



Recommendation 1825 (2008)¹

Strengthening co-operation with the Maghreb countries

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to [Resolution 1598 \(2008\)](#) on strengthening co-operation with the Maghreb countries, which may rightly be regarded as pillars in the stability of the southern shore of the Mediterranean.
2. The Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers:
 - 2.1. establish political dialogue with the authorities responsible for the institutions and, in particular, the respective parliaments of the three Maghreb countries – Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia – in accordance with [Resolution 1506 \(2006\)](#) on the external relations of the Council of Europe and with the Assembly's commitment to support and promote democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights beyond the current borders of the member states, in neighbouring countries and, in particular, in the southern Mediterranean;
 - 2.2. provide assistance to help these states on the road to democracy, the rule of law and human rights, in particular with the support of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), which already includes Algeria and Morocco,² and encourage Tunisia to join the latter;
 - 2.3. encourage Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to establish other agreements with specific Council of Europe bodies, in particular the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre);
 - 2.4. take part in and facilitate all debates in the Assembly concerning dialogue between religions and cultures so as to improve knowledge and understanding of the issues and problems currently facing societies;
 - 2.5. consider, in the near future, more innovative and closer types of co-operation such as “associate partners”, “partners for democracy” or “observer members”;
 - 2.6. inform the Assembly, within a year of receipt of this recommendation, of the progress made by these three states and any follow-up to the proposals for partnership with the Council of Europe.

1. Assembly debate on 23 January 2008 (6th Sitting) (see [Doc. 11474](#), report of the Political Affairs Committee, rapporteur: Mrs Durrieu). Text adopted by the Assembly on 23 January 2008 (6th Sitting).

2. Morocco has been officially invited to become a member of the Venice Commission, but at the time of adoption of this resolution no accession date had yet been set.

