

Democratic governance at local and regional level

In the context of an official visit by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE and the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, an initial review had been made of local democracy in Tunisia and had enabled contact to be made with the main Tunisian stakeholders.

In the context of its co-operation with the Venice Commission, the Congress contributed to the exchanges with the National Constituent Assembly and to the options taken by that Assembly during the drafting of Chapter 7 of the draft Constitution.

Furthermore, the “partner for local democracy” status intended for countries of the CoE’s Southern and Eastern neighbourhood was adopted in October 2014.

Overall objective	To assist the local and regional reform currently taking place and help to strengthen local and regional democracy and associations of local and regional authorities.
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tunisian legislation concerning local and regional government draws on the CoE’s relevant principles and standards, particularly in respect of the devolution and administrative and financial autonomy to which the European Charter of Local Self-Government refers; that legislation is implemented with Congress support;2. The government’s partners are made aware of the principles of local self-government and of the development of dialogue between the national authorities and local elected representatives;3. A delegation of Congress members will observe the local elections, and the recommendations of the Congress are subsequently followed by the Tunisian authorities;4. Tunisia considers the possibility of becoming a “partner for local democracy”;5. The capacities of local elected representatives and their associations are strengthened with CoE support.
Partners	<i>Assembly of the Representatives of the People, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Infrastructure, Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, local and regional authorities, civil society.</i>

