

## **RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **of the Tunisia-European Union Joint Parliamentary Committee**

The Tunisia-European Union Joint Parliamentary Committee (hereinafter ‘the Committee’)

- whereas in recent years a close relationship has developed between the Tunisian Parliament and the European Parliament, especially through institutionalised interparliamentary dialogue related to the work of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union and to the proceedings of the Parliamentary Assembly – Union for the Mediterranean (PA – UfM);
- ‘whereas Tunisia is the most remarkable example of democratisation after the Arab uprisings but has been affected by ... [two] ISIL/Da’esh-proclaimed terrorist ... [attacks in] ... 2015, which ... [recall] the need for strong and continued support to the region’s countries, in particular Tunisia’ (European Parliament resolution of 9 July 2015);
- having regard to the Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Tunisia, of the other part, signed in Brussels on 17 July 1995;

having regard to the official launch, on 13 October 2015, of negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Tunisia;

- having regard to the decision of 29 October 2015 by the Conference of Presidents, whose members include the chairs of the political groups in the European Parliament;

HAS ADOPTED THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE:

#### **Rule 1**

The role of the Committee shall be to consider all aspects of relations between the European Union and Tunisia, with particular reference to implementation of the Association Agreement, and any subjects of mutual interest.

## **Rule 2**

1. The Committee shall consist of 26 members, 13 appointed by the European Parliament and 13 by the Tunisian Parliament.
2. The length of Committee members' term of office shall be laid down in accordance with the rules and practices of the European Parliament and the Tunisian Parliament.

## **Rule 3**

1. The Committee bureau shall comprise the Chair of the European Parliament Delegation to the Tunisia-European Union Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Chair of the Tunisian Parliament delegation, and a Vice-Chair from each delegation.
2. The Bureau may meet whenever it thinks fit.
3. The Committee shall be chaired in turn by the Chair of the European Parliament delegation and the Chair of the Tunisian Parliament delegation.
4. Should the need arise, the First or Second Vice-Chair of a delegation may deputise for the Chair.

## **Rule 4**

1. On a proposal from the Committee bureau, recommendations may be made to the Association Council and the relevant committees of the European Parliament and the Tunisian Parliament.
2. Such recommendations shall be deemed to have been adopted if they are supported by a majority of the members of the European Parliament delegation and a majority of the Tunisian Parliament delegation.

## **Rule 5**

1. The Committee shall meet at least once a year, at a venue alternating between one of the European Parliament's places of work and the Tunisian Parliament.
2. The draft agenda, which shall be drawn up by the Co-Chairs, shall be sent to Committee members at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date.
3. Meetings shall be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise.

## **Rule 6**

In addition to members of the Committee, members of the Council of the European Union or of the European Commission and representatives of the Tunisian Government may attend, and speak at, meetings held in public. The Chair, in consultation with the bureau, may invite other persons to attend meetings.

#### **Rule 7**

1. The Committee's secretariat shall be provided by the secretariats of the European Parliament and the Tunisian Parliament, each being responsible for organising Committee meetings held at its parliament.
2. The Committee secretariat shall take the minutes of each meeting, which shall be approved at the start of the following meeting.

#### **Rule 8**

Translation and interpreting services for Committee meetings shall be provided on the basis of bureau decisions (and in accordance with the internal rules of the European Parliament).

#### **Rule 9**

1. The Tunisian Parliament and the European Parliament shall separately defray any personnel, travel, and subsistence expenses arising from their participation in Committee meetings.
2. Expenditure incurred in the practical organisation of meetings shall be borne by the party hosting the meeting

#### **Rule 10**

1. Any amendments to these rules which the Committee may propose shall be submitted for consideration by the Bureau of the European Parliament and by its counterpart in the Tunisian Parliament.
2. The Committee shall adopt any amendments and additions to these Rules of Procedure by a majority of the votes cast by the total number of members representing each of the parties.