

# ACTS ADOPTED BY BODIES CREATED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

## DECISION No 1/2011 OF THE ALGERIA-EU ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

of 20 May 2011

setting up the Subcommittee 'Political dialogue, security and human rights'

(2011/325/EU)

THE ALGERIA-EU ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, of the other part<sup>(1)</sup> (the 'Association Agreement'),

Whereas:

- (1) Relations and cooperation between the European Union and its southern Mediterranean partners can be developed in a way that takes account of the European Union's competencies and the specificities and requirements of each Mediterranean country.
- (2) The European Union's increasingly dynamic relationship with Algeria as a result of the implementation of the Association Agreement requires regular monitoring.
- (3) The Association Council has already decided<sup>(2)</sup> to create subcommittees of the Algeria-EU Association Committee to provide an appropriate institutional framework for implementing and enhancing cooperation.
- (4) Respect for democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms underpins the domestic and international policies of the Parties and constitutes an essential element of the Association Agreement.
- (5) Political dialogue and preserving security constitute essential elements of the Association Agreement and are discussed within the different bodies provided for therein.
- (6) As part of the political dialogue, Algeria and the European Union have set themselves ambitious objectives, based on shared common values, including democracy, the rule of law, the protection and promotion of all human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to

development, and security issues such as the fight against terrorism and all types of organised crime.

- (7) Article 98 of the Association Agreement provides for the setting-up of the working groups or bodies necessary for the implementation of the Association Agreement,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

### Article 1

1. The Subcommittee 'Political dialogue, security and human rights' is hereby set up within the Algeria-EU Association Committee (Association Committee). Its rules of procedure are annexed to this Decision.

The Subcommittee shall work under the authority of the Association Committee, to which it shall report after each meeting.

2. Issues within the remit of the Subcommittee may also be raised at a higher level in the political dialogue between Algeria and the European Union.

3. Within its remit, the Association Committee shall propose to the Association Council any other action needed to ensure that the Subcommittee operates properly.

### Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 20 May 2011.

For the Algeria-EU Association Council

The President

M. MEDELICI

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 265, 10.10.2005, p. 2.

<sup>(2)</sup> Council Decision No 3/2007 of the EU-Algeria Association Council, OJ L 330, 15.12.2007, p. 31.

## ANNEX

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF SUBCOMMITTEE No 7 'POLITICAL DIALOGUE, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS'****1. Composition and chair**

The Subcommittee 'Political dialogue, security and human rights' (the 'Subcommittee') shall be composed of representatives of the Parties to the Association Agreement. It shall be chaired alternately by the two Parties at senior official level.

**2. Role**

The Subcommittee shall work under the authority of the Algeria-EU Association Committee (the 'Association Committee'), to which it shall report after each meeting. The Subcommittee shall have no decision-making power. It may, however, submit proposals to the Association Committee.

**3. Subject matter**

The Subcommittee shall discuss the implementation of the Algeria-EU Association Agreement in the sectors listed below. For human rights, democratisation and governance issues, and security issues connected with cooperation in the fight against terrorism and organised crime, the Subcommittee shall serve as the principal technical mechanism for monitoring. In particular, it shall assess progress on the approximation, implementation and application of legislation and examine cooperation in public administration and its operational aspects. The Subcommittee shall also assess progress and examine any problems that may arise in the sectors listed below and propose steps that might be taken:

- (a) the rule of law, good governance and democracy, and in particular the independence of the courts, access to justice and support for judicial reform, exchanges of experience and training;
- (b) the continuing ratification and implementation of international conventions on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including consideration of the possibility of accession to optional protocols to those conventions and discussion of any reservations in regard to those conventions. Cooperation with international human rights procedures and mechanisms;
- (c) combating the death penalty and torture and all forms of discrimination;
- (d) rights of the child and women's rights;
- (e) freedom of expression and the role of civil society and protection of human rights defenders;
- (f) cooperation in the field of international justice, promotion of democratisation processes and good governance;
- (g) cooperation in multilateral organisation on human rights;
- (h) combating terrorism and organised crime;
- (i) consultation on issues of foreign policy and security, such as conflict prevention, disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- (j) consultation on regional and international security issues of common interest;
- (k) strengthening the administrative and operational capabilities of the national institutions concerned.

This is not an exhaustive list and other subjects may be added by the Association Committee, subject to the agreement of both Parties.

The Subcommittee may discuss matters relating to one, several or all of the above areas.

**4. Secretariat**

An official from the European External Action Service and an official from the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria shall act jointly as permanent secretaries of the Subcommittee and shall be in charge of preparing its meetings.

All communications concerning the Subcommittee shall be forwarded to the Subcommittee secretaries.

**5. Meetings**

The Subcommittee shall meet whenever circumstances require and at least once a year, alternately in Algeria and the European Union. A meeting may be convened at the request of either Party, channelled through its permanent secretary, who will pass the request onto the other Party. Upon receipt of a request for a Subcommittee meeting, the secretary of the other Party shall reply within 15 working days.

In cases of particular urgency, Subcommittee meetings may be convened at shorter notice, subject to the agreement of both Parties. All requests to convene meetings must be in writing.

Meetings of the Subcommittee shall be held at a time and place agreed by both Parties.

The meetings shall be convened for each Party by its permanent secretary in agreement with the chair. Before each meeting, the chair will be informed of the intended composition of each Party's delegation.

If both Parties agree, the Subcommittee may invite experts to its meetings to provide specific information.

#### **6. Agenda for meetings**

All requests for items to be included in the Subcommittee's agenda shall be sent to the Subcommittee permanent secretaries. The provisional agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up by the chair, in agreement with the other Party, at least 10 days before the beginning of the meeting.

The provisional agenda shall include items for which the secretaries have received requests for entry on the agenda at least 15 days before the beginning of the meeting. Supporting documentation must be received by both Parties at least 7 days before the beginning of the meeting.

The agenda shall be adopted by the Subcommittee at the beginning of each meeting.

#### **7. Minutes**

Minutes shall be taken and agreed by both permanent secretaries after each meeting. A copy of the minutes, including any proposals and suggestions by the Subcommittee, shall be forwarded by the permanent secretaries of the Subcommittee to the secretaries and chair of the Association Committee.

#### **8. Publicity**

Unless otherwise decided, the meetings of the Subcommittee shall not be public and the conclusions of its proceedings shall not be made public.

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