

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

30th August 2020

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DOMESTIC NEWS

President Tebboune chairs Council of Ministers meeting

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and minister of National Defense chaired Sunday a Council of Ministers meeting by videoconference discussing three draft orders.

The Council of Ministers meeting examined three draft orders relating to Justice, pharmaceutical industry and environment, in addition to a draft presidential decree on finance, the presidency of the Republic said in a statement.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Economic recovery: CNES to submit reports to President Tebboune this week

ALGIERS - The National Economic and Social Council (CNES), which has recently been tasked with the mission of intermediary between economic operators and the Government, will submit four reports this week on the current situation and the structural recovery of the national economy, the Council Chairman Rédha Tir announced Sunday in Algiers.

"Four CNES reports on the current situation as well as the goals and recommendations for a transformation and structural recovery of the economy will be submitted this week to the President of the Republic, who has exclusively seized the Council during the lockdown period," said Tir on Channel III of the National Radio.

Specifically, the reports relate to the national statistical information system, the cooperative system in agriculture, energy transition "from a behavioral point of view" and finally "Doing business".

The "Doing business" report focuses on all the "barriers" identified by the Council in terms of business environment in Algeria, he detailed.

The speaker also reported the transfer of the section related to doing business from the Ministry of Industry to the CNES, at the request of the latter.

The reports in question have mobilized more than 250 ministerial officials and about 20 Algerian executives established abroad among national figures, through video-conferencing and in "compliance with the rules of physical distance and health precautions in force."

While noting that the CNES has also been seized four times by the Prime Minister, the host of the radio said that the Council was working to achieve the economic goals set by the Head of State in the very short term (December 31, 2020 and 2021) as well as in the medium term (2022).

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EMS: First in Africa, Arab world and 16th worldwide

ALGIERS - The public operator Express mail service (EMS) is ranked, out of 198 countries, first in Africa and the Arab world and 16th worldwide, according to a recent report of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications announced Sunday in a statement.

Improving its position in the world rankings, the EMS is positioned, for the first time, first in Africa and the Arab world, as revealed in the latest UPU ranking, published on August 28th," the source said.

The express mail operator EMS continued its activity "effectively, locally and internationally" despite the Covid-19 pandemic, which allowed it to "move from 41st at the beginning of the year to 16th place at present, while it occupied the 158th position in 2016."

This is "the result of an effective strategy and enormous efforts to improve service delivery to clients," the trusteeship said.

The results achieved by the EMS, during the first half of 2020, have seen "a significant advance in all indices." According to the report released by the UPU, the postal service Champion Post Algeria "carried out 94% of parcel delivery operations within the time limit".

In addition, the EMS "handled 92% of the complaints and requests of customers and logistics partners around the world", an average calculated on systems designed by experts of the UPU.

AfCFTA: President Tebboune gives instructions to verify origin of goods

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune gave orders, in the Council of Ministers meeting he chaired Sunday, to verify the origin of the goods in circulation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), to come into force on 1 January 2021, the presidency of the Republic said in a statement.

"After ratification of the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the protocols thereto, in accordance with the strategic direction of our foreign policy, the president of the Republic provided guidance to the ministers concerned, under the supervision of the Prime Minister, to take advantage of Algeria's experience in free trade with the other regional groupings," the statement said.

President Tebboune stressed the need to verify the origin of goods in circulation in the free trade area, and whose integration rate should not be less than 50%, so that products made outside the African continent do not infiltrate the national market, to the detriment of local production.

This agreement, to enter into force on 1 January 2021, will enable economic operators to access African markets and take advantage of their country's efforts to strengthen African infrastructure, both through the Trans-Saharan Road, the upgrading of the railway network and El Hamdania Port project.

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El Hamdania Port project, in Tipaza (70-km west of Algiers), is expected to increase the volume of trade with the African continent outside hydrocarbons, and which does not exceed three percent now.

President Tebboune gives instructions to revive pharmaceutical industry in Algeria

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune gave a series of instructions for launching the pharmaceutical industry in Algeria, the presidency of the Republic said in a statement.

The president said the medicine market in Algeria must be adapted to the new economic approach, aimed at encouraging national production by preserving foreign currency and citizen's health, according to the presidency of the Republic's statement.

At the Council of Ministers meeting, the president of the Republic ordered "to provide the company Sidal with special support to enable it to regain its leadership in drug production, and recover its previous share of the national market."

Sidal's market share was around 30% before being reduced to 10%, due to manipulations in favour of importation.

President Tebboune gave instructions to give priority to increasing domestic production in drug manufacturing, and reduce the import bill by USD400 million by the end of 2020.

He also ordered to give prerogatives to the National Pharmaceutical Agency, which is under the ministry of Pharmaceutical Industry, to regulate and organize the market and develop the pharmaceutical industry.

The President of the Republic ordered to pave the way for young people and start-ups to get involved in the pharmaceutical industry and export their products, and to strengthen control in coordination with neighboring countries, especially in the south, against psychotropic and drug traffickers, used sometimes as a weapon to destabilize states.

ENVIRONMENT

President Tebboune orders to develop anti-pollution emergency plan in south

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, in the Council of Ministers meeting he chaired Sunday, instructed the deputy minister for Sahara Environment to go to the country's south to establish an emergency plan on the fight against pollution in archaeological and tourist sites and for the improvement of the sewage system, the presidency of the Republic said in a statement.

Following a presentation by the minister of the Environment on the sector's strategy to ensure a qualitative living environment as an absolute priority, the president of the Republic ordered to "re-launch the Green Dam project as a priority to combat desertification to the north."

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President Tebboune insisted on "giving a greater interest to the environment, to work in coordination with the civil society to beautify our cities and to instill environmental culture in children in schools, as the challenge of today has an educational and civilization dimension."

The president of the Republic also ordered to coordinate environmental protection policies with the various international programs, emphasize Algeria's role in the fight against greenhouse gas emissions and comply with international conventions.

The minister of the Environment also made a presentation on revitalizing and developing activities in the environmental sector, as part of a new economic and social approach.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

UN: Over 240 NGOs demand rapporteur on human rights in Sahrawi occupied territories

GENEVA - Over 240 Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) composing the Geneva Support Group for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Western Sahara on Saturday advocated the creation of a mandate of special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sahrawi occupied territories.

In a communiqué released on the occasion of the International Day for the Victims of Enforced Disappearances celebrated on 30 August each year, 245 NGOs urged the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to create "a mandate of special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Occupied Western Sahara."

They underlined the need to "very first Article of each of the four Geneva Conventions and to ensure that Morocco complies with the provisions of the said Convention under any circumstance in occupied Western Sahara," said the communiqué.

In this regard, the signatories called the International Red Crescent Committee (IRCC) to cooperate with the Polisario Front, the only legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people, in its search for the missing Sahrawis.

The Geneva Group NOGs also urged the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) to schedule "the examination of Morocco's compliance with the Convention."

"On 14 May 2013, Morocco had ratified the International Day for the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. However, the Kingdom of Morocco has still not submitted its initial report on this issue to the CED," recalled the NGOs.

Some hundreds of Sahrawis are missing, both militants and civilians, following the Moroccan military invasion of 1975 and Morocco's prolonged occupation of Western Sahara. Since October 31, 1975, the lowest estimates are around 1,000 cases, 80% of which occurred between 1975 and 1977, said the communiqué.