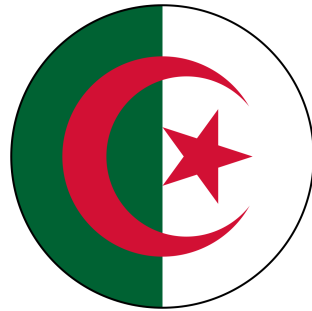


People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Release

10th June 2020

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Belaïd: Doors of Presidency of Republic open for “serious, responsible” dialogue

ALGIERS - The doors of the Presidency of the Republic are “open” for all those who want to engage in a “serious and responsible” since it is the most effective way to address all problems, Minister Counsellor for Communication, Official Spokesman of the Presidency of the Republic Mohand Oussaïd Belaïd said Tuesday in Algiers.

Speaking at a press conference, Belaïd stressed that “the doors of the Presidency of the Republic are open for all those who want to engage in a serious and responsible dialogue, as advocated by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune in his first speech calling for turning the page of discord and division.”

“Regardless of our cultural or political allegiances, we have no choice but to go hand in hand and pool our efforts to fulfill the dream of our predecessors, our youth and the future generations of Algeria, namely the edification of a new Algeria,” said Belaïd.

He said that the call for dialogue “is still on the agenda because only responsible, sincere and driven by national interest, is the most effective to resolve all issues, however complex they may be.”

The official spokesman of the Presidency of the Republic referred to a prolongation of the debate on the draft revision of the Constitution for a reasonable period of time so that the expected Constitution would be the fruit of the broadest possible national consensus.

Besides, the official spokesman of the Presidency of the Republic called the aspects of religion raised during certain debates and on television programs discussing the draft revision of the Constitution “a blatant provocation” to the feelings of citizens.

President Tebboune has no intention of creating a political party or movement with regard to the information reported on the creation of new political parties adopting the electoral program of the President of the Republic, Belaïd replied that President Tebboune “had already stated that he had no intention of creating a political party or movement, either during his electoral campaign or at the press conference held the day after the proclamation of the results of the presidential election of 12 December 2019.”

“This decision is still de rigueur, in other words, everything that is relayed in this regard is completely unfounded. These practices are no more efficient and the parties who peddle them must stop blaming the institution of the Presidency for malicious intentions,” Belaïd warned.

Besides, Belaïd said that the interest in National Memory was not new and that it was not motivated by any cyclical consideration. It has always been a national duty which could not be subject to haggling, he continued.

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In response to a question on the content of the telephone communication between President Tebboune and his French counterpart, at the request of the latter, the official spokesman of the Presidency of the Republic emphasized "the respect and consideration that the President of the Republic has for President Emmanuel Macron, who has good intentions in his relations with Algeria."

Deploring, however, "the existence in France of interest lobbies and lobbies of ideologies that bear a cultural resentment towards Algeria," Belaid explained that they "have still not digested Algeria's independence and each time a step in the improvement of bilateral relations is on the horizon, they spare no effort to thwart any constructive step between the two countries."

These lobbies "are more detrimental to the interests of France than to those of Algeria. Our country will always face them and none of their aims can be achieved," said Belaïd.

In response to a question on the elimination of terrorist Abdelmalek Droukdel, head of the AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) organization, the official spokesman of the presidency of the Republic reiterated that Algeria "still considers that counterterrorism is an international responsibility."

President Tebboune chairs meeting of High Security Council

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Supreme Chief of the Armed Forces, Minister of National Defense, on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the High Security Council, to discuss a number of issues relating to the country's overall situation the Presidency of the Republic said in a communiqué.

Constitution: Debate, in many instances, "deviates from desired goal,"

ALGIERS - The panel of experts in charge of making proposals for the constitutional revision said Wednesday the debate on the proposed draft, has in several cases "deviated from the desired goal," especially in some media and social networks.

In a statement signed by its chairman, Ahmed Laraba, the panel of experts said "after having completed its task, in line with the mission letter of the president of the Republic, and made its proposals available to the political class, civil society and citizens for debate and enrichment," it notes that "the debate, especially in some media and social networks, has in many instances deviated from the desired objective, namely the enrichment" of the proposed draft.

In its clarification, the panel said that in addition to the irresponsible attacks and violations against its members, many false allegations have targeted other aspects of the document.

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ECONOMIC NEWS

Algeria's balance of payments deficit down 57% in 1st quarter of 2020

ALGIERS - The overall balance of payments deficit fell by almost 57% during the first quarter of 2020, down from \$ 5.9 billion to \$ 2.5 billion in the same quarter of 2019, said a statement of the Bank of Algeria in a statement.

In its statement on the economic situation during the first quarter of 2020 and the development outlook, the Central Bank said that "based on an account surplus 'capital and financial operations' worth \$1.623 billion, the overall balance of payments deficit fell 56.98% to \$2.536 billion in the first quarter of 2020 from \$ 5.896 billion in the first quarter of 2019."

During the first quarter of 2019, compared with 2018 first quarter, the balance of payments deficit widened to +33.7% said the BA.

Official foreign exchange reserves contracted by US3.830 billion by the end of the first quarter compared to the end of December 2019, it said, stressing that this drop "is minor than that recorded in the 1st quarter 2019 (- \$ 7.311 billion)."

In terms of the evolution in the Balance of Payments indicators, the imports of goods (fob) decreased by 20.83% from \$12.578 billion in late March 2019, down to \$9.958 billion in late March 2020, said the source.

Reminding that the average quarterly price of oil, in the 1st quarter of 2020, was 53,295 dollars per barrel, against 63,967 dollars in the first quarter 2019, a decrease of 6.7%, the BA clarified that the exported quantities of hydrocarbons dropped by 23.03% for the same period.

Subsequently, total hydrocarbon exports fell in value by 29.07% from \$ 8.85 billion in the first quarter of 2019, to \$6.277 billion in the first quarter of 2020.

Non-oil exports, meanwhile, stood at \$ 478 million in the first quarter of 2020.

The goods exports totaled \$ 6.755 billion in the first quarter of 2020, compared with \$ 9.412 billion at the same period of 2019, declining by 28.23%.

The drop in total exports of goods by 28.23%, in the context of a smaller drop of 20.83% in the invoice for goods imports resulted in a slight widening of the deficit in the trade balance by 1.17%, from \$3.166 billion at the end of March 2019, to a deficit \$ 3.203 billion in the same period of 2020, according to the BA.

Arkab: Resumption of Libya's oil production will not impact OPEC+ deal

ALGIERS - Energy Minister Mohamed Arkab, Chairman-in-Office of the OPEC Conference, said that the recovery of Libya's oil production will not impact OPEC+'s output deal cut to ensure the oil market stability, which experienced an unprecedented shock due to the fallout from the new

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Coronavirus pandemic.

"We are aware of the arrangements Libya is making for an expected resumption of oil production, which will not impact the OPEC+ agreement," Arkab told the Algerian television on Tuesday.

"The details will be discussed in the next meeting of the Joint OPEC-Non-OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC)," he said.

The committee chaired by Russia and Saudi Arabia will meet on June 18.

It will bring together the members, including Algeria, as well as other countries such as Venezuela, the Sultanate of Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

During this television program in which Saudi Minister of Energy, Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman participated via videoconference, Arkab expressed "satisfaction with the Libyan oil production resumption"

He said that there is coordination with Libyan minister Mustafa Sanalla on the matters related to oil and the resumption of production.

"Libya is a member of OPEC and we are continuing consultations with this country," he said
Last Sunday, Libyan National Oil Company (NOC) announced the "resumption of production in the al-Charara oil field (south) after long negotiations for the reopening of al-Hamada valve, closed since January."

Since the implementation of the cut deal by the OPEC members and their partners, including Russia, oil prices have significantly recovered to reach the threshold of 40 dollars / barrel. The 11th OPEC and non-OPEC ministerial meeting held on Saturday via videoconference decided to renew the 9.6 mbd oil production cut deal, for an additional month, i.e. until July 31, 2020.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Algeria plays key role in stability of oil market within OPEC

ALGIERS - Algeria plays a "key" role in the rapprochement of views between OPEC countries and its allies in order to reach agreements likely to contribute to the stability of the oil market, said Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salmane.

Speaking at an Algerian TV program broadcast on Tuesday evening, the Saudi minister highlighted the "exceptional" role of Algeria not only in terms of the volume of oil production, but also its political weight and its ability to bring closer the views of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC+).

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Algeria "is in a position to make contact with everyone," especially during this exceptional situation, with a view to finding consensual long-term solutions, affirmed the Saudi prince.

"The leading role of Algeria within OPEC is not limited to its presidency of the Organization, but is recognized for many years already, as evidenced by its presence in all OPEC committees," he said.

According to the Saudi prince, Algeria's efforts to make OPEC's role in the stability of the oil market successful also stems from its conviction that this success is in the best interests of all member and non-member countries.

The Algerian Minister of Energy Mohamed Arkab, current chairman of the OPEC conference, stressed that Saudi Arabia also had a "pioneering" role in all the positions and results we have achieved so far.

With regard to the strengthening of bilateral partnership in the field of energy and its promotion to the level of political relations, the Saudi Minister announced that Arkab and officials from the Ministry of Energy had been invited to visit Saudi Arabia to discuss ways of cooperation in all areas.

Bladehane reiterates Algeria's stance in favour of Palestinian cause

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia) - Algeria, through the secretary of State for the National Community and Experts Abroad, Rachid Bladehane, reiterated Wednesday its principled stand in favor of the just Palestinian cause, calling the international community to condemn Israeli occupation authorities' violations.

In an address at the emergency virtual meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Executive Committee, at the level of Foreign Ministers, in Jeddah, Bladehane said Algeria reiterates its "position of principle in strong and unwavering support of the just cause of the Palestinian people and stands alongside the Palestinian brothers in these difficult circumstances."

"Algeria reiterates once again its support for the struggle of our brother Palestinian people for their inalienable and imprescriptible rights, and calls for the cancellation of all unjust measures against them."

It also condemns "the arbitrary occupation practices in al-Quds (Jerusalem), the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to the continuation of colonization and Judaization policies in al-Quds," Bladehane said.

He also stressed "Algeria's commitment to the Arab peace initiative, based on the principle of total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, in return for peace within the framework of international legality and UN Security Council resolutions, especially 242 and 338."

The Algerian official called on the countries participating in the meeting to "condemn, through international organizations and regional groups, the violations of the Israeli occupation

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authorities."

He also urged the participating countries to join forces to get regional and international organizations to "adopt a firm and clear position putting pressure on Israeli occupation authorities to end their threats and actions against the Palestinian people, to lift the unjust blockade imposed on the Palestinian territories and to resume, without conditions, peace negotiations."

Army's participation in peacekeeping missions fully in line with Algeria's foreign policy

ALGIERS - The proposal for the participation of the People's National Army in peacekeeping missions beyond national borders, included in the draft Constitution amendment, is "fully in line" with Algeria's foreign policy, *El Djeich* (The Army) magazine said in its latest issue.

"The proposal for the participation of the People's National Army in peacekeeping operations outside our national borders is in full conformity with our country's foreign policy, based on firm and immutable principles, namely the rejection of wars and promotion of peace, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the resolution of international conflicts and disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the international legality represented by international and regional organizations," *El Djeich* magazine stressed in its editorial.

"Our country's security, which transcends our national geographical borders, requires, in the light of the current regional situation and the changes it implies, the enhancement of the security and stability of our country."

"While participation in peacekeeping operations is not new to our country, it is likely to contribute to the establishment of peace and security, particularly in Africa, which is the scene of the highest number of conflicts in the world and hosts the greatest number of peacekeeping missions of the United Nations and the African Union, in countries shaken by conflicts and wars," *El Djeich's* editorial writer said.

"The building of a new Algeria, based on the popular will, in accordance with democratic principles, is certainly the content of the proposal for the amended version of the Constitution, which stipulates that the decision to send units from the people's National Army, beyond our borders, by the president of the Republic, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, requires the approval of two thirds of the two houses of Parliament to be ratified."

Bladehane attends emergency OIC Executive Committee meeting on Palestine

ALGIERS - Secretary of State for National Community and Experts Abroad, Rachid Bladehane will take part in a (virtual) emergency meeting of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Executive Committee, to be held Wednesday about the situation in Palestine, the ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

"The meeting will look at the latest developments in Palestine following Israeli occupation authorities' announcement of their scheme to annex Palestinian land under the American peace

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plan, known as the deal of the century," the statement said.

The meeting's works will wrap up by "the adoption of a resolution by which the member States reaffirm their support to the Palestinian issue and rejection of any unilateral action aimed at compromising the Palestinian people's inalienable right to an independent and sovereign State, with El Quds Esharif (East Jerusalem) as capital."