Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 2103 (2017)[1]

Political transition in Tunisia

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to its Resolution 2166 (2017) on political transition in Tunisia. It also refers to its Recommendation 1972 (2011) on the situation in Tunisia and the reply thereto from the Committee of Ministers.

2. It welcomes the decisive progress made by Tunisia in the area of democracy, the promotion of human rights and the establishment of the rule of law, as well as the contribution made through co-operation between the Council of Europe and Tunisia to the country's reform process. In this regard, it expresses its satisfaction that Recommendation 1972 (2011) has been implemented.

3. Taking account of the high degree of co-operation between Tunisia and Council of Europe bodies, along with the results obtained, the Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers increase the volume of requests for funding through voluntary contributions in preparation for the post-2017 co-operation document, so as to consolidate and reinforce programme resources relating to:

3.1. the promotion of women's rights, in particular in relation to combating discrimination against women;

3.2. the defence of children's rights, in particular through the provision of support to Tunisia with its accession to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS No. 201, “Lanzarote Convention”);

3.3. freedom of expression and freedom of the media;

3.4. decentralisation, an area in which co-operation should be stepped up following the municipal and regional elections scheduled for December 2017.

4. Lastly, taking account of the economic and security challenges currently facing Tunisia, the uncertain geopolitical context within which it is operating and the importance of the economic and human ties that bind it to Europe, the Assembly considers that Europe should do its utmost to prevent Tunisia from becoming destabilised by its immediate surroundings. Tunisia’s and Europe’s destinies are closely linked. A deterioration in the situation in Tunisia would have immediate repercussions for the European continent in terms of both migration and security. The Assembly invites the Committee of Ministers to endorse this statement and to draw consequences from it when implementing the neighbourhood policy of the Council of Europe.

1. *Text adopted by the Standing Committee*, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 30 May 2017 (see Doc. 14323, report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, rapporteur: Mr George Loucaides).