

CM/Inf(2014)21

3 September 2014

European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidary (North-South Centre) –

Request by Tunisia to accede to the North-South Centre

By letter of 8 August 2014, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, Mr Mongi Hamdi, sent an official request to the Secretary General to join the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General acknowledged receipt of the request by letter of 2 September 2014 (see Appendices 1 and 2 hereafter).

According to the terms of Article 3.2 of the revised Statute of the North-South Centre (see Appendix to Resolution CM/Res(2011)6):

“Other States may be invited to accede to the Centre by a decision of the Committee of Ministers taken by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe and by the unanimous vote of the representatives of the member States of the Centre entitled to sit on the Committee after consulting the other members of the Centre.”

In accordance with these provisions, Tunisia may be invited to join the North-South Centre, on the basis of a decision of the Committee of Ministers as follows: (1) a decision by the Committee of Ministers taken by the majority foreseen in article 20.d of the Statute, which foresees a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast and the majority of representatives with the right to a seat; (2) a unanimous decision of the member States of the Centre which have the right to sit in the Committee of Ministers; (3) a consultation of the other members of the Centre (namely the Holy See, Morocco and Cape Verde).

Appendix 1

Translation

Republic of Tunisia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Minister

Mr Thorbjørn Jagland
Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Strasbourg

Tunis, 8 August 2014

Dear Secretary General

I am delighted to express our immense satisfaction with the new momentum in relations between Tunisia and the Council of Europe. This reflects the attachment of the Council of Europe and its institutions to providing further assistance to support Tunisia in its process of democratic transition.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the Council of Europe's commitment to promoting the universal values of democracy and fundamental freedoms, values whose foundations Tunisia has endeavoured to consolidate since January 2011.

With a view to strengthening co-operation between Tunisia and the Council of Europe, I am pleased hereby to submit Tunisia's official request to accede to the Council of Europe's North-South Centre. I am convinced that this accession will make it possible to deepen still further the dialogue and understanding between the North and South and promote to a greater extent the values of co-operation and solidarity in order to bring about a regional area of prosperity and stability on both shores of the Mediterranean.

Trusting that this accession request will receive your favourable consideration,

I remain

Yours faithfully,

Mongi Hamdi

Translation

EMBASSY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA
LISBON

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Lisbon, 22 August 2014

Dear Executive Director,

I am honoured to enclose herewith a copy of the letter sent by the Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr Mongi Hamdi, to H.E. Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe formalising Tunisia's request to accede to the North-South Centre.

Please note that the original of this letter has been forwarded to the Council of Europe departments in Strasbourg for finalisation of the accession procedure.

Yours faithfully,

The Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Moufida ZRIBI

Appendix 2

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 2 September 2014

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 8 August formally requesting membership of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

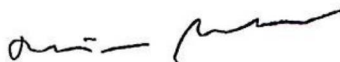
The Council of Europe attaches great importance to the role it can play in assisting Tunisia in the process of democratic transition. I welcome your decision which reflects the existing co-operation with the North-South Centre and demonstrates your desire to further strengthen dialogue in the region and beyond.

I will submit your official request to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and keep you informed of any decision taken by them in this respect.

I look forward to meeting your colleague, Secretary of State Mr Fayçal Gouiaa, at the Lisbon Forum on 15-16 September.

In the meantime, Mr José Frederico Ludovice, Executive Director of the North-South Centre, remains at your disposal for all information regarding the activities and work of the Centre.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

Mr Mongi Hamdi
 Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia

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