

## **Bilateral relations between Tunisia and China**

### **Political Relations:**

- January 10, 1964: Establishment of the diplomatic relations.
- April 20, 1964: Opening of the Chinese Embassy in Tunis.
- December 10, 1973: Opening of the Tunisian Embassy in Beijing.
- January 10, 2014: Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations.
- Political Concertation on regional and international issues of common interest, at the level of Foreign Ministers within the framework of the mechanism of coordination and mutual support in international bodies, including the General Assembly and the UN Security Council United.
- Friendly relations between the two Parliamentary Assemblies and diversity of visits between the members of the two institutions.
- Tunisia's constant support for the "One China" principle.
- The two countries advocate international relations based on dialogue, justice, solidarity and respect for international legality.

### **Exchanges of visits:**

The two countries have had several exchanges of visits by senior politicians:

#### **\* On the Tunisian side:**

- May 13-14, 2010: Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- June 1-5, 2010: Visit of the Minister of Tourism.
- June 18-25, 2010: Visit of the Minister of Culture.

- September 20-22, 2010: Visit of the Minister of Trade and Handcrafts.
- May 19-21, 2011: Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- April 6-18, 2012: Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- July 18-20, 2017: Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**\* On the Chinese side:**

- November 24-26, 2009: Visit of the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- June 17-18, 2010: Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- March 7, 2011: Visit of the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- April 20-23, 2011: Visit of the Vice Minister of Trade
- February28, until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012: Visit of the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012: Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
- January 4-6, 2017: Visit of the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
- February, 5-6, 2018: Visit of the Vice Minister of Trade

**Joint Committee:** The 8<sup>th</sup> session was held in Beijing on 5-6 July 2010

The 9<sup>th</sup> session was held in Tunis on 5-6 February 2018.

**Economic and Commercial Cooperation:**

- Persistence of an imbalance in the balance of trade to the detriment of Tunisia.
- Tunisian products exported to China are mainly DAP (Diammonium Phosphate whose exports to China resumed in 2001).
- Tunisian products exported to China are diversified: olive oil, electrical cables, marble, clothing, electronic batteries, automotive components, wine, mineral and leather waste.

- Products imported from China: tea, coffee, silk and cotton fabrics, fiber yarns, synthetic textiles, leather, packaging bags and sports equipment, electrical and electronic equipment,

**Balance of Trade** (Millions of dinars)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (10 mois)
Importations	57.9	131.4	67.2	104.6	55,5	61,910 079	3 697,3
Exportations	2048.3	2633.1	2491.1	3018.6	3318	3 905 837 957	59,1
	3%	%5	2.69%	%3	01%	01%	1,6

China is the 30<sup>th</sup> Tunisia's largest customer and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest supplier after France and Italy.

**Chinese investments in Tunisia:** Chinese Direct Investment in Tunisia, which represents 12.9 million TD, remains below the Tunisian aspirations and the real capacities of the Chinese economy. Ten Chinese companies are based in Tunisia operating primarily in the energy, manufacturing and communications technology sectors (offering 538 jobs).

**Technical Cooperation:** Infrastructure Projects:

Finalized projects:

\* The Medjerdah-Cap-Bon Canal: Funded and realized under the loan agreement signed on July 14, 1974. Final stage of realization in April 1989;

\* The Cultural and Sport Center of El Menzah 6: Funded and carried out under the Loan Agreement signed on October 23, 1984. Inauguration on July 25, 1990; the renovation of the Cultural and Sports Center was completed on September 14, 2017. The Center's "Reception and Remittance" ceremony was held on November 17, 2017.

\* The National Archives Building.

**Projects in progress:**

- CHU Sfax Project: the work started on April 20, 2017. The Head of Government attended the inauguration ceremony.
- Diplomatic Academy Project: the contract for Studies was signed on December 22, 2016.
- The Cultural and Sports Center for Young People Project in Ben Arous: the contract for the execution of the project was signed on December 15, 2017.