

COUNTRY PROFILE:**Mayotte****DATED:****OCTOBER 2011****CREDIT GUARANTEE:**

IES/02: ATTACHMENT A

<i>Export Department Comment/Opinion</i>	Rating: 1B, low exposure, low commitments. Fair u/w experience. No claims experience. (Euler Hermes: A ; Altradius:2/6 ; Coface: N/A) Sanctions: None
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Recent Political Highlights

- Mayotte is a department of France and the head of State is French President Nicolas Sarkozy who is represented by prefect Thomas Degos. Mr. Degos was appointed prefect in July 2011 after previously working in various positions for the French government.
- Mayotte officially became France's 101st department in March this year and the implications are that it will use the same laws as France and possess the same benefits (social, tax, civil) as mainland France. Mayotte is 95% Sunni Muslim and has an estimated population of 209,530. Overseas territories are EU citizens in principle, but they are not part of the EU or subject to EU laws. On January 1, 2014, Mayotte will officially become a European external region; the implications are that Mayotte will be a fully integral part of the EU. This change will hopefully lead to the economic and social development of the island.
- Protests have erupted in Mayotte over the high costs of living. The residents of Mayotte began striking on the 27th of September over the high prices of basic necessities, gas and construction materials. The strike has lasted three weeks.

Recent Economic Highlights

- Three major exports are ylang-ylang (mostly used in the production of perfume), vanilla and cinnamon.
- Agriculture, inclusive of fishing and livestock-raising contributes the most to the country's economy. France still provides significant economic support to Mayotte.
- The head of tourism in Mayotte is aiming to grow the industry through partnerships with the heads of Reunion, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Mauritius. During September the ministers of the "Vanilla Islands" launched a magazine aimed at promoting the islands as a group of tourism destinations. The remoteness of the country is a barrier to the development of local tourism.
- Two of the country's ports will host marinas constructed by Poralu Marine. This is the first time that the company will take its business into this territory. The department of tourism is investing in pontoon marinas as a result of the increased numbers of yachtsmen visiting the island.
- The French government is aiming to modernise the health system and have budgeted more than €50 million in recent years to invest in Mamoudzou Hospital. The government has also made investments in social housing and sanitation and has contributed €58 million towards building a second dock in Port de Longoni. Stimulus investments are ongoing and an Economic Development Fund was established this year with a budget of € 30 million to be utilised over three years.

Latest Trade Developments

- SA's exports to Mayotte in 2009 totaled R70.89m; in 2010 they were R38.8m; and R22.4m year to July 2011.
- SA's import from Mayotte in 2009 totaled R13k; in 2010 they were R16k; and R16k year to July 2011.

Researched and compiled by Nthabiseng Ntuli, economic services – Credit Guarantee Insurance