



TUNISIA

Southern Neighbourhood



Key milestones

- MARCH 1998**
Entry into force of the Association Agreement (signed in July 1995)
- MARCH 2014**
Signature of the EU-Tunisia Mobility Partnership
- SEPTEMBER 2016**
Adoption of the Joint Communication «Strengthened EU support for Tunisia»
- DECEMBER 2016**
Launch of the EU-Tunisia Youth Partnership
- NOVEMBER 2018**
Adoption of the EU-Tunisia Strategic Priorities 2018-2020 (extended as from 2021)
- JULY 2023**
Signature of the EU-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding on a Strategic and Global Partnership



EU-Tunisia Strategic Priorities



Inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development



Democracy, good governance and human rights



Bringing peoples closer together, mobility and migration



Security and the fight against terrorism



Trade & investment

- The EU is Tunisia's main trading partner. In 2022, EU share in Tunisia's total imports was **46%**, while the share of Tunisia's exports towards the EU was **70%**. EU imports in goods from Tunisia amounted to €12.5 billion and EU exports in goods to Tunisia amounted to €13.5 billion.
- In 2021, EU imports in services with Tunisia were worth €2.1 billion and EU exports in services amounted to €1.2 billion.
- In 2021, EU Foreign Direct Investments stocks in Tunisia amounted to €3.9 billion and Tunisia FDI stocks in the EU amounted to €900 million.



Mobility

Since 2021, **615 Tunisian students** and staff travelled to Europe and **229 European students** and staff travelled to Tunisia through Erasmus+, and **21 Tunisian students** benefitted of Erasmus Mundus grants in 2021 and 2022 to conduct Masters' degrees in Europe.



EU funding

- The **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument** – Global Europe (NDICI) is the main instrument for EU's cooperation with external partners, including Tunisia, since 2021. EU bilateral indicative allocation (grants) to Tunisia for 2021-2024 amounts to **€600 million** and are complemented by other regional and thematic programmes as well as funding in the forms of blending and guarantees to mobilize further investments through the European Financing Institutions, under the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+). In 2014-2020, the EU provided bilateral assistance to Tunisia mainly through the **European Neighbourhood Instrument** with over **€1.6 billion** (grants).
- Tunisia benefitted from three **Macro-Financial Assistance** operations (concessional loans) for a total of **€1.4 billion** since 2014.
- Since 2014, **migration**-related funding allocated to Tunisia under NDICI and through the North of Africa window of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, amounted to over **€255 million** to support fight against smugglers and human traffickers; border management; protection; legal migration schemes; socio-economic reintegration for Tunisian returnees from Europe and voluntary returns from Tunisia to countries of origin.
- Tunisia also benefits from **other EU thematic instruments** (civil society and human rights thematic programmes under NDICI, cross-border cooperation, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund etc.) and **programmes** (Creative Europe, Erasmus+, Horizon Europe) in 2021-2027.



EU response to the food security crisis

Tunisia benefited from additional €20 million through the EU **Food and Resilience Facility for the Southern Neighbours** announced in April 2022 to help Southern Neighbourhood partners cope with the consequences of Russia's aggression war in Ukraine on food products prices and availability. This amount was added to a new "Programme d'Appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire Durable" worth a total of **€25 million** with the Italian cooperation (AICS) and the World Food Programme to 1) support local cereal producers to reduce their production costs, 2) increase R&D for a more sustainable agricultural production and 3) improve nutrition in schools through the national school food programme. Furthermore, a food resilience programme worth €170 million with the European Investment Bank (EIB) has been adopted and will benefit the Office for Cereals for grain purchase, infrastructure modernisation and reform support.