

UNCTAD: Tangier Med places Morocco among the great

Nearly a decade after the commissioning of its first port, the Tangier-Med port complex wrote a new page in Morocco's maritime history in 2019, to consecrate its place among the great maritime nations. Become a reality thanks to the enlightened vision of HM King Mohammed VI, this major infrastructure knew, at the end of last June, the launch of the port operations of Tanger-Med 2, to become the largest port complex in Africa and integrate the top 20 of the largest ports in the world. In fact, according to a study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Tangier-Med port has recorded the greatest increase in the world in terms of connectivity index to the ports since its entry into service in 2007. With an investment of 3.5 billion euros, the extension of the Tangier-Med port complex has tripled the total processing capacity of its container terminals, reaching 9 million twenty feet equivalent (TEU), against three million previously, said UNCTAD in its study on maritime transport for the year 2019. Tangier-Med's capacity, backed by a special development area covering 500 km², is supported by an extensive network of shipping lines. Tangier-Med is linked to 186 world ports in 77 countries, in addition to receiving 7 million travelers per year, which allows it to establish itself as a reference hub in the Mediterranean at the service of the competitiveness of African logistics corridors. By positioning itself, thanks to the visionary choice of HM King Mohammed VI, at the heart of world trade and at the crossroads of maritime routes, this multi-modal port structure allows access to the port of Rotterdam (Netherlands) in just three days. To the south, Tangier-Med serves 35 ports in 22 countries in West Africa every week, while North America can be reached in 10 days and China in just 20 days. The Tangier-Med port complex is made up of the Tangier-Med 1 port, which includes a container terminal with a nominal capacity of 3 million TEU, exceeded by more than 16% in 2018, and a passenger terminal which saw transit 2,8 million passengers the same year, in addition to the Tangier-Med 2 port, with a capacity of approximately 6 million TEUs, having required 9 years of work and which has 2,800 linear meters of quays and 160 hectares of medians entirely reclaimed from the sea. In view of these exceptional assets, this port platform, which includes industrial and logistics zones, has managed to attract 912 international companies in the automotive, aeronautics, textile, food and logistics sectors, with the key to the creation of more than 70,000 jobs and a global turnover of 7.3 billion euros during the last year. Indeed, large international companies and groups have chosen to settle in these areas, including Siemens, Delphi, Decathlon, Inditex, Mango, Corte Ingles, Renault, DHL, Daher, Valeo and many others. According to the group "A.P. Moeller Maersk", the parent company of APM Terminals, which manages two docks at the complex, Tangier-Med is among the most developed ports in which the group is active worldwide. Furthermore, the philosophy and vision behind this port complex have inspired many countries, in particular African countries which aspire to carve out a place on the map of world trade. To this end, at the first African Forum of ports, held last June in Tangier, it was decided, on the initiative of Tangier-Med, the creation of a specialized working group at the service of the competitiveness of the ports of continent. The group was tasked with promoting the exchange of experiences between port authorities and establishing strategic coordination on issues of common interest, including logistical complementarity between ports and land routes. Morocco, given its long maritime history and its desire to share the fruits of growth with Africa, in accordance with the values ??of South-South cooperation, aspires to make Tangier-Med a port platform serving the Africa and international trade, with a view to an economic boom benefiting the whole continent.