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Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Lisbon, 8 November 2013

Draft programme

The political changes in the South Mediterranean and in the Middle East: the role of representative institutions

Regional Conference organised in cooperation with
the Parliamentary Projects Support Division of the Assembly

followed by the meeting of the

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Strengthening democratic reform
in the southern Neighbourhood

Funded
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by the Council of Europe

Interpretation will be provided in English/French/Russian/German/Italian/Arabic

09.00 Registration of participants

*Ismaili Centre, Avenida Lusitana, Lisbon
Meeting room: Salão Nobre*

09.30 Opening of the Conference

Ms Assunção Esteves, Speaker of the Parliament of Portugal

Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Karim Ghellab, President of the Chamber of Representatives, Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco

Mr Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah, President of the Chamber of Councillors, Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco

10.00 *Working session 1: Challenges of transition: national experiences*

Open debate with the participation of speakers and representatives of *parliaments of Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, of the Palestinian National Council and representatives of Egyptian political forces*

Moderator: Mr Bernard Sabella, Member of the Palestinian National Council, Chairperson of the Palestinian partner for democracy delegation to the Assembly

Working session 2: Accompanying transitions: What can international partners offer?

- *Partnership for democracy with the Parliamentary Assembly as a platform for interparliamentary cooperation*

Presentation by Mr Tiny Kox, Chairperson of the Group of the Unified European Left, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The Moroccan experience: Presentation by Mr Karim Ghellab, President of the Chamber of Representatives

12.30 Lunch

14.00 *Working session 2 (cont'd)*

- *The contribution of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission to constitutional and legal reforms*

Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission

Summing-up by Mr João B. Mota Amaral, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, former Speaker of the Parliament of Portugal

15.30 End of the Conference and continuation of the Committee meeting (see separate agenda)

18.00 End of the Committee meeting and departure for the Portuguese Parliament

18.30 Visit of the Portuguese Parliament and reception