

Single Support Framework

Tunisia 2014-2015

SUMMARY

EU-Tunisia relations have evolved through time and continue progressing. A Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1969. An Association Agreement has been in place since 1998. A first Action Plan was adopted in 2005 and a new Action Plan for a Privileged Partnership 2014-2017 should be adopted in 2014. DCFTA negotiations are expected to be launched soon. A Macro Financial Assistance loan of EUR 300 million from the EU was approved in May 2014. The Mobility Partnership declaration was signed on the 3 of March 2014, paving the way for negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission in 2014.

In the framework of the revised European Neighbourhood Policy, the EU-Tunisia partnership is based on principles of mutual responsibility, shared values of democracy, rule of law, good governance and human rights, as well as those of market economy, free trade, sustainable development, poverty reduction and support to political, economic, social and institutional reforms, since the revolution of January 2011 and the adoption of the 2014 Constitution. A new Action Plan was agreed at political level in November 2012 and April 2014, and should be adopted in 2014, defining priority actions to strengthen relations in the framework of a 'privileged partnership'.

Following comprehensive consultation with the government, civil society and other donors, and taking into account the government's reform priorities and aid effectiveness principles, a consensus has been reached regarding three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through the national envelope 2014-2015:

- **Socio-economic reforms for inclusive growth, competitiveness and integration**

After last year upheavals there is a need to promote macro-economic stabilization and economic recovery, which are key elements for the transition process. This entails job creation and human capital development. There is a need to improve economic governance and transparent public finance management. There is also a need to strengthen the capacity of social partners to take part in policy making and implementation.

- **Strengthening fundamental elements of democracy**

2011 events paved the way for a democratic transition process. Projects will promote and support independent media and press, equal opportunities and better inclusion for youth and women. Improved democratic governance, reform of the justice sector and of the security sector are also key elements to be targeted in Tunisia.

- **Sustainable regional and local development**

Socio-economic inequality and divide between regions and within the strata of the population was one of the root-causes that led to the revolution. To reduce social and economic gaps it is

essential to promote a process of decentralization supporting regional and local authorities. Access to services and service provision should be improved to match local needs. Interventions should promote environmental and climate-related governance and the mainstreaming of climate change mitigation as well as adaptation in order to counter the deterioration of the Tunisian environment and its natural resources.

Besides priority sectors a capacity development envelope and a civil society envelope are foreseen.

<i>Indicative allocation for the whole period (2014-2020)</i>	<i>€725,000,000 - €886,000,000</i>
<i>Indicative allocation for the 1st period (2014-2015)</i>	<i>€202,000,000 - €246,000,000</i>
<i>Breakdown for the 1st period</i>	
<i>Socio-Economic Reforms for Inclusive Growth, Competitiveness and Integration</i>	<i>40 %</i>
<i>Strengthening Fundamental Elements of Democracy</i>	<i>15 %</i>
<i>Sustainable Regional and Local Development</i>	<i>30 %</i>
<i>Complementary Support for Capacity Development and Civil Society</i>	<i>15 %</i>