

## Strengthening democratic reform in the Southern Neighbourhood

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### FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - Paris, 5 February 2013

#### Operational conclusions

The partners of the programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the Southern Neighbourhood” (South programme), gathering within the framework of the First Steering Committee meeting (agenda and list of participants in Appendix), have adopted the following operational conclusions:

1. Progress has been made during the first year of implementation of the programme in respect of Components 1 – Reform of the judiciary, 2 – Promotion of good governance and 4 - Promotion of democratic values. As regards Component 3 – Human rights/preventing trafficking in human beings, the bases of future interventions have been consolidated, at least in Morocco. Progress has been imbalanced in the different beneficiary countries. The results of the programme are expected to be more visible in 2013, namely in Tunisia. Likewise, it is expected that the South programme will receive a new impetus in all participating countries.

2. With regard to the programme’s outreach, the Steering Committee has confirmed:

- From a thematic viewpoint:

The possibility to launch, in 2013, an action within the framework of Component 3 – Human rights/preventing trafficking in human beings in Tunisia, in partnership with other actors (chiefly the IOM, which coordinates the “Share<sup>1</sup>” programme) ;

- From a geographic viewpoint :

The programme’s potential to reach out to/consolidate itself in other countries of the region. Special focus will be put on strengthening the programme’s regional dimension including for Components 1 – Reform of the judiciary, 2 – Promotion of good governance and 3 – Human rights/preventing trafficking in human beings.

The full development of the regional dimension is contingent upon the strengthening of South-South co-operation, starting with exchanges of experience.

3. The beneficiaries of the South programme « own » the proposed actions and they deploy the necessary means to ensure sustainable results. In order to secure that, the support and co-operation by national authorities is indispensable as well as efficient communication between the authorities, the Council of Europe and the European Union.

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<sup>1</sup> Support and transfer of assistance mechanisms, orientation and exchanges of experience in the field of trafficking in human beings.

4. In order to foster the programme's regional character, its ownership by the beneficiary countries and its sustainability, the appointment of a contact person in each beneficiary country of the region is indispensable. The national authorities are invited to designate such contact persons, as it has been agreed on the occasion of the programme's kick-off meeting of 7 September 2012.

5. Three major challenges have been identified for the programme's coordination:

- the need to ensure the coherence of the Programme's actions both within each component and between components;
- the need to ensure complementarity with the actions of other donors;
- the need to plan and implement actions as part of a holistic approach.

6. It is indispensable to involve more closely civil society in the programme's activities owing to the latter's key role in the process of democratic reform taking place in the beneficiary countries. However, this is a major challenge. Special effort will be made in order to associate civil society in the activities of the South Programme as well as in the Steering Committee meetings.

7. Greater visibility should be ensured to the South Programme, by keeping on using the existing tools and by proposing new ones, such as translation and distribution of guidelines (like those of CEPEJ) and other documents in the languages of the region.

8. The Steering Committee approves the main orientations and the activities for 2013-2014, as discussed during the meeting. However, the programme has a flexible character, it is being implemented through actions aimed at meeting the needs of the beneficiary countries, it will be able to take into account additional requests, and it relies on constant communication with the countries of the region.

9. The partners undertake to implement the recommendations by the Steering Committee in their respective areas of work.

## APPENDIX I

### AGENDA

- 9.00 – 9.15 Welcome of participants
- 9.15 – 11.30 Introductory remarks  
*Verena Taylor, Director of Programmes (CoE)*  
*Kristin de Peyron, Head of Division of Multilateral Relations, EEAS VI.B.3 (EU)*  
*Karima Kabbaj, National focal point (Morocco) - (excused)*  
*Mohamed Selim Hammami, National focal point (Tunisia)*
- Developments in the Policy of the CoE towards neighbouring regions  
*Zoltán Taubner, Director of External Relations (CoE)*
- Overview of the workplan and results for the period under review (2012), including future activities (2013-2014)  
Components Justice and Anti-corruption  
*Chair: Verena Taylor, Director of Programmes (CoE)*
- Speakers:*  
*Stéphane Leyenberger, Guillaume Parent (CoE)*  
*Najia Rahali, Ministry of Justice and Liberties (Morocco)*  
*Abdesselam Abouddrar, ICPC (Morocco)*  
*Nizar Najjar, Ministry of Justice (Tunisia)*  
*Samir Annabi, Instance Nationale de Lutte contre la corruption (Tunisia)*
- Debate
- 11.30 – 11.45 *Coffee break*
- 11.45 – 12.30 Overview of the workplan and results for the period under review (2012), including future activities (2013-2014)  
Component Human rights – Preventing trafficking in human beings  
*Chair: Kristin de Peyron, Head of Division of Multilateral Relations, EEAS VI.B.3 (EU)*
- Speakers :*  
*Elda Moreno, Head of Department (CoE)*  
*Abderrazak Rouwane, Secretary General of the Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights (Morocco)*
- Debate
- 12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch*

- 14.00 – 15.30 Overview of the workplan and results for the period under review (2012), including future activities (2013-2014)  
Component Democratic values  
*Co-Chairs : Pilar Morales, Head of Division (CoE) and Alberto Cortezón Gómez, Head of Sector (DEVCO)*
- Speakers :*  
*Serguei Kouznetsov (Venise Commission); Alessandro Mancini (PACE); Michael Remmert (Responsible for the CoE Network of Schools of Political Studies); Rui Gomes (Youth Department of the CoE) ; Patrick Penninckx (Pompidou Group)*
- Azzedine Chraibi (House of Representatives, Morocco)*  
*Abdelouahid Khouja (House of Counsellors, Morocco)*  
*Youssef Laaraj (School of Political Studies, Morocco)*  
*Ahmed Driss (School of Political Studies, Tunisia)*
- Debate
- 15.30 – 16.00 Further discussion on ‘performance issues’  
Review of risks/assumptions and management actions taken  
Visibility issues  
Complementarity between the South Programme activities and other CoE bilateral programmes  
*Giovanni Battista Celiento, South Programme Coordinator (CoE)*  
*Hristo Ivanov Hristov, Programme Manager (DEVCO)*
- 16.00 – 16.30 Conclusions of the meeting  
*Pilar Morales, Head of Division (CoE)*

## APPENDIX II

### List of participants

#### Partner countries

##### Morocco

**Ms Najia Rahali**, Director of Studies, Co-operation and Modernisation, Ministry of Justice and Liberties

**Mr Abdesselam Abouddrar**, President of the Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption

**Mr Abderrazak Rouwane**, Secretary General of the Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights

**Mr Azzedine Chraïbi**, Head of Cabinet of the President of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Morocco

**Mr Abdelouahid Khouja**, Secretary General of the House of Counsellors, Parliament of Morocco

**Mr Youssef Laaraj**, Director of the Moroccan School of Political Studies

**Mr Gaouane Mohamed El Mahdi**, Political Counsellor, Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in France

##### Tunisia

**Mr Mohamed Selim Hammami**, Director of Relations with the European Union, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Mr Nizar Najjar**, Magistrate in charge of co-operation, Ministry of Justice

**Mr Samir Annabi**, President of the National Authority against Corruption

**Mr Ahmed Driss**, Director of the Tunisian School of Political Studies

##### Jordan

**Ms Hala Al-Fawwaz**, Diplomatic Attaché, Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amman

##### Israel

**Ms Talia Ben Melech**, Permanent Delegation of Israel to the International Organisations, Embassy of Israel, Paris

##### Palestinian National Authority

**Mr Mazen Jadallah**, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Institutional Affairs, Ramallah

#### European Union

##### EEAS

**Ms Kristin de Peyron**, Head of Division of Multilateral Relations - VI.B.3, Brussels

**Ms Cristiana Famea**, Relations with the Council of Europe, Division of Multilateral Relations, Brussels

**Ms Katerina Markovova**, Deputy to the Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg

**Mr Louis Dey**, Delegation of the European Union to Morocco

## **DEVCO**

**Mr Alberto Cortezón Gómez**, Head of Sector, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, Brussels

**Mr Hristo Ivanov Hristov**, Programme Manager, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, Brussels

## **Council of Europe**

### **Office of the Director General of Programmes**

**Ms Verena Taylor**, Director of Programmes

**Ms Pilar Morales**, Head of Division, Strategic Programming and Resource Mobilisation

**Mr Giovanni Battista Celiento**, South Programme Coordinator

**Mr William Massolin**, Coordinator of CoE activities in Tunisia

**Mr Mehdi Remili**, Coordinator of CoE activities in Morocco

**Ms Gaia Manselli**, Coordination Team

### **Directorate of External Relations**

**Mr Zoltán Taubner**, Director of External Relations

**Mr Jean-Charles De Cordes**, Programme Coordinator, Liaison Office of the Council of Europe in Brussels

### **Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law**

**Mr Patrick Penninckx**, Executive Secretary, Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group)

**Ms Elda Moreno**, Head of Department of Gender Equality and Human Dignity

**Mr Serguei Kouznetsov**, Head of Neighbourhood Co-operation Division, Secretariat of the Enlarged Agreement on Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)

**Mr Stéphane Leyenberger**, Head of Unit, Independence and Efficiency of Justice

**Ms Muriel Décot**, Administrator, Independence and Efficiency of Justice

**Ms Clementina Barbaro**, Project Coordinator, Independence and Efficiency of Justice

**Mr Guillaume Parent**, Project Coordinator, Unit for Economic Crime

### **Directorate General of Democracy**

**Mr Rui Gomes**, Head of Division, Education and Training, Youth Department

### **Directorate of Policy Planning**

**Mr Michael Remmert**, Deputy to the Director, Directorate of Policy Planning, Responsible for the CoE Network of the Schools of Political Studies

### **Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

**Mr Alessandro Mancini**, Deputy to the Head of the Secretariat, Parliamentary Projects Support Division