British diplomat said that there is "still potential to do more business and investment", adding that "Morocco is an outward-oriented country and is successfully liberalizing its domestic market, which is a good news for the United Kingdom and other European countries."

As for the Moroccan-British businessmen Council, Mr. Morris said that the objective of his country is to develop this partnership and to increase the number of British companies investing in Morocco in several sectors of activity such as services, finance, tourism, and the automobile industry.

Regarding Morocco's request for an advanced status with the EU, he stressed that his country's position is "very positive", adding that "we are getting close to an important stage in discussions related to this agreement."

MAP