

## Editorial

number 4, June 2014

### Lisbon Forum 2014 (15-16 September 2014)



The Lisbon Forum 2014, organised by the North-South Centre, will be held on 15 and 16 September 2014 at the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon. It will be devoted to “Electoral process and democratic consolidation

in the countries of the southern Mediterranean”, and co-chaired by Bernardino León, EU Special Representative for Southern Mediterranean, Special Envoy for Libya, as well as by a high-level representative of Tunisia.

The Lisbon Forum 2014, building on conclusions from recent editions of the Forum, will offer an opportunity to exchange with respect to elections, on the importance of democratic awareness of voters, candidates and of all other actors of electoral processes (associations, political parties, media, etc.). Recommendations for all actors of governance will also be formulated, as a result of debates, lectures, exchanges with the public, elected representatives, citizens, on key issues and successful experiences in the region and in other parts of the world.

Discussions held within the Forum will focus on issues of particular importance to the electoral process, such as the financing of political parties and election campaigns. In this context, the issue of ethics, the need to establish codes and rules to be respected by institutions, candidates, parties and by the citizens themselves will also be addressed. Moreover, the observation of elections by civil society organisations in the country concerned, an important channel for active citizenship and for stimulating awareness of the importance of this process, will also be debated.

The 2014 Forum will involve a large number of partners, including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Venice Commission, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs). Partners such as the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) will also contribute to the success of this event.

The opportunity for the countries of the southern Mediterranean to exchange relevant experiences and good practice will be further enhanced through the participation of representatives from other continents (including Central Asia – neighbouring countries of the Council of Europe – and Latin America).

## FOCUS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

### Study visit to GRECO and MONEYVAL (Strasbourg, 12-13 June 2014)



On 12 and 13 June 2014, a study visit for a Tunisian delegation took place in Strasbourg, in order to present the methodologies of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money

Laundering Measures (MONEYVAL). The visit aimed at providing support to the development of the capacities to implement European standards in the field of good governance.

Many topics were discussed, including the funding of political parties, money laundering and the financing of non-profit organisations.

A number of Council of Europe (CoE) organs – including the Venice Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities – presented the standards in the fight against corruption, developed and promoted by the CoE.

Several Tunisian institutions active in the field of the fight against corruption were represented, including the Secretariat of State for Governance, the National Agency of fight against corruption (INLUCC), the National Constituent Assembly and the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Transitional Justice as well as the Ministry of Interior.

The visit was also the occasion to present the assessment of the legal and institutional anti-corruption framework carried out in Morocco.

### International Conference on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings “Diverse responses to a multifaceted phenomenon” (Tunis, 15-16 April 2014)



An International Conference on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings “Diverse responses to a multifaceted phenomenon” took place on 15 and 16 April 2014 in Tunis.

About one hundred participants attended this event including high officials from countries of the region, public institutions, international organisations, Parliaments, professional networks and civil society such as the media, trade unions and universities.

This meeting examined the situation and the challenges specific to North Africa by discussing different mechanisms, standards, good practices and difficulties around the “4Ps”: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership, through relevant practical experiences.

This event was organised by the CoE and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Transitional Justice.

## ► FOCUS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

### Visits of the Deputy Secretary General to Jordan (2-4 April 2014) and Tunisia (28-29 April 2014)

The Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, visited Jordan (2-4 April 2014) and Tunisia (28-29 April 2014). She met representatives of the government of these two countries, high representatives of national authorities and senior officials.

These meetings are in line with the same objectives of the visit carried out in Morocco in March 2014: the strengthening of the political dialogue with these countries, the assessment of the implementation of the first framework documents for co-operation with the neighbourhood, and the exchanges of views on the main priorities and objectives of future neighbourhood and partnership documents for the period 2015-2017, including an enhanced political dialogue.

### Seminar on “The functioning of the parliamentary system: The roles of the opposition and the majority” (Rabat, 19 June 2014)



On 19 June 2014, a seminar on “The functioning of the parliamentary system: The roles of the opposition and the majority” was organised in Rabat by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) at the invitation of the Parliament of Morocco.

On this occasion, Moroccan Parliamentarians and members of the PACE exchanged on the role of the opposition and of the majority in a democratic parliamentary system through a presentation of various European legal frameworks and practices and their possible relevance to the Moroccan Parliament.

This seminar brought together members of both Chambers of the Moroccan Parliament (Chamber of Representatives and Chamber of Councillors), members of the PACE and an expert from the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

### 13<sup>th</sup> training session of collaborators of the Mediators (Ombudsmen) members of the AOMF (Rabat, 27-29 May 2014)

The Venice Commission contributed to the training session organised by the President of AOMF (“Association des Ombudsmans Médiateurs de la Francophonie”) and the Mediator Institution of the Kingdom of Morocco, which took place in Rabat from 27 to 29 May 2014. The theme of this session was “Self-referral: methods and impact”.

This activity is part of the series of trainings for the Institution collaborators, organised with the support of the South Programme, which has already offered seminars on “Processing of complaints and means of intervention by Mediators and Ombudsmen” (9-11 April 2013) and “The role of Ombudsman institutions in the simplification of administrative procedures and access to public services” (22-24 October 2013).



#### VENICE COMMISSION

The European Commission for Democracy through Law – better known as the Venice Commission, for its meeting place – is an advisory body of the Council of Europe on constitutional issues.

The mission of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe is to provide legal advice to its Member States, to assist them in aligning their legal and institutional structures and to provide an “emergency constitutional aid” to states in transition.

Under the South Programme, it has provided support on many occasions to the countries of the Southern Neighbourhood.

Among others, it has helped Morocco to set up the bodies foreseen under the revised Constitution in 2011 and to elaborate two draft organic laws in the field of justice. The Venice Commission has also worked together with the Ombudsman Institution in order to strengthen the staff capacities through annual trainings.

In the framework of the South Programme, it has helped Tunisia to strengthen the capacities of the National Constituent Assembly on the drafting of the new Constitution, in particular through the organisation of a study visit to the Council Europe and to the Supreme Federal Court and the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany.

In order to promote an exchange of views and experiences between the southern Mediterranean countries, two workshops on intercultural democracy were held in Marrakech in March 2012 and in May 2013 on constitutional issues, thus contributing to the improvement of constitutional practices in the region.

Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood

## ► FOCUS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

### 5<sup>th</sup> visit of CEPEJ experts to Morocco (26-29 May 2014) and Tunisia (26-28 May 2014)

Two delegations of experts of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) were on a mission to Morocco (26-29 May 2014) and Tunisia (26-28 May 2014).

In Morocco, the experts discussed with the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms the launching of satisfaction surveys and the training programme for CEPEJ Moroccan trainers held in Morocco in November 2013, in co-operation with the High Institute of the Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms.



The setting-up of simplified notification procedures and of procedures to improve the efficiency in the enforcement of decisions of the administrative courts was also discussed.

The update of the statistical data provided by the Moroccan authorities concerning the functioning of the judicial system was also on the agenda of the visit.

In Tunisia, CEPEJ organised a training session for magistrates and lawyers on “Alternatives to proceedings and negotiated procedures”.



The mission was also the occasion for the CEPEJ experts to take stock of the ongoing co-operation activities by meeting representatives from the National Order of Tunisian Lawyers and from the CEPEJ pilot courts (Court of Cassation, First Instance Courts of Tunis and Zaghouan and the District Court of Zaghouan).

An exchange of views with the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Transitional Justice of Tunisia, Mr Hafedh Ben Salah, took also place.

### Summer Academy to promote the sharing of experiences between the Moroccan, Tunisian and Bulgarian Schools of Political Studies (Sofia, 4-8 June 2014)

The Summer Academy for strengthening democracy through cultural diplomacy, organised by the Bulgarian School of Politics, took place in Sofia from 4 to 8 June 2014. The topics covered, among others, the European Union foreign policy, the role of public opinion in the political process, the representation of women in institutions, and the relation between new information technologies and democracy. For the Moroccan, Tunisian and Bulgarian schools' participants, this event was an opportunity to share their experiences, their expertise and ideas. These exchanges will contribute to improving the skills and knowledge of the participants and enable them to adopt best practices in the field of democratic development.

Representatives from these Schools also participated in the First International Alumni Seminar of the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies (Strasbourg, 19 and 20 June 2014) on the theme « Harnessing young people's potential for building a democratic future». The seminar, which brought together tens of alumni from different schools, anticipates the next World Democracy Forum whose theme will focus on the democratic participation of young people.

### National Seminar on democratic participation of young people from Algeria and Tunisia: “Policies and Practices of Democratic Youth Participation” (Hammamet, 5-9 June 2014)



A national consolidation seminar for training of trainers and facilitators to promote democratic youth participation in Algeria and Tunisia on “Policies and Practices of Democratic Youth Participation” was organised in Hammamet from 6 to 9 June 2014.

This event was organised on the occasion of the 2nd edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship of the North-South Centre. The seminar was intended primarily for participants in the training of trainers held in Rabat in April 2013 in framework of the South Programme.

It had for objective to present an overview of the situation and to present the projects and opportunities for these two countries through an exchange of knowledge on this theme.

The sharing and the development of initiatives from youth leaders, trainers and NGOs involved in democratic youth participation in Tunisia and Algeria were also discussed.

A second seminar for Moroccan youth trainers and leaders will be held in Morocco from 25 to 28 June 2014.

Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood

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## ► FOCUS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

### Regional conference on freedom of religion or belief in the Middle East and the Southern Mediterranean (Athens, 7 May 2014)



A regional conference on “Freedom of religion or belief in the Middle East and the Southern Mediterranean” was held on 7 May 2014 in Athens.

This conference was organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in co-operation with the Hellenic Parliament, within the framework of the South Programme.

It brought together many personalities, including the President of the PACE and the Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament, the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of Greece, religious leaders and academics, as well as representatives of the Parliaments of Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, of the National

Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, and of the Palestinian National Council as well as representatives from Egypt.

This event allowed different actors to engage in an open discussion on the issue of freedom of religion or belief, referring in particular to the situation of Christian minorities in the region and emphasizing the importance of strengthening interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

### Visit by a delegation of the Human Rights Committee of the League of Arab States to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 5-7 May 2014)



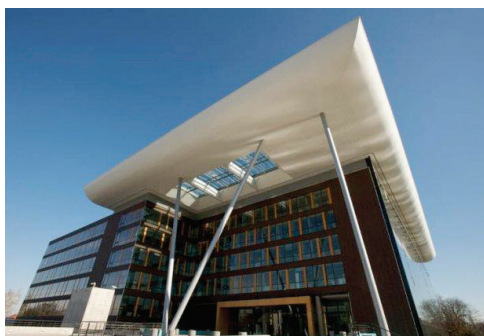
A visit of representatives of the Human Rights Committee of the League of Arab States was organised from 5 to 7 May 2014 with the support of the South Programme.

This event was an opportunity for them to learn more about Council of Europe (CoE) tools and become familiar with specific bodies and instruments in areas such as democracy and human rights, as well as deepen their knowledge of the structure and functioning of the European Court of Human Rights.

The programme of the visit included a presentation of different bodies of the CoE, a presentation of the South Programme and

CoE conventions in the fields of corruption, the fight against trafficking in human beings and women and children's rights. A presentation of specific tools of the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe (DGI) and of the Venice Commission was also given.

### Meeting of the Steering group of the SATURN Centre for judicial time management (Strasbourg, 10-11 April 2014)



The Steering Group of the SATURN Centre (Study and Analysis of judicial Time Use Research Network) for judicial time management met in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 April 2014, to examine the comments and implementation examples of the guidelines for judicial time management as well as the definition of targets for judicial timeframes.

Representatives of the Ministry of Justice of Jordan assisted to this meeting, in the framework of the Joint Programme entitled “Support to the Jordanian authorities in improving the quality and efficiency of the Jordanian justice system” as well as representatives from the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms of Morocco, in the framework of the South Programme.

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## ► FOCUS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME / TO COME UP

**Presentation of key Council of Europe Conventions (Jerusalem, 7-8 July 2014)**

On 7 and 8 July 2014, the Council of Europe will organise a seminar in Jerusalem, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to present to the Israeli authorities several key conventions of the Organisation open to non-member states.

The Conventions that will be presented to participants will cover many fields of action of the Council of Europe, including trafficking in human beings, children's rights, the fight against violence against women and children, the adoption and contact concerning children, the fight against corruption, the protection of personal data, the counterfeiting of medical products (MEDICRIME), the fight against money laundering and the fight against terrorism.

**Prevention of addictions seminar (Tunis, 26 juin 2014)**

In the framework of the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a prevention of addictions seminar entitled "From craving to the treatment of opioid substitution" will be held on 26 June 2014 in Tunis, with the support of the South programme.

About 120 people, bringing together the first class of Tunisian addictologists as well as psychiatrists, prison doctors, toxicologists, infectious diseases specialists and other members of civil society, will attend this event.

This event will be organised around a number of themes, including substitution treatment, female alcoholism and craving<sup>1</sup>.

It will be also the occasion for the future practitioners enrolled in the certificate of advanced studies in addictology – delivered by the Tunis Faculty of Medicine and supported by the South Programme – to receive their diplomas.

Addictology courses were regularly provided by the Tunis Faculty of Medicine since 2012. This certificate was prompted by the need to prepare human resources in the framework of the national strategy to fight against addiction, in order to ensure to people addicted an adequate treatment, in line with the latest advances in addictology.

This day's graduates will be the first, since the introduction of this certificate.

1. Obsessive and compulsive desire of psychoactive substances resulting in loss of control and rationality of the person affected.

**Information seminar on the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe and the activities of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) (Tunis, 4-5 September 2014; Rabat, 8-9 September 2014)**

Two information seminars will be held in Tunis (4-5 September 2014) and Rabat (8-9 September 2014) to present the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of the Council of Europe and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).

According to its mandate, the CPT – a unique European control body, active since 1989 – visits any place where persons are deprived of their liberty by a public authority and carries out interviews with them, without witnesses.

Made up by independent personalities and with a multidisciplinary background, the Committee prepares, when it deems it necessary, recommendations and suggests improvements to strengthen, where appropriate, the protection of persons deprived of their liberty against torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

## ► KEY UPCOMING EVENTS

## ❖ GOOD GOVERNANCE AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

**24-25 JUNE 2014**  
TUNIS, TUNISIA

**WORKING SEMINAR ON INTERNAL RULES OF TUNISIAN  
ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITY**

## ❖ POMPIDOU GROUP

**26 JUNE 2014**  
TUNIS, TUNISIA

**PREVENTION OF ADDICTIONS SEMINAR IN TUNIS**  
organised in the framework of the UN's International Day  
against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

## ❖ LEGAL CO-OPERATION

**3-4 JULY 2014**  
BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

**23<sup>RD</sup> PLENARY SESSION OF THE CEPEJ**  
Participation by representatives from Morocco and Tunisia  
in the 23<sup>rd</sup> plenary session of the CEPEJ

## ❖ YOUTH

**25-28 JUNE 2014**  
RABAT, MOROCCO

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

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## About the EU-CoE joint programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood” (South Programme)

The aim of the South Programme, launched in January 2012, is to support the political and democratic reform process in the countries of the CoE's Southern neighbourhood, in line with European and international standards and on the basis of a targeted, demand-driven approach. The main areas of the program are: judicial reform, fight against corruption, promoting human rights and democratic values. The programme's budget amounts to 4.8 million € over three years (2012-2014).

On-going activities are directed primarily to Morocco and Tunisia, but the program is open to other partner countries and territories under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)<sup>1</sup>: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and the Palestinian National Authority, and some of which are actively involved in the South Programme mainly through regional activities.

This joint program is part of the broader framework of initiatives undertaken by the two Organisations to promote democracy and human rights in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean, including the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) regarding the EU and the Policy of the CoE towards neighbouring regions.

For more information, please visit the South Programme's website: <http://south-programme-eu.coe.int>

1. The EU-Syria bilateral cooperation has been suspended since May 2012.