

Speech of Mrs. Zakia EL MIDAOUI, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Republic of Bulgaria, at the opening ceremony of the Moroccan Cultural Day at the Southwest University "Neofit Rilski (Blagoevgrad, 14th May, 2019)

The organization, today, of the Cultural Day of Morocco in Blagoevgrad, follows, at the same time, the visit that I made in October last year to Mrs. Hristina Shopova, the Deputy Mayor about my intention to organize a Moroccan Cultural Day in Blagoevgrad and also the visit I made to the South-West University "Neofit Rilski", where I was received by the Rector of the University, Professor Borislav Yurukov, the Dean of the Faculty of Law and History, Prof. Dr. Gabriela Belova, and Prof. Dr. Dobrinka Chankova, the Head of the Department of Public Law Sciences.

I am happy that this cultural Day of Morocco is taking place in your beautiful town, because this event represents a continuation of the academic cooperation between Morocco and Bulgaria, especially through your prestigious University and the Moroccan University "Ibn Tofail" in Kenitra.

In addition, the presence of the Moroccan Embassy in Blagoevgrad is justified by the fact that this attractive city illustrates the spirit of the Francophonie since it hosts every year the most prestigious festival of French music "The Francofolies", and it plays an important role in promoting the culture of Francophonie in Bulgaria and in the rest of the world.

Besides, in the context of its cultural policy, Morocco attaches particular importance to communication, cultural and intellectual interaction between nations and communities to strengthen understanding between different cultures, regardless of their race, ethnicity and their religion.

Moreover, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist him, attaches particular importance to the expansion of cultural industries and the promotion of the arts and creativity in Morocco. Our Sovereign is also a great advocate of strengthening cooperation between countries and peoples, with the aim of fostering dialogue and promoting peace, security and stability in the world.

The Embassy participates in various festivals and other cultural events organized in Bulgaria (music, handicrafts, traditional costumes, films, folklore, culinary art, etc...) to show the Moroccan culture. The Embassy also works to facilitate the participation of Bulgaria in the countless cultural events that are organized throughout the year in Morocco.

These are some of the reasons that rightly justify my being here with my Embassy team to show you a piece of the Moroccan culture. I thank you for your hospitality and for your warm welcome!

Long live Morocco! Long live Bulgaria!