

Western Sahara: Bulgaria Becomes 15th EU Country to Support Morocco's Autonomy Plan



Bulgaria has joined a chorus of countries who have endorsed Morocco's autonomy plan as a "credible and serious" solution for the regional dispute.

Rabat - Bulgaria has become the 15th European Union member state to support Morocco's Autonomy Plan as a serious and credible basis to end the dispute over Western Sahara.

Bulgaria's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mariya Gabriel announced her country's position during a meeting with Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs Nasser Bourita in Rabat today.

Addressing the Western Sahara issue, Gabriel conveyed Bulgaria's positive position regarding the Moroccan initiative, describing the

autonomy plan as a “good basis for a solution agreed upon by the parties.”

“We consider the autonomy plan presented in 2007 as a serious and credible effort by the Kingdom of Morocco” to solve the regional dispute, she stressed in a joint declaration.



The joint statement also expressed support for the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General Staffan de Mistura in his efforts to facilitate negotiations and advance the UN-led political process.

The meeting also marked a pivotal moment in bilateral relations between the two countries, aiming to strengthen cooperation and elevate the already robust ties between Bulgaria and Morocco.

Bourita emphasized the visit's importance, highlighting it as the first by a Bulgarian Foreign Minister in a decade and Gabriel's inaugural visit to Africa and the Arab world.

The Moroccan Foreign Minister described the relationship between the two countries as “deep-rooted and solid,” based on “friendship, dialogue,

solidarity, and cooperation."



In addition, he underlined Bulgaria's role as a key player in the stability of the Balkan region and its interactions with the European Union and neighboring countries, especially those bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

He also welcomed Bulgaria's position regarding Morocco's autonomy plan, saying that it is the 15th EU member state to endorse the initiative.

Both parties expressed their commitment to giving a fresh impetus to bilateral relations and transforming them into a genuine partnership by adapting the institutional framework. The focus areas identified for collaboration include food security, renewable energy, and cultural exchange.

In addition to the joint declaration, three crucial documents were signed to solidify cultural cooperation, youth engagement, and the cinematic domain. The agreements reflect the shared commitment to nurturing cultural ties and fostering people-to-people connections.

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