



SEMINAR

MOROCCO-SPAIN RELATIONS: OPPORTUNITIES AND SHARED INTERESTS

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1. MOROCCO-SPAIN COOPERATION : ENCOURAGING PROGRESS DESPITE SOME DIFFICULTIES

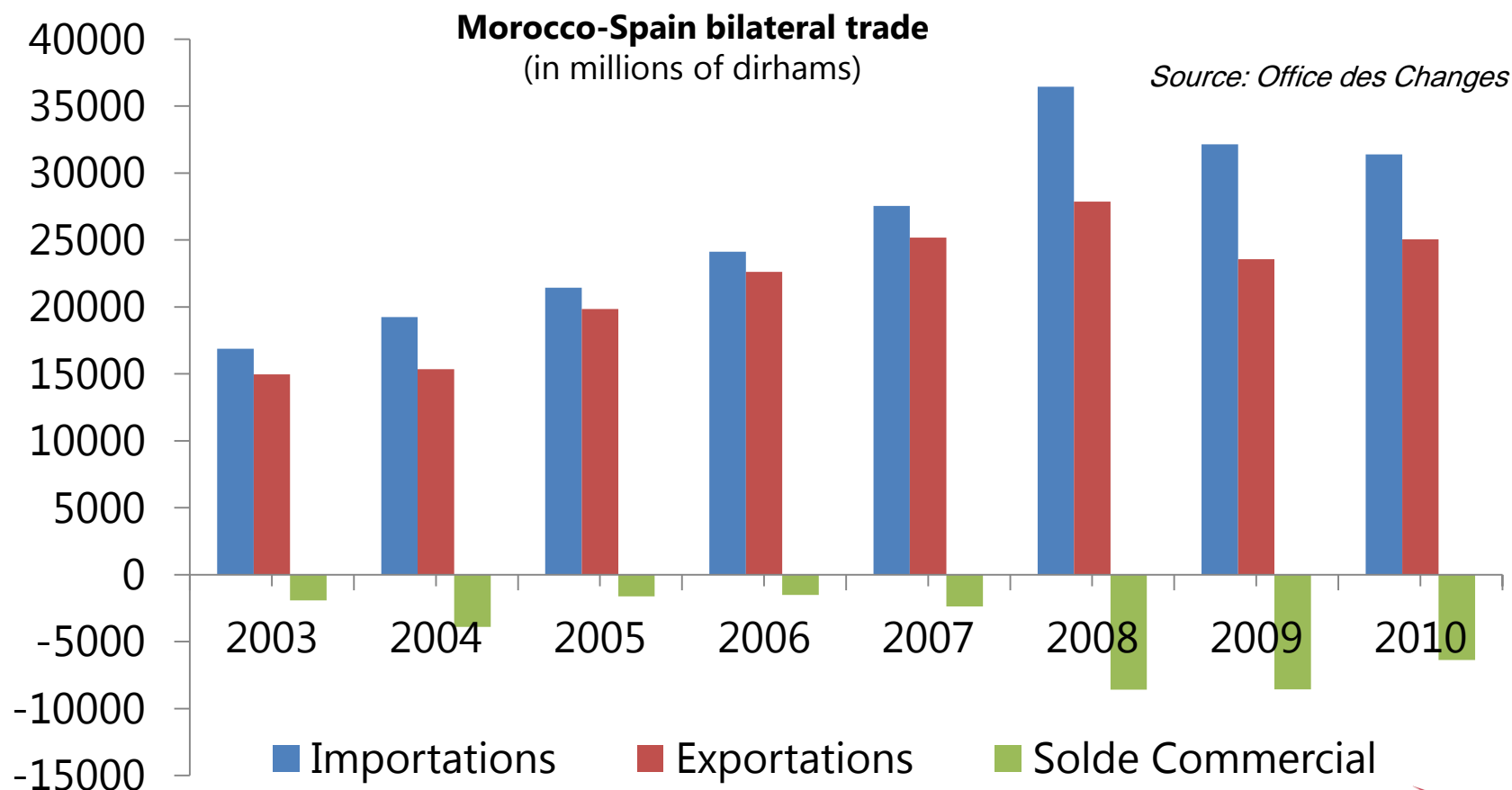


- ❖ Specificity of Morocco-Spain relations : historical and geographical considerations reinforced by a crucial European and Euro-Mediterranean aspects providing a strategic weight.
- ❖ A developed regulatory framework governing bilateral relations: Spain signed 105 bilateral treaties with Morocco against only 55 treaties signed between Spain and the other Maghreb countries combined;
- ❖ Reinforced bilateral dialogue, incorporating topics that were considered, until recently, as delicate matters : security, illegal immigration, fishing, agriculture



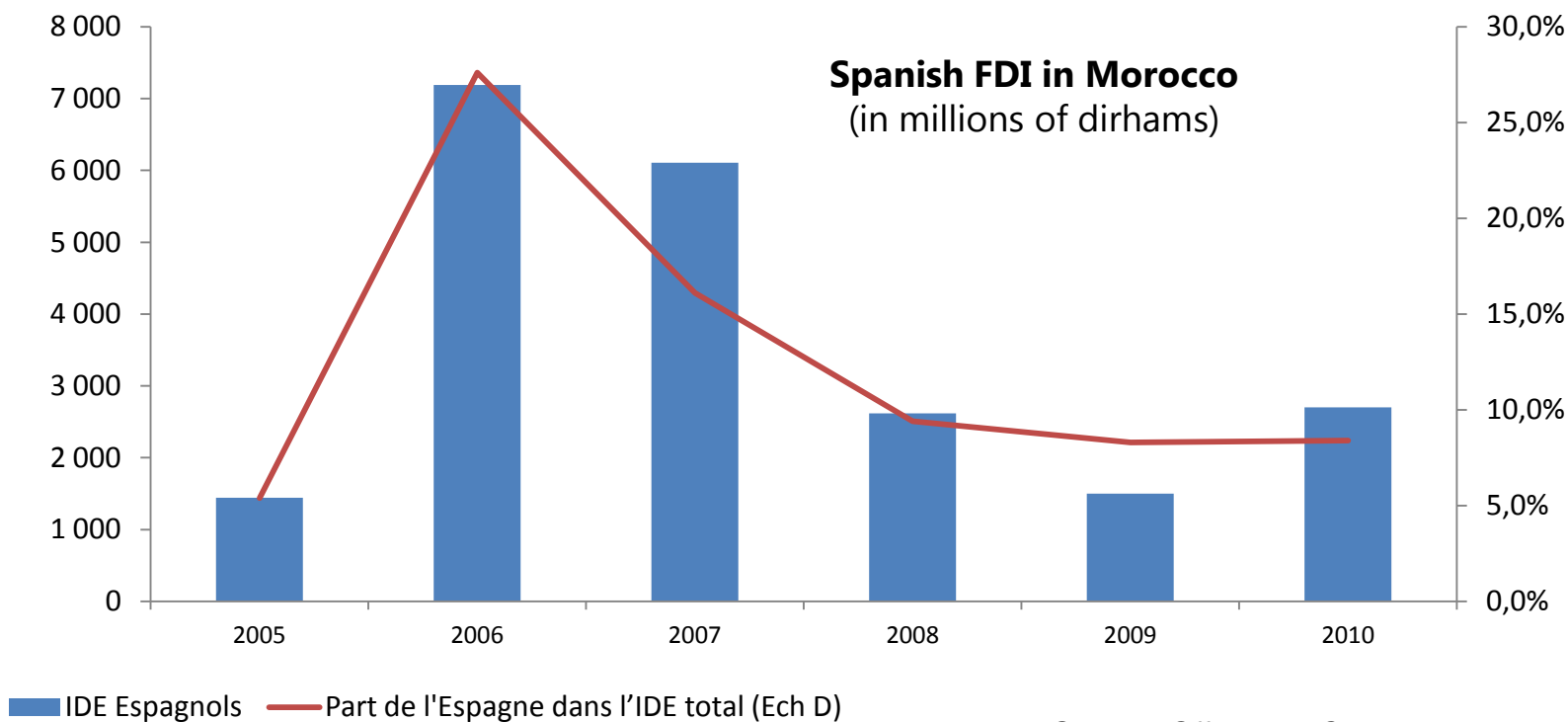
The economic dimension of the bilateral relations

- ❖ Strengthening bilateral foreign trade, making Spain the second partner of Morocco both in terms of export and import, even if Morocco represents only 1% of Spanish foreign trade.



The economic dimension of the bilateral relations

- ❖ The dynamics of Spanish investments in Morocco, with nearly 1,000 companies operating in various industries, including textiles, construction and services. Spain's part in the Moroccan FDI has averaged 12.5% between 2005 and 2010, with a peak of 27.6% in 2006 (linked with the acquisition of the remaining 20% of the Moroccan Tobacco group - *régie des tabacs* - by Altadis for an amount of \$ 4,020 million MAD)



Source: Office des Changes



Strengthening the economic cooperation through active promotion

- ❖ Development of the cooperation with all the Spanish regions, inspired by the successful cooperation with Catalonia ;
- ❖ Fight against some lobbies in the fields of fishing and agriculture that are raising tensions in the bilateral relations.
- ❖ Proactive communication on Morocco's image in Spain to increase the awareness of the media and the public opinion leaders on the progress made by Morocco in various fields.



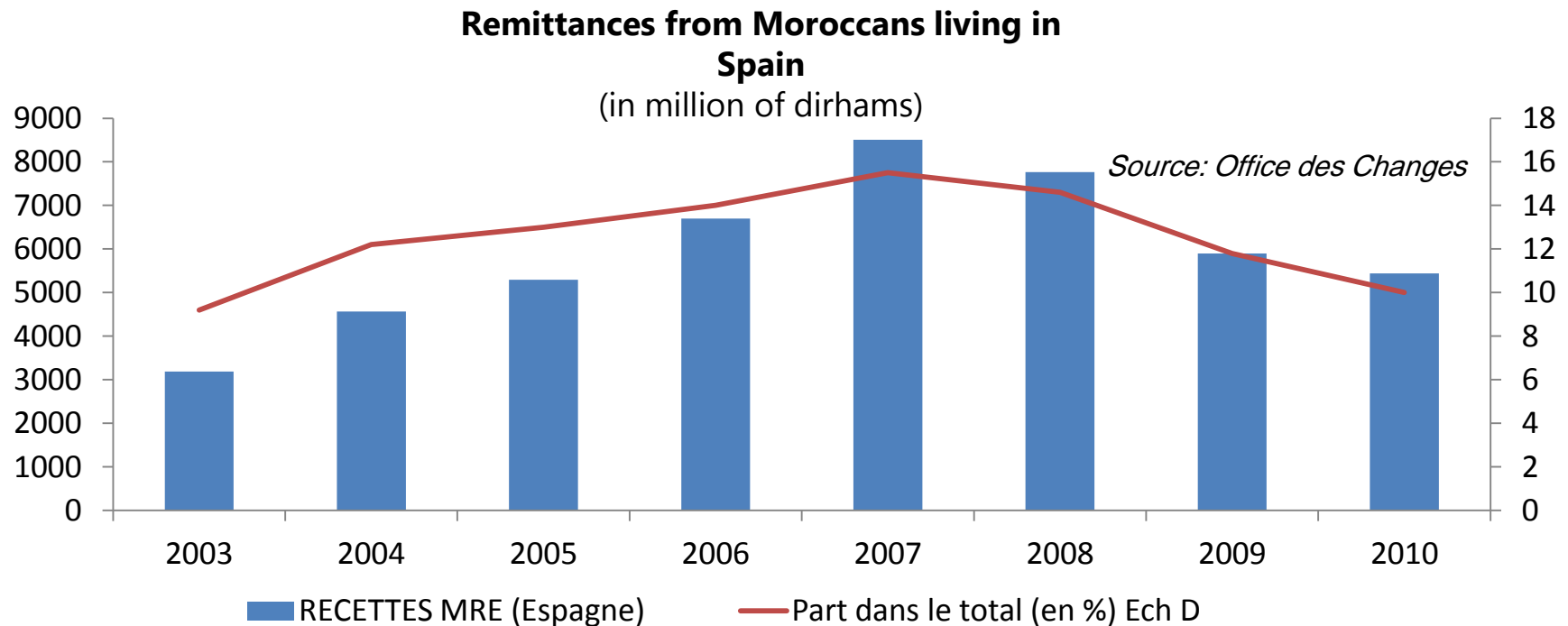
The social dimension of the bilateral relations reinforced by the strong presence of the Moroccan community in Spain

- ❖ Strong presence of the Moroccan community in Spain which number rose from 10,000 emigrants in 1973 to 718,000 in 2009 :
 - ✓ **Demographic structure** : predominantly young, women represent nearly 50% of the migrants ;
 - ✓ **Level of education**: 60% have an education level below secondary school (the migration profile is different from the one of the Moroccans living in France, although it was initially the same migration profile as in Spain) ;
 - ✓ **Geographic Distribution**: 1/3 of the Moroccan migrants live in the Catalan region;
 - ✓ **The sectoral breakdown** : Moroccan workers are present mainly in agriculture (37%) and services (35%) and slightly less in construction (15%) and industry (8%).



The social dimension of the bilateral relations reinforced by the strong presence of the Moroccan community in Spain

- ❖ Sustainable growth of remittances from Moroccans living in Spain that went from 3.2 billion dirhams in 2003 to 8.5 billion dirhams in 2007 before falling to 5.4 billion dirhams in 2010 (10% of total remittances), as a result of the global crisis.



... but the socio-economic integration of the Moroccan community in Spain remains less favourable than in the past

- ❖ The socio-economic integration of Moroccan migrants in Spain is facing some constraints :
 - ✓ Consequences of the Madrid 2004 attacks : negative perceptions with regard to the image of Moroccans (Islamophobia);
 - ✓ Strong Competition with other migrant nationalities (the growth rate of Moroccans in Spain was around 15% between 2000 and 2007 that is 4.4 points lower than the growth rate of other foreign population (19.4%) during the same period.
 - ✓ The negative impact of the Spanish economic crisis on the Moroccan workforce. Between June 2007 and June 2010, 26% of the jobs held by Moroccan migrants were lost. The unemployment rate of all Moroccan workers reached 44.5% during the second quarter of 2010.



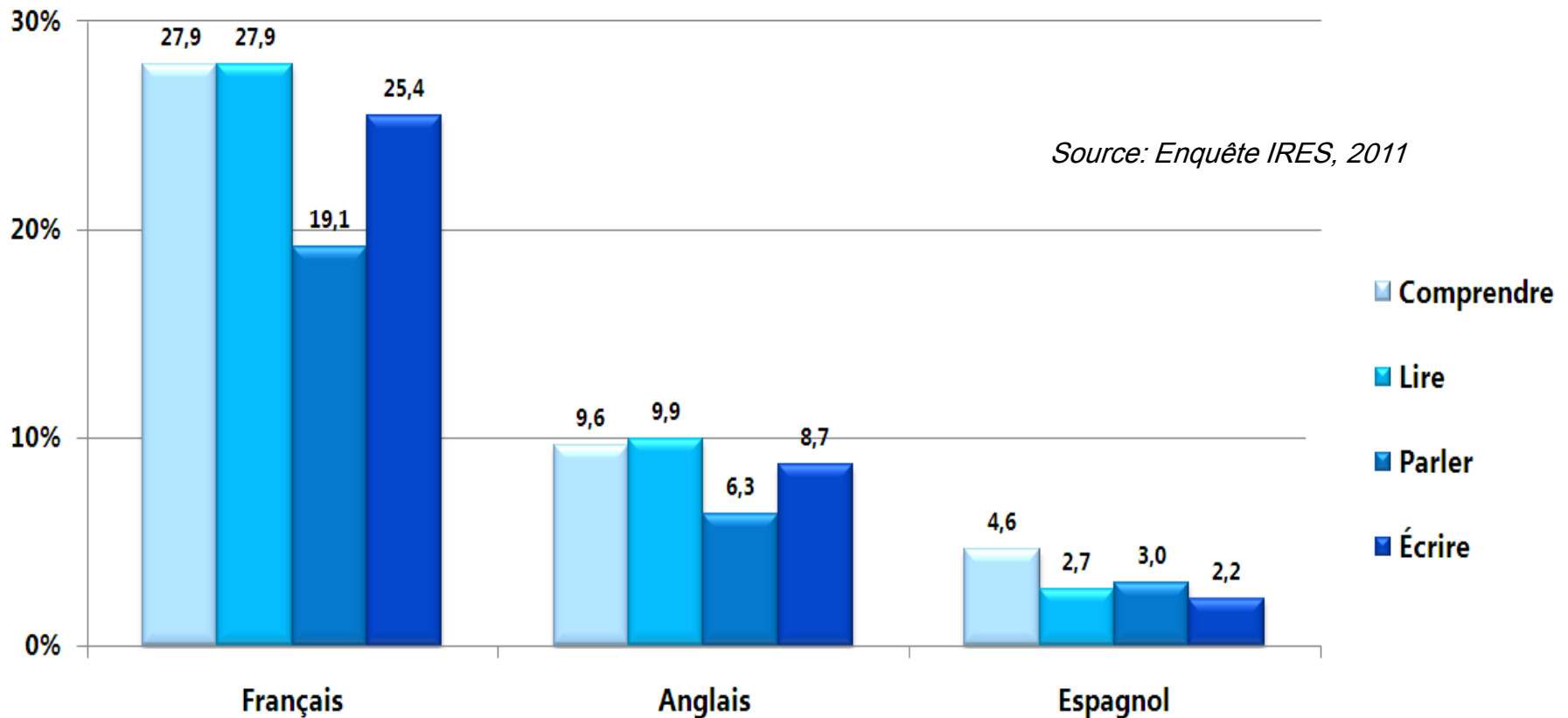
A promising cultural cooperation, but far from being optimized

- ❖ A strong presence of the Cervantes Institute in Morocco to spread the Spanish language and culture : Morocco is the second country after Brazil to house six centers ;
 - ❖ Role of the « CASA ARABE » Institute in the promotion of the Arab language and culture in Spain.
 - ❖ However, an almost non-existent cultural presence of Morocco in Spain, limited to some actions led by associations or groups of individuals.
- ➔ The weakness of a common cultural action involving civil society actors from both countries has a direct impact on the communication and the bilateral cooperation and mutual understanding between Spain and Morocco.



A cultural cooperation in progress, but its catalyst effect has not been fully achieved yet

- ❖ Despite the efforts deployed, the Spanish language hardly plays an effective role in Morocco. It has been preceded by English, currently, the second foreign language of the country.



2. MOROCCO-SPAIN RELATIONS IN THE AFTERMATH OF NEW REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES



A gradual shift of the global economic growth' drivers

- ❖ A new world order in which the economic and political powers are being rapidly redistributed in favor of the new emerging powers.
- ❖ Given this situation, the strengthening of regional integration in the Mediterranean is essential, with view to the multiple synergies that exist between both sides : demography, important energy resources, complementary profile of specialization ...
- ❖ Importance of strengthening the Mediterranean integration by deepening cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa (great growth potential), through a development-oriented approach as opposed to a security-based approach.



A gradual shift of the global economic growth' drivers

- ❖ Morocco and Spain could play an important role in mobilizing the regional integration's potential :
 - ✓ Dense network of bilateral free trade agreements signed by Morocco, allowing the country to play an active role as a regional hub for trade and finance;
 - ✓ Positive image of Morocco in Africa that enables it to build the foundations of a triangular cooperation in various fields related to human development;
 - ✓ The Spanish expertise in several economic sectors could enhance the development of highly competitive joint ventures as shown from the positive experience in the textile-leather sector;



Socio-political transformations in the North African neighborhood

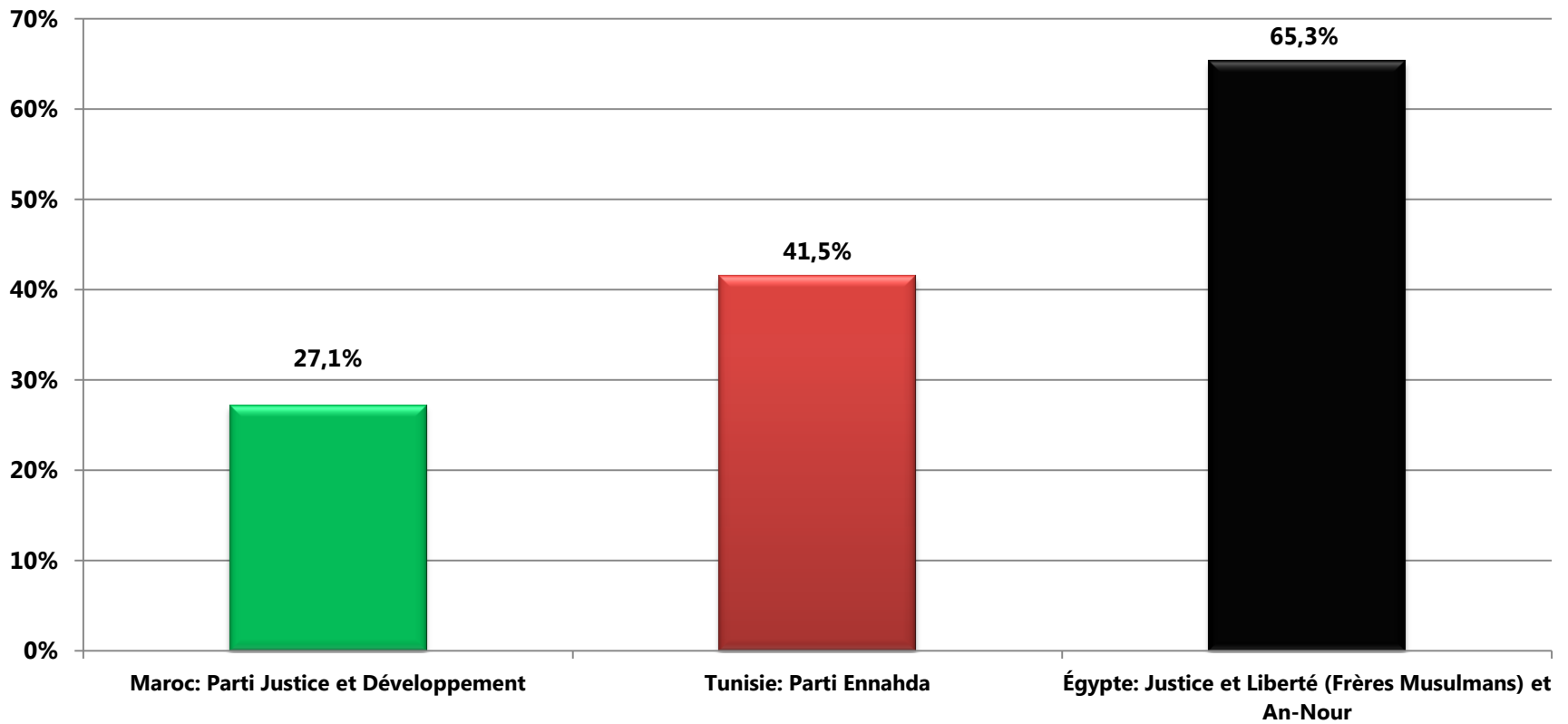
- ❖ Unprecedented socio-political transformations that :
 - reflect a situation of accumulation of deficits in terms of democracy, human rights, governance ...
 - translate the same expectations of the countries of the south of the Mediterranean towards democracy and freedom as in the North : convergence of values.

- ❖ Events of the Arab spring gave rise to new realities :
 - Fundamental psychological change associated to the disappearance of fear.
 - Initiation of a democratic process that led to elections seen as credible by the international community.
 - Rise to power of new elites who share an Islamic background, while expressing at the same time a desire for modernity.



Legislative Elections of 2011

Share of seats won by Islamist parties in the last legislative elections



Key role to be played by Morocco and Spain in this crucial phase

- ❖ The importance for Morocco and Spain to strongly support the democratic transition process at work in the region, helping to spread prosperity and democracy around their neighborhood (reinforcement of the institutions, participation to the reconstruction effort in Libya ...);
- ❖ Morocco has a great experience in managing transitional processes (three decades of dense reforms allowed the country to stay one step ahead of its southern Mediterranean neighbors);
- ❖ Further reinforcement of the democratization of the country with the new Constitution of July 2011, followed up by an advanced regionalization process serving the regional competitiveness and the efficiency of public policies ;



3. TOWARDS A REINFORCED AND SUSTAINABLE COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO



The prerequisites for a positive and forward-looking dialogue

- ❖ The fight against the misunderstandings and the establishment of a climate of confidence require common actions from Morocco and Spain :
 - Rewriting the common history, as it has been done by other countries (France-Germany, Japan-Korea, Russia-Poland), based on the UNESCO and the Council of Europe expertise in this field.
 - Although it is a long term effort, it is also an opportunity to make the first step towards a deeper review of the West/Islam relations. Morocco and Spain could initiate this large scale civilizational process and ensure its success.



Fostering the development of cooperation beyond the official sphere

- ❖ Maximizing the benefits of bilateral cooperation involves creating intermediaries with the non-governmental actors in both countries :
 - Increased contact between actors (civil society, media, universities, professional associations ...) to foster communication between both societies and reinforce the mutual understanding and dialogue according to the specificities of each country (missing aspect before the Arab Spring);
 - Active communication on Morocco's image in Spain to provide a true picture of Morocco as a country in progress, breaking with outdated stereotypes.



Seizing efficiently the various economic opportunities

- ❖ Various economic opportunities to be seized in order to make the bilateral relations evolve from a competitive framework to a win-win partnership :
 - Sectoral visions at work today in Morocco (“Plan Emergence” for the industry, “Plan Vert” for the agriculture, “Vision 2020” for tourism), and future development prospects of real estate and finance, areas within which Spain holds a well established expertise.
 - A broadened range of interests in Africa and Latin America through the establishment of networks between Moroccan and Spanish firms : Morocco as the key to Africa, Spain as the key to Latin America:
- ➔ Establishment of a triangular Europe-Africa-Latin America alliance able to face competition from other emerging areas.



Seizing efficiently the potential economic opportunities

- ❖ Implementing the Advanced Status: Spain's support in terms of Morocco's convergence with the EU regulatory framework and facilitating its integration into the trans-European transport and energy network.
- ❖ Strengthening of decentralized cooperation between Moroccan and Spanish regions notably in connection with the advanced regionalization process in Morocco as defined in the new Constitution.
 - An upgrading of Moroccan regions at all levels and strengthening their economic capacity to turn them into regional and international centers offering broad opportunities for cooperation with the Spanish autonomous communities.



Developing cooperation in fundamental sectors such as the energy and the environment

- ❖ Morocco and Spain, given their belonging to a vulnerable geographic area, are fully exposed to the consequences of climate change.
- ❖ Energy, water and biodiversity are all fields where the vulnerability of both countries is likely to increase in the absence of common efforts to strengthen their adaptation capacities :
 - Cooperation in fields related to clean energy (solar, wind) to promote their position in the green economy business and face the demands of competitiveness.
 - Conservation and development of oases in Morocco which are the last defense against desertification, preservation of the intercontinental cross-border Morocco-Andalusia Biosphere which extends over an area of 1,000,000 hectares).
 - Cooperation on Climate Change to develop common adaptation strategies : scientific cooperation, synergies in terms of early warning systems to guard against the risks of natural disasters



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