

Washington, D.C.
June 15, 2004

The Honorable Taïb Fassi Fihri
Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Kingdom of Morocco

Dear Minister Fassi Fihri:

In connection with the signing on this date of the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement, I am pleased to set out areas of cooperation between our governments in the areas of technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures, including areas in which the United States intends to provide technical assistance.

The objectives of this cooperation are to:

- (1) help Morocco to implement Chapter Seven of the Free Trade Agreement (Technical Barriers to Trade);
- (2) improve the ability of relevant Moroccan entities to develop technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures and enhance the transparency with which they operate;
- (3) assist the private sector in each of our countries to understand the technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures of the other country; and
- (4) explore appropriate ways to cooperate with respect to conformity assessment procedures.

The governments of the United States and Morocco will consider cooperative activities, subject to their respective funding procedures, in the areas outlined below.

Institutional capacity building and transparency:

- (1) Assist Morocco to strengthen its regulatory system and improve the regulatory capabilities of entities that develop technical regulations, including with respect to legal reforms and notifying proposed technical regulations, addressing public inquiries, and providing written responses;
- (2) Provide training in the United States for officials from relevant Moroccan Ministries focused on specific sectors of export interest to Morocco and aimed at increasing key officials' understanding of the U.S. system;
- (3) Provide training to Moroccan officials to improve the process of developing standards and of certifying and accrediting conformity assessment bodies;

- (4) Encourage linkages and cooperative relationships between governmental and non-governmental bodies that develop standards and assess conformity with standards;
- (5) Facilitate Moroccan officials' understanding of the U.S. regulation of used goods; and
- (6) Prepare an action plan and pursue appropriate follow-up activities.

Informational and private sector-related activities:

- (1) Educate the companies of each of our countries with respect to the technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures of the other country, through seminars and the use of internet resources; and
- (2) Educate Moroccan companies from particular sectors of interest, such as textiles and leather, automobile parts, electronics, and food processing, concerning U.S. regulatory approaches in these sectors and methods of meeting the requirements of U.S. technical regulations.

I share your desire and expectation that the cooperation and technical assistance outlined in this letter will complement Morocco's ongoing reforms with respect to technical barriers to trade, and will help ensure that the United States and Morocco reap the full benefits of trade liberalization under the Free Trade Agreement.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Novelli
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative
for Europe and the Mediterranean