

37th SESSION

Report
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Request for Partner for Local Democracy status submitted by the Republic of Tunisia

Bureau of the Congress

Congress Spokespersons on the South-Mediterranean Partnership: ¹
Piero FASSINO, Italy (L, SOC) and Constance DE PELICHY, France (L, EPP/CCE)

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Summary

The status of Partner for Local Democracy was created by the Congress as a specific status for countries in the Council of Europe neighbourhood in October 2014 to offer the countries concerned which so request a special framework for dialogue and regular institutional contacts with their European counterparts (Resolution 376(2014)).

The Republic of Tunisia is a longstanding partner of the Council of Europe: the country has had observer status with the European Pharmacopoeia since 1997 and has participated in the Pompidou Group's Mediterranean Network (MedNET) since 2006. It joined the Venice Commission in 2010 and the North-South Centre in 2016. It has ratified several Council of Europe treaties. Furthermore, Tunisia has benefitted, since 2012, from co-operation activities with the Council of Europe under the Neighbourhood Partnership.

Co-operation between the Congress and Tunisia began, in 2013, following a request for the Congress' expertise on the local self-government provisions of the draft Tunisian Constitution, which was integrated into the opinion of the Venice Commission on the draft Constitution. This co-operation was further reinforced in the framework of the co-operation activities implemented by the Congress in Tunisia under the South-Med Partnership with, in particular, a contribution to the draft code of local authorities adopted by the Tunisian Parliament in April 2018 and the observation of the first municipal elections since the Revolution of 6 May 2018.

On 6 May 2019, seeking to reinforce its relations with the Congress, Tunisia addressed a request for the status of Partner for Local Democracy to the Congress President. As this request meets the criteria established by the Congress in Resolution 376(2014) and its Rules of Procedure (Rule 68), it is proposed to grant the Republic of Tunisia the status of Partner for Local Democracy.

¹ L: Chamber of Local Authorities / R: Chamber of Regions
EPP/CCE: European People's Party Group in the Congress
SOC: Socialist Group
ILDG: Independent and Liberal Democrat Group
ECR: European Conservatives and Reformists Group
NR: Members not belonging to a political group of the Congress

RESOLUTION 446 (2019)²

The Congress:

1. referring to its [Resolution 376\(2014\)](#) on the creation of the Partner for Local Democracy status in order to formalise relations between the Congress and the political authorities in the neighbouring countries, including the local and regional authorities and their representative associations;
2. considering:
 - a. the formal request for the status of Partner for Local Democracy, addressed on 6 May 2019 to the President of the Congress by the Minister of Local Affairs and the Environment of Tunisia and the President of the National Federation of Tunisian Towns (FNVT), in accordance with the procedure referred to in Rule 68 of the [Rules and Procedures of the Congress](#);
 - b. the participation of Tunisia in co-operation activities with the Council of Europe in the framework of the Neighbourhood Partnership since 2012;
 - c. the participation of Tunisia in several Council of Europe conventions and partial agreements;
3. decides:
 - a. to grant the Republic of Tunisia the status of Partner for Local Democracy in accordance with the forms and conditions of participation referred to in Rule 68.9 of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress;
 - b. to allocate 4 representative and 4 substitute seats to the delegation from Tunisia;
 - c. to invite Tunisia to appoint a Partner for Local Democracy delegation to be composed in accordance with Rule 68.8 of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress;
 - d. that the provisions of this resolution shall come into force with immediate effect.

² Debated and adopted by the Congress on 29 October 2019, 1st sitting.