



## PRESS RELEASE

### **The CCME at the *Salon international de l'édition et du livre* (SIEL 2026) *A continuous presence at SIEL, a crossroads of Moroccan voices from the world***

From May 1st to May 10th, 2026, Rabat

Rabat, April 27th, 2026 - The Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME) is once again participating in the 31st International Book Fair (SIEL), held from May 1st to 10th, 2026 in Rabat. More than 120 guests from about ten countries – including, for the first time, Australia – will take part, illustrating the ever-expanding literary landscape of Moroccans around the world.

#### **Four key moments**

*Centenary of Driss Chraïbi:* 2026 marks the centenary of the birth of Driss Chraïbi, a founding figure of modern Moroccan literature and the first major Moroccan writer to have lived and published in France. The CCME, in partnership with Ms. Sheena Chraïbi and the author's family, is paying tribute to him through discussions and debates dedicated to his work, as well as the re-release, in partnership with Le Fennec publishing house, of a boxed set of seven major titles (*Le Passé simple; Les Boucs; Succession ouverte; La Civilisation, ma mère !; Une enquête au pays; La Mère du Printemps* and *Naissance à l'aube*).

Commemorative events are also planned throughout 2026 in Morocco and internationally, notably in Paris, Montpellier, Rabat, El Jadida, Oujda, and other cities.

*Tribute to Mohamed El Khatib:* The CCME pays tribute to the Franco-Moroccan playwright, director, visual artist, and filmmaker Mohamed El Khatib, renowned for his work that gives voice to social groups often marginalized in artistic spaces. In addition to several discussions with him, a retrospective of his documentaries is being organized at the Cinéma 7<sup>e</sup> Art in partnership with the Centre Cinématographique Marocain (CCM), the Moroccan Cinemathèque, and 2M TV. Finally, Mohamed El Khatib will give a performance reading of his play *Finir en beauté*, written after the death of his mother (May 7, Café la Scène, Renaissance Cinema, in partnership with the Hiba Foundation).

*In memory of Ahmed Ghazali:* In this edition, the CCME will pay tribute to the memory of Ahmed Ghazali, who passed away in 2024. A playwright, museologist, and humanist writer, he left behind a unique body of theatrical work imbued with themes of travel, migration, and intercultural dialogue. The CCME will publish a boxed set containing five of his plays (*Le mouton et la baleine; Traversées; Le ciel est trop bas; Mellah ou N'être que poussière; Tambouctou, 52 jours à dos de chameau*) and will organize a meeting with his family and colleagues to reflect on his life and legacy.

*The guests shape the program,* a new feature for this edition. The invited authors participate directly in developing the program. This collaborative approach has resulted in some twenty events stemming from proposals submitted by participants of previous CCME events at SIEL.

The CCME program at SIEL 2026 also includes the **Literary Café** and the **Pop-Up Bookstore**, which will offer more than two hundred titles on migration, memory, and contemporary creation, with a dedicated space for young readers.

As is its custom, the CCME is publishing numerous works for this occasion, including a reissue of six novels by the renowned writer Edmond Amran El Maleh, in partnership with the foundation that bears his name and perpetuates his work. Around twenty studies, novels, and collections, including translations into Arabic and a collection in Tifinagh, are being published in partnership with Moroccan publishing houses.

Finally, and for the third consecutive year, the CCME will be present in a joint pavilion with five other governing bodies: the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE); the National Authority for Probity, Prevention and the Fight Against Corruption (INPPLC); the Competition Council (CC); the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA); and the National Commission for the Control of Personal Data Protection (CNDP). A press conference is scheduled for Friday, May 1, at 11:00 a.m. at the pavilion, with the presidents of these institutions in attendance.

### **A Structuring Presence Since 2009**

Since 2009, the CCME has hosted over 1,000 authors, thinkers, and creators from Morocco and around the world at its booth at the SIEL (International Book Fair of Morocco), affirming its ongoing commitment to books and writing about and by immigrants. This presence helps to highlight the intellectual contributions of Moroccans living abroad and their role in understanding migratory transformations and the cultural influence of Morocco and their countries of residence.

It supports the development of literature stemming from emigration, in a continuity that connects pioneering figures - Driss Chraïbi, Mohammed Khair-Eddine, Abdellatif Laâbi, Tahar Ben Jelloun, Edmond Amran El Maleh, among others - to new generations of authors, often born into immigrant communities, whose works reflect multiple identities and intersecting affiliations.

This dynamic is also enriched by the rise of female voices, which occupy a central place in the immigration novel, exploring memory, identity and social transformations, alongside a now multilingual writing style (French, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Catalan, English, German), reflecting the global dimension of the Moroccan diaspora.

### **Press kit :**

- [CCME at SIEL 2026](#)
- [The Daily Programme](#)
- [Guests biographies](#)
- [Nighttimes \(films and staged reading\)](#)
- [Visuals](#)

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