



27 April 2015



Financing of electoral campaigns

a challenge for the electoral processes in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean

Tunis, 27 – 28 April 2015

Hotel Golden Tulip, avenue de la Promenade, 2078 La Marsa,

Programme

Towards a Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean

Funded
by the European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Implemented
by the Council of Europe

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Foreword

The 2014 Lisbon Forum (15-16 September 2014) focused on the electoral processes as key to successful democratic governance.

The objective was to identify the responsibilities, role and rights of each actor involved, whether institutional or not, whilst taking into account that parliaments, governments, local authorities and civil society in general play their role and contribute to the challenge of democracy.

The Lisbon Forum addressed the core features of the electoral processes through the debate on the role of each actor, the identification of main challenges to confront and priorities to retain.

At the end of the workshops, participants – representatives of the Southern Mediterranean countries as well as European and from other continents – underlined the importance of continuing the constructive dialogue initiated at the Forum, and expressed the desire to follow-up the conclusions in order to refine and deepen the reflections and identify concrete actions to be implemented at different levels of relevance. In this context, participants welcomed with satisfaction the invitation of Tunisia to host a follow-up meeting.

Thus, following an invitation from the Tunisian authorities, it was decided to hold a follow-up meeting on the 27-28 April 2015.

The legislative and presidential elections recently held in Tunisia and the proximity of upcoming local elections appear as valuable elements to nourish a reflection on the issue of democratic processes. It therefore seemed interesting to devote a part of each debate to the case of Tunisia, identify lessons learned from the recent elections and to engage in the preparation of local elections for which the question of participation and dialogue with citizens is particularly important.

Moreover, in the exchanges and reflections conducted at the 2014 Lisbon Forum, the question of financing of politics and the electoral processes in particular emerged as a priority which inevitably affects the application of real democratic governance requiring the participation of citizens and institutions at all levels.

The aim of this meeting will be to examine and develop the conclusions articulated at the Lisbon Forum and to formulate concrete proposals which respond to the requirements of a democratic, transparent and equal electoral process.

Programme

Monday 27 April 2015

9.30-11.00

Opening and Introduction

- **Mohamed EZZINE CHLEYFA**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Tunisian Republic
- **Jean-Marie HEYDT**, President of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
- **Lora BORISSOVA**, Democracy and Election observation, European External Action Service (EEAS), European Union

General Introduction

Prof Alessandro NAI

University of Geneva and University of Lausanne
Senior Research Fellow and Project Manager « The Electoral Integrity Project » University of Sydney

Exchange of views with the public

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

11.30-13.30

Politics and Financing: a permanent challenge for democracy upheld by all: the Institutions, political parties, civil society...

Chairperson: **Jean-Marie HEYDT**, President of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Speakers:

- **Richard GHEVONTIAN**, Member of the Venice Commission, Aix-Marseille University, France
- **Andreas GROSS**, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Head of the PACE delegation for the observation of 2014 legislative elections in Tunisia, former Chair of the Council of democratic elections (Venice Commission)
- **Lamiaa KALAWI**, Regional Coordinator – Middle East and North Africa Region, Transparency International
- **Dr. Mohammad AL-MASALHAH**, Commissioner, Independent Election Commission, Amman - Jordan
- **Isabel MENCHON LOPEZ**, Focal point for Human Rights defenders & for Election Observation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain
- **Dr Quentin REED**, Anti-corruption/ Governance Consultant

13.30-15.00

Lunch

15.00-17.30

The Tunisian experience

Chairperson: Soufiene TOUBEL, President of the Committee on Administrative Reform, Good Governance, Fight against Corruption, Finance and Public Money Control, National Parliament of Tunisia (ARP)

Speakers:

- **Samir ANNABI**, President of ANTICOR – Fight against Corruption, Tunisia
- **Achraf AOUADI**, President Founder, IWATCH, Tunisia
- **Fadhila GARGOURI**, Judge and President of Chamber, Court of Auditors of Tunisia
- **Mohamed Chafik SARSAR**, President of the Supreme Independent Electoral Authority (SIEA), Tunisia
-

16.00-16.30

Coffee break

16.30-17.30

Exchange of views (continuation)

Conclusions by the Rapporteur, Antonella CAGNOLATI, Co-ordinator of the meeting, General co-ordinator of the Lisbon Forum 2013 and 2014

Tuesday 28 April 2015

9.30-11.30

A crucial step in the democratic construction: territorial elections. What are the main challenges for finance related issues?

Chairperson: Marie-Madeleine MIALOT MULLER, Member of the Congress of Local & Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Vice-President of the Region Centre, France

Speakers:

- **Neji BACCOUCHE**, Professor, Faculty of Law, Sfax
- **Mohammed el HALAISSI** Vice President of the Urban Community of Agadir, Morocco
- **Sabrine GHoubantini**, Member of the Committee on Internal regulations, Immunity, Parliamentary and Electoral Laws, National Parliament of Tunisia (ARP)
- **Nicolas KACZOROWSKI**, IFES, Country Director, Tunisia
- **Mohamed Chafik SARSAR**, President of the Supreme Independent Electoral Authority (SIEA), Tunisia
- Representative of ATIDE (Tunisian Association for integrity and electoral democracy)

11.30-12.00

Coffee break

12.00-13.00

Conclusions and closing

Chairperson: Jean-Marie HEYDT, President of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

- **Soubayr BELHASSEN**, Honorary President of the International Federation for Human Rights (Tunisia), North-South Prize 2011 Winner (tbc)
- **Presentation of the conclusions**

Jean-Marie HEYDT, President of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Exchange of views

