

Article 2

Relations between the Parties, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement itself, shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles which guide their domestic and international policies and constitute an essential element of the Agreement.

TITLE I POLITICAL DIALOGUE

Article 3

1. A regular political dialogue shall be established between the Parties. It shall help build lasting links of solidarity between the partners which will contribute to the prosperity, stability and security of the Mediterranean region and bring about a climate of understanding and tolerance between cultures.

2. Political dialogue and cooperation are intended in particular to:

- (a) facilitate rapprochement between the Parties through the development of better mutual understanding and regular coordination on international issues of common interest;
- (b) enable each Party to consider the position and interests of the other;
- (c) contribute to consolidating security and stability in the Mediterranean region and in the Maghreb in particular;
- (d) help develop joint initiatives.

Article 4

Political dialogue shall cover all issues of common interest to the Parties, in particular the conditions required to ensure peace, security and regional development through support for cooperation, notably within the Maghreb group of countries.

Article 5

Political dialogue shall be established at regular intervals and whenever necessary notably:

- (a) at ministerial level, principally within the Association Council;
- (b) at the level of senior officials representing Tunisia, on the one hand, and the Council Presidency and the Commission on the other;

(c) taking full advantage of all diplomatic channels including regular briefings, consultations on the occasion of international meetings and contacts between diplomatic representatives in third countries;

(d) where appropriate, by any other means which would make a useful contribution to consolidating dialogue and increasing its effectiveness.

TITLE II FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS

Article 6

The Community and Tunisia shall gradually establish a free trade area over a transitional period lasting a maximum of 12 years starting from the date of the entry into force of this Agreement in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and in conformity with those of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 and the other multilateral Agreements on trade in goods annexed to the Agreement establishing the WTO, hereinafter referred to as the GATT.

CHAPTER I INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

Article 7

The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to products originating in the Community and Tunisia with the exception of the products referred to in Annex II to the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Article 8

No new customs duties on imports nor charges having equivalent effect shall be introduced in trade between the Community and Tunisia.

Article 9

Products originating in Tunisia shall be imported into the Community free of customs duties and charges having equivalent effect and without quantitative restrictions or measures having equivalent effect.

Article 10

1. The provisions of this Chapter shall not preclude the retention by the Community of an agricultural component on imports of the goods originating in Tunisia listed in Annex 1.

The agricultural component shall reflect differences between the price on the Community market of the agricultural products considered as being used in the production of such goods and the price of imports from third countries where the total cost of the said basic products is higher in the Community. The agricultural component may take the form of a