

## Senior Moroccan Delegation Biographies

---

### King Mohammed VI's Visit November 2013

#### Foreign Affairs



**Salaheddine Mezouar** is the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Mezouar has a distinguished career in politics and government service. In January 2010, Mezouar was elected president of the National Rally of Independents party and from 2011 served as a member of the House of Representatives. He previously held leadership posts in both the public and private sector, serving as Minister of Finance and the Economy (2007-2011) and as Minister of Industry, Trade, and Restructuring of the Economy (2004-2007).

Mezouar has also served as Special Adviser to the Office of Ports Operation, CEO of a private textile firm, President of the Moroccan Association of Textile and Clothing Industries, and President of the Textile and Leather Federation of the Confederation of Moroccan Businesses. Mezouar holds an Executive Management diploma from INSEAD (France), a higher diploma in business administration from Casablanca's Institut Supérieur de Commerce et d'Administration des Entreprises (ISCAE), a Doctorate in Economics from the Grenoble University of Social Sciences (France), and a Master's degree in Economic Science (development economics) from the same university.



**Mbarka Bouaida** is the Moroccan Minister-Delegate of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

A member of the Political Bureau of the National Rally of Independents, Mbarka Bouaida was the youngest member elected to the Moroccan Parliament (House of Representatives) to represent the Commune of Anfa in Casablanca in 2007. During the 2009-2010 session, Bouaida was the Chair of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, National Defense, and Religious Affairs after having served two years as Vice-Chair of the Finance and Economic Affairs Committee. She also represented Morocco in the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly. In June 2009, Bouaida was elected to the city council of Grand Casablanca. At

the international level, Bouaida was named "Young Global Leader" by the World Economic Forum in 2012, and since September 2011 has served as Vice-President of the International Parliamentary Forum for Democracy. She is also a member of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and "Munich Young Leaders" of the International Munich Conference on Security. Bouaida holds an MBA from Hull University (England), a Master's degree in Communication from the Université de Toulouse (France) and a diploma from the School of Management of Casablanca. Bouaida speaks Arabic, French, Spanish, and English.

## Strategic Dialogue/Security



**Mohamed Salah Tamek** is Wali, Chief of Staff for the Minister of Interior and Head of the Security Dialogue for the US-Morocco Strategic Dialogue.

Salah Tamek previously served as Wali for the Ministry of Interior's Central Administration, as Wali of the Oued-Ed-Dahab Lagouira region and Governor of the Oued Eddahab Province, and as Moroccan Ambassador to Norway. He began his career as a professor and researcher and holds a PhD in speech analysis.

## Human Rights/Human Development



**Driss el Yazami** is President of Morocco's National Human Rights Council, a position he has held since 2011.

El Yazami was previously a member of the Advisory Council on Human Rights (CCDH), a former member of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (Moroccan truth and reconciliation commission), and member of the board of the Three Cultures Foundation (Spain). He is the Director of Générique, an association specializing in the history of foreigners and immigration in France, and chief editor of the *Migrance* journal. El Yazami is former Vice-President of the French League of Human Rights (LDH), former Secretary General of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and former member of the Executive Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. Since 2004, he has been the President of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders and a member of the board of the Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration in France (Museum of Immigration History). El Yazami is a graduate of the Paris-based Centre de Formation et Perfectionnement des Journalistes.

## Religion and Culture



**Dr. Ahmed Abbadi** is Secretary-General of the Rabita Muhammadia of 'Ulamas (Muhammadan League of Scholars), a council of religious scholars established by King Mohammed VI.

Dr. Abbadi also heads committees within the US-Morocco Strategic Dialogue and Morocco's Higher Council of Education. He previously served as the Director of Islamic Affairs in the Moroccan Ministry of Islamic Affairs. Dr. Abbadi has also had a successful academic career

and teaches Comparative Religion and Islamic Thought at Qadi Ayyad University in Marrakech, from which he received his PhD in Islamic studies. He was also Fulbright Scholar in Residence at DePaul University and the University of Chicago. He is the author of numerous articles and books on Islamic thought and jurisprudence.



**Serge Berdugo** is Ambassador-at-Large for the Kingdom of Morocco, a post he has held since being appointed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI in 2006.

Berdugo is the President of the Jewish Community of Morocco. He previously served as Minister of Tourism. Berdugo is a fierce supporter of inter-faith dialogue and peace in the Middle-East, and has conducted research aimed at helping reconciliation between Israel and Palestine. He holds a degree in law.



**Assia Bensalah** is Ambassador-at-Large for the Kingdom of Morocco.

As a professor of International Law, Bensalah Alaoui serves on a variety of committees for Near-Eastern peace and on a number of boards of trustees of international organizations. She also previously served as co-President of the high-level advisory group established by the President of the European Commission on “Dialogue between Peoples and Cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean Area” (2002/2003). A world-renowned specialist in international economic law, she has written extensively on diverse topics as food security, the Maghreb and the Arab World, disarmament, and conflict prevention. She is the author of *Green Power and Red Peril* and *World Food Security*. She has been elected coordinator of the “Comité des Sages” of the association “Arc Latin.”

## **Economy and Business**



**Mohamed Boussaid** is Minister of Economy & Finance.

Boussaid obtained a degree of engineering from the “Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées -ENPC- Paris” (Industrial Engineering option) in 1986 and a “Master of Business Administration from the International School of Business, ENPC” in 2000. From 1986 to 1992, Mr. Boussaid was a consulting engineer at the “Banque Commerciale du Maroc.” He subsequently served as the deputy general manager of a company that produced and traded chemical products (1992-1994). From 1994 to 1995, he was in charge of the portfolio of the major enterprises directorate at the Banque Marocaine du Commerce et de l'Industrie (BMCI). Mr. Boussaid has also served from 1995 to 1998 as head of the office of the Minister of Public Works and head of the office of the Minister of Agriculture, Infrastructure, and Environment. From 1998 to 2001, he was the manager of programs and studies at the Ministry of Public Works before serving as Director of Public Institutions and Investments and as Director of Public Enterprises and

Privatization at the Ministry of Finance and Privatization between 2001-2004. In 2004, he was appointed Minister in charge of the Modernization of Public Sector and in October 2007, as Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts. In March 2010, Mr. Boussaid was appointed Wali of Souss-Massa-Draa, Governor of the Prefecture of Agadir Ida Outanane and Wali of the Grand Casablanca region, and subsequently as Governor of the Prefecture of Casablanca in May 2012.



**Moulay Hafid Elalamy is the Moroccan Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment, & the Digital Economy.**

An entrepreneur, Elalamy founded his own professional services company (finance, insurance, assistance, consumer credit), and serves as President of the Moroccan Federation of Insurance and Reinsurance Companies. He also launched two programs dedicated to promoting youth entrepreneurship and sustainable job creation. Elalamy has also worked as general director of ONA group and President of the General Confederation of Enterprises of Morocco. He returned to Morocco after working in Canada as the director of information systems for a Canadian insurance company and, previously, as a senior advisor to the Ministry of Finance of Quebec. He has a degree in information systems from the University of Sherbrooke (Canada). He is a member of the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity and is the Treasurer of the Lalla Salma Association for the prevention and treatment of cancers.



**Nizar Baraka is a Moroccan politician and economist and current President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Morocco (CESE).**

He has previously assumed the role of Minister of Economy and Finances (2012-2013) and Minister-Delegate of Economic and General Affairs (2007-2012). Baraka obtained a diploma in econometrics from the Mohammed V Faculty of Law of Rabat and then pursued a Doctorate at the University of Aix-Marseille.



**Mostafa Terrab is Chairman and CEO of OCP Group and an executive board member of La Banque Centrale Populaire SA.**

Terrab started his career with Bechtel Civil and Minerals Inc. as an analyst in transportation systems. From 1989 to 1993, he served as a consultant with Draper Laboratory. In 1995, he became secretary general of the executive secretariat of the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit. He served as director general of National Telecommunication Regulatory Agency before leading the World Bank's Information for Development program and serving as lead regulatory specialist from 2002 to 2006. He has been an assistant professor at MIT and at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York. Dr. Terrab received a master's degree and a PhD in operations research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an engineering diploma from the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées.



**Miriam Bensalah Chaqroun** is Executive Director of the Oulmes Water Company and President of Moroccan Confederation of Businesses (CGEM).

Bensalah Chaqroun obtained a diploma from the University of Paris-Dauphine before getting her MBA from the University of Dallas. She has been named one of Africa's "25 most influential women in business" by Jeune Afrique and one of the "50 most influential Africans" by The Africa Report.



**Abdessalam Ahizoune** is Chairman and CEO of Maroc Telecom.

Ahizoune previously served in various positions in telecommunications sector, including as Minister of Moroccan Agency of Post & Telecommunications (ONPT) and Director. Ahizoune is also President of the Moroccan Federation of Athletics, Vice-President of the General Confederation of Moroccan Businesses, President of Moroccan Association of Telecoms, and Administrator of the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity. He graduated from L'Ecole Supérieure des Télécommunications of Paris. He was named Knight of the Legion of Honor in France, and nominated as Executive of the Year in Telecommunications by the International Business Awards in 2011.



**Karim Hajji** is the CEO of the Casablanca Stock Exchange, the third largest exchange in Africa, and a member of the World Federation of Exchanges.

In 2011, Hajji joined the HOPE Global Board of Advisors and was appointed Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association of African French Speaking Exchanges. Prior to joining CSE in April 2009, he was Chairman and CEO of Atlas Capital Group, a well-respected, independent investment bank active in both corporate finance and asset management that he founded in 1999. Previously, after an 8-year international career at Eli Lilly and Co in the US, and then in Italy and Switzerland, in 1990 he had joined the ONA Group, Morocco's largest conglomerate, as Advisor to the Chairman. He then served as General Manager of an affiliate in Monaco and finally as Group CFO in 1994. Karim Hajji holds an MBA from New York University's Stern School, a diploma from "Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris" and a Master's degree in capital markets from the University of Paris-IX Dauphine.

---



**Saïd Ibrahimî Saïd** is CEO of the Moroccan Financial Board, the body in charge of institutional promotion and overall management of Casablanca Finance City.

Ibrahimî has a long career in the banking sector and has previously worked as General Director of the Caisse Nationale de Cr dit Agricole, General Director of the Moroccan Bank for Africa and the Middle East, and Treasurer of the Kingdom of Morocco, where he ran a modernization plan aiming to improve the quality and efficiency of the institution’s services. Ibrahimî was Vice-President of the Professional Association of Moroccan Banks until 2003. He holds a graduate diploma in industrial engineering from the Ecole Centrale de Paris.



**Mohamed El Kettani** serves as chairman and CEO of Attijariwafa Bank, leading bank group in Morocco.

El Kettani has a distinguished career in the banking sector, having previously worked as Director in Charge of Finance Banking and Investment at Attijariwafa Bank (fusion of BCM and Wafabank) and in various positions at the Moroccan Commercial Bank (BCM). He is a graduate of L’Ecole National Sup rieure de Techniques Avanc es (Paris). Kettani was awarded the Trophy of Public Diplomacy in 2011 for bolstering Morocco’s stature abroad.

## **Energy**



**Amina Benkhadra** is Director General of the National Office of Hydrocarbons and Mines.

Benkhadra is the former minister responsible for energy, mining, water and environment and was previously Secretary of State for the development of the mining sector (1997-1998). Dr. Benkhadra has a degree in civil engineering from the Mines de l’Ecole Nationale Sup rieure des Mines de Nancy and a PhD in engineering from the l’Ecole Nationale Sup rieure des Mines de Paris. She was the President of the Mineral Industry Federation for nine years until her tenure ended in 2009. She is a member of both the Bouregreg Association and the Moroccan Association for Research Development, and Vice President of the Association of Engineers for the Mines of Paris, Nancy, and St Etienne. In 2013, Jeune Afrique named her one of Africa’s “25 most influential women in business.”



**Mustapha Bakkoury** is President of Morocco's Agency for Solar Energy (MASEN) & President of PAM party.

He has been managing the implementation of the company and its development since December of 2009. Previously, Bakkoury served as Head of CDG (Caisse de Dépôt et de Gestion), the financial arm of the Moroccan government. Before that, he exercised different management positions in the bank sector, notably with BNP Paribas and BMCI, the related affiliate in Morocco. Bakkoury holds an engineering degree from the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (Paris, France).



**Ali Fassi-Fihri** is the Executive Director of ONEE, Morocco's National Water and Electricity Agency.

In this capacity, he works towards implementation of the royal vision for renewable energy with a goal of meeting 42% of Morocco's energy needs with renewable sources by 2020. Fassi-Fihri has a long and distinguished career in water and electricity, having previously served as Executive Director of the Office of Potable Water (ONEP), and as Executive Director, Deputy Director, and member of the Executive Committee of the National Office of Electricity (ONE). Fassi-Fihri also previously held the position of President of the Royal Moroccan Football Federation, CEO of the Center for the Development of Renewable Energies, Director General of SIGMA-Tech, and as a lecturer and researcher at the National School of Mineral Industry. In addition to his work, Fassi-Fihri is a member of several national and international bodies. He serves as President of the Moroccan Association of Drinking Water and Sanitation (AMPEA), Director of the Mohammed VI Institution for Environment, Governor of the World Water Council, and as an executive committee member of the International Water Association. Fassi-Fihri has a degree in Energy from Paris VII – Aix Marseille III.

## **Communications**



**Mustapha El Khalfi** is the Minister of Communications and Spokesperson of the Government.

El Khalfi has held the position of Minister of Communications and Spokesperson of the Government under PM Abdelilah Benkirane's government since January 2012. Formerly editor-in-chief of the Moroccan daily newspaper "ATTAJDID," Mustapha El Khalfi wrote prolifically on Moroccan politics, regional politics and political Islam. He was also a visiting scholar with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's Democracy Rule of Law project, where he analyzed political reform trends in the region and the changing role of Islamist movements and parties. El Khalfi has published more than 200 articles and reports for a number of newspapers and journals.