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# **From Tunisia via Southern Africa up to the whole continent –**

## **Challenges for the EU's and African trade regimes to boost agricultural trade**

**Different degrees of integration: Maghreb/ Tunisia and SADC**  
**Implications for EU trade with Tunisia**  
Dr Bettina Rudloff, SWP, 20.11.19



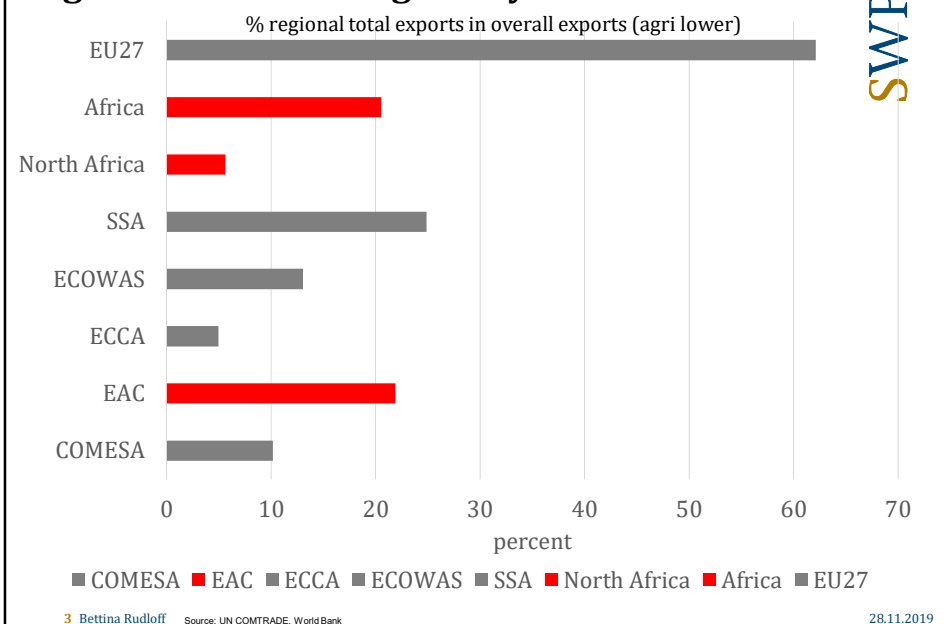
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik  
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- 1. Status of regional integration in Maghreb/Tunisia**
- 2. Hindering factors for more integration and liberalization**
- 3. Recommendations**
  - DCFTA EU-Tunisia
  - Regional and continental integration for Tunisia
  - AfCFTA in general

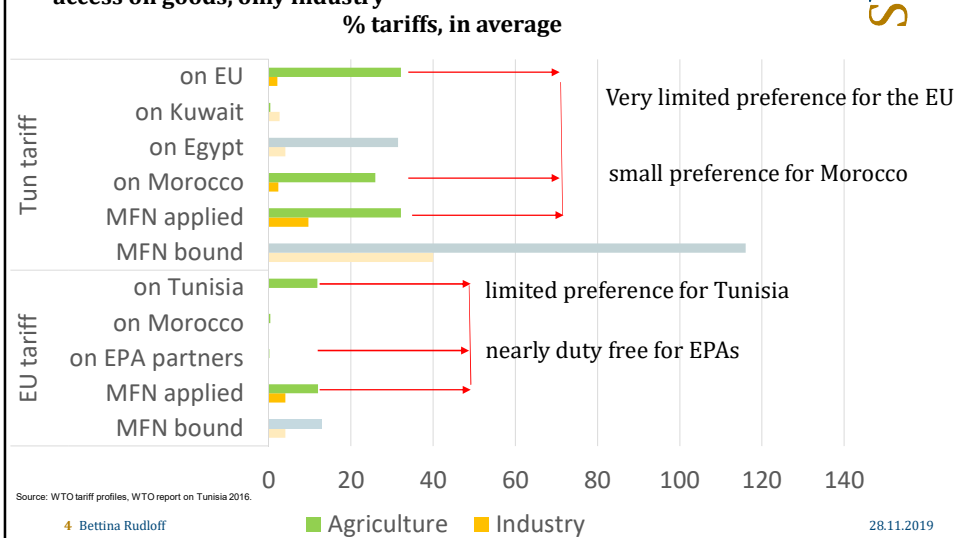
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## 1. Status: regional trade in North Africa and esp. in Maghreb is the lowest globally



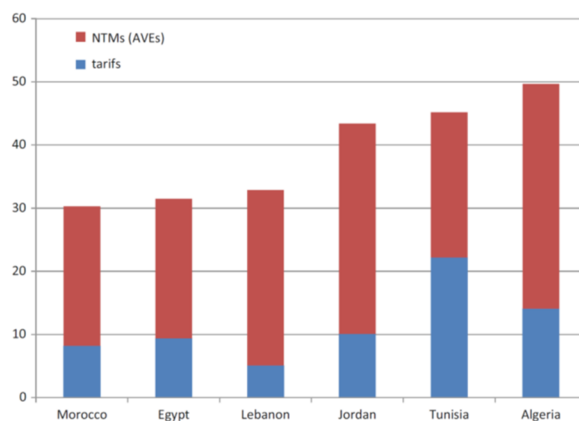
## 2. Hindering factors: Agricultural tariffs in North Africa still high

Current status EU-TUN in Association Agreement 1998: only market access on goods, only industry



## 2. Hindering factors: NTMs high

Standard pattern: standards of Med themselves high, (tariff equivalents, %)



Peridy, Ghoneim, Euro-Mediterranean Trade, Shallow versus deep integration, 2012, p. 26.

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## 2. Hindering factors: High political sensibility on liberalization

### ■ Maghreb integration

- Political tensions since start of formal integration

### ■ Current DCFTA –TUN negotiations since 2015 to update Association Agreement

#### — Tunisian criticism on process

- Claim of an EU -dominated negotiation procedure
- (Wrong) claim on missing impact assessments

#### — Tunisian criticism on substance

- Limited EU offer for market access for agriculture
- Local market risks for agriculture due to own market access
- „Acquis“ approach on NTMs as more than pure import standards

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### 3. Recommendations

#### Regarding the bilateral DCFTA EU-Tunisia

- (1) Market access for the politically relevant product olive oil: bottled and organic
- (2) Public debate on the existing impact assessments
- (3) Better communication and flexibility on acquis

#### Regarding regional integration North Africa

- (4) Support of AfCFTA as facilitator for regional Maghreb integration

#### Regarding North Africa as part of an AfCFTA

- (5) Support existing own initiatives vis à vis Africa like „Taste Tunisia“
- (6) Support participation of North African countries within existing EU- African for often focussing implicitly on SSA

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### 3. Recommendations

#### Regarding an AfCFTA generally

- (7) Future harmonization of current different schemes required
  - Liberalization: highest aim of AfCFTA as „push“?
  - AfCFTA: 90% market access in up to 15 years
  - EPA: 80% market access in up to 25 years
  - North Africa: 43% – 89% (TUN: 67%) in up to 12 years
  - Substantial coverage in newly EU negotiations higher: DCFTA, ESA-EPA
- (8) Consider compensation mechanisms for competition pressure within Africa
- (9) It's not market access alone!
  - Continue support on other trade-relevant policies
  - Monitor and support implementation of trade agreements

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# Thank you!

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