



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

NSC/EC (2013) 5 final
November 2013



Lisbon Forum 2013 Programme

Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the South Mediterranean

*How can the Governments, Parliaments and Local and Regional Authorities
contribute to making civil society an actor of governance?*

6 – 7 November 2013

Ismaili Centre, Lisbon

In partnership with:

AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



Event organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and funded by the European Union

Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood

Funded
by the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe

Background

Since the establishment of the Lisbon Forum by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (CoE) in 1994, the Forum has served as a platform for dialogue and sharing of experiences between Europe and its neighbouring regions, especially the southern Mediterranean. The Forum focusses in particular on human rights, democracy and strengthening the rule of law.

As a response to the “Arab Spring”, the last two meetings of the Lisbon Forum were devoted to discuss key aspects of on-going developments in the region and major challenges of transitions; issues related to human rights, freedom of expression, constitutional and judicial reforms; strengthening of local self-government; and the empowerment of women.

The on-going processes in several countries of the region, especially following the “Arab Spring”, still face a variety of significant challenges, while the participation of civil society remains a key factor for the consolidation of inclusive democracy.

As part of the international community’s efforts to support these transition processes, the CoE approved in May 2011 a policy vis-à-vis its neighbouring regions. Co-operation with these regions is implemented to a large extent through a Council’s privileged partnership with the European Union (EU), and consists of a number of initiatives in support of current democratic changes through CoE expertise. Within this context, the Lisbon Forum of the North-South Centre is one of the key activities of the Joint EU/CoE Programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood”.

The current situation in the southern Mediterranean region, combined with the North-South Centre’s new role, as endorsed by the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, in which the Centre is mandated to act as a key contributor to the CoE’s Neighbourhood policy, have inevitably prompted a rethink about the role and objectives of the Forum.

Building on its unique configuration - bringing together the four partners in the governance process (governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society, the so-called “quadrilogue”) - the Forum is ideally positioned to facilitate dialogue and make a tangible contribution to the related democratic governance debate. The North-South Centre’s extensive expertise in empowering civil society, drawing on almost 25 years’ experience, as well as the Centre’s unique regional approach, make the Lisbon Forum a recognised place to promote dialogue that reconciles the historical experiences on the northern and the southern shores of the Mediterranean region. Apart from providing an arena for exchange between stakeholders, the Forum will foster tangible and constructive dialogue and support democratic governance processes, as well as facilitate co-operation and networking between different stakeholders at the national and international levels.

As has been consistently repeated in relation to the democratic processes under way in the southern Mediterranean countries, civil society has played a decisive role in the changes that have occurred. However, many question marks remain over its sustained role and place in future governance processes. Taking account of various national experiences in Europe and models in the Maghreb and Mashrek regions, the Lisbon Forum will address this issue and develop methodologies to improving the interaction of civil society with national governments and parliaments, as well as local authorities. Enhancing civil society’s role in governance is widely thought to bring practical dividends and benefits, which strengthen national democratic processes.

When these efforts are conducted in an inclusive manner, and thereby fostering dialogue and cooperation, polarisation and conflicts are prevented.

Objectives and expected results

The overall objective of the 2013 Lisbon Forum with theme “Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the South Mediterranean”, is to promote the empowerment of civil society as a partner in governance in the southern Mediterranean region.

The Forum is expected to strengthen dialogue between civil society on the one hand and national governments and parliaments, as well as local and regional authorities on the other. The debate will foster internal dialogue and restructuring within civil society, and provide an opportunity to determine the potential role of international organisations in empowering civil society to become more involved in national political processes.

The Forum is expected to yield operational conclusions and policy recommendations that will provide guidelines to improve consultation, inclusive participation and cooperation of civil society as a partner in governance for governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, civil society and international organisations.

Implementation provisions

The 2013 Lisbon Forum will be held in the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon on 6 and 7 November, within the framework of the Joint EU/CoE Programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood”. It is being organised in cooperation with the Anna Lindh Foundation, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The working languages will be Arabic, English and French.

The Lisbon Forum will promote inclusive dialogue and encourage the sharing of multi-layered and varied perspectives. Personalities from the northern and southern Mediterranean regions, including representatives of governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, civil society, the Council of Europe and the European Union will contribute to the event. The participation of young people and women is encouraged.

The sessions of the Forum will be chaired by leading personalities, who will be appointed by the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre.

The workshops will be moderated by personalities from both the South and the North. Two experts (one each from the North and South) will be invited to contribute to every workshop. They will compile a background paper for the Forum, participate in the debates with other panellists during the event, and contribute to the conclusions and recommendations, as well as to the final report.

The 2013 Lisbon Forum will be followed by a Parliamentary Conference on 8 November, involving participants of the countries of the southern Mediterranean and Council of Europe member states, organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Programme

Wednesday 6 November 2013

14h00 **Registration of participants**

14h30 **Welcoming words**

Nazim AHMAD, Aga Khan Development Network

Opening of the Forum

Jorge SAMPAIO, President of Honour, Former President of Portugal, President of the Lisbon Forums 2009-2012

14h40 **Introduction to the Forum 2013**

Bernardino LEON, EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean region, President of the Lisbon Forum 2013

14h50 **1st round table: governance and its actors**

Chair: Claudia LUCIANI, Director of Democratic Governance, Council of Europe

Introduction: Jean-Claude MIGNON, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- **Anne BRASSEUR**, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, rapporteur for Tunisia
- **Fethi TOUZRI**, Secretary of State, Ministry of youth and Sports, Tunisia
- **Abdelkebir BERKIA**, House of Counsellors of Morocco and President of the Rabat Regional Council
- **Slavica BANIC**, Judge at the Constitutional Court of Croatia, Substitute member to the Venice Commission
- **Fatma BENMOSBAH**, Regional Coordinator, Tunisian Association for integrity and democracy of elections (ATIDE), Tunisia
- **Ali BOUABID**, Abderrahim Bouabid Foundation, Morocco

16h45 **Coffee break**

17h00 2nd round table: what is the role of civil society vis-à-vis the other actors?

Chair: Rowaida AL-MA'AITAH, member of Anna Lindh Foundation Advisory Council for Jordan and former Minister of Social Development

- **Sen. Pietro MARCENARO**, Former Chair of the Political Affairs and Democracy Committee of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly
- **Manal TIBE**, Member of National Council for Human Rights, Egypt
- **Jean-Marie HEYDT**, President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and Chairman a.i. of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre
- **Lassaad GHDAMI**, Mayor of Kairouan
- **Soumicha RIYAHA**, President of the Regional Human Rights Commission of Casablanca-Settat, Morocco
- **Nawel RAFIK-ELMRINI**, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Deniz BAYKAL**, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **Jaouhar BEN MBAREK**, Founder and Spokesperson of the Doustourna Movement
- **Ahmed DRISS**, Director of the Tunisian School of Political Studies

Thursday 7 November 2013

08h30 – 10h45 Workshops 1 and 2

WORKSHOP 1	WORKSHOP 2
<p>Interactive dialogue with civil society : role of local and regional authorities</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Allal AMRAOUI, Deputy Mayor of Fez</p> <p>Introduction by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philippe RECEVEUR, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe - Antonella VALMORBIDA, Director of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) 	<p>Interactive dialogue with civil society : role of international organisations</p> <p>Chair: Ayman AYOUB, Director of West Asia and North Africa Regional Office, International IDEA</p> <p>Introduction by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mogens BLOM, Programme Manager- EU Policies, Neighbourhood South- DG DEVCO, European Commission - Youssef LAARAJ, Director of the Moroccan School of Political Studies

10h45 Coffee break

11h00 – 13h15 Workshops 3 and 4

WORKSHOP 3	room n°	WORKSHOP 4	room n°
<p>Interactive dialogue with civil society : role of parliaments</p> <p>Chairman: Miguel-Ángel MARTINEZ, Vice President of the European Parliament – Member of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre</p> <p>Introduction by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mohamed TAIBI, member of the Algerian People’s National Assembly - Cyril RITCHIE, President of the NGO to the United Nations 		<p>Interactive dialogue with civil society : role of governments</p> <p>Chairman: Francisco SEIXAS DA COSTA, Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe</p> <p>Introduction by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Haizam AMIRAH FERNANDEZ, Elcano Institute, Spain - Sawsan TAWIL, Former advisor to the Ministry of Political Development of Jordan 	

13h15 – 15h00 Lunch

15h00 Side events

<p>Europe seen from Southern Mediterranean Public recording of the radio programme Carrefour de l’Europe*</p> <p>Moderated by Daniel DESESQUELLE <i>(in French only)</i></p> <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fatma BEN MESBAH, Tunisian Association for integrity and democracy of elections (ATIDE) - Ali BOUABID, Foundation Abderrahim Bouabid, Morocco - Anne BRASSEUR, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - Miguel-Angel MARTINEZ, Vice-President of the European Parliament - Fethi TOUZRI, Secretary of State for youth and sport of Tunisia <p><small>*re-broadcasted on RFI on 10 November, 18h10 Paris time</small></p>	<p>Face to face on "Reconciling political Islam and democracy: illusion or reality?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saida OUNISSI, PhD Candidate, Sorbonne - Faïza SKANDRANI, Writer and journalist <p>With the participation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Imen AMIRI, Tunisian Bloggers Association - Isabelle MANDRAUD, Le Monde - Farah SAMTI, Tunisia Live - Paul SCHEMM, Associated Press - Zoe WILLIAMS, The Guardian
--	--

16h15 – 16h30 Coffee break

16h30–17h30 Plenary session: presentation and discussion of conclusions and recommendations

Chair: Jean-Marie HEYDT, Chairman a.i. of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre, President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

- **Presentation by the Chairman a.i. of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre**
- **Brief spontaneous comments by the Chairs of the workshops**
- **Discussion and approval of conclusions and recommendations**

17h30 – 18h00 Official closing

- **Jean-Marie HEYDT**, Chairman a.i. of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre
- **Karim GHELLAB**, President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco
- **Luis CAMPOS FERREIRA**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Portugal

Contacts

Secretariat of the Lisbon Forum 2013

Strasbourg: **Antonella CAGNOLATI**, General Coordinator of the Forum, Tel: +33 39021 5158, antonella.cagnolati@coe.int

Lisbon: **Dalia SENDRA**, North-South Centre, Tel: +351 21 358 40 60, dalia.sendra@coe.int