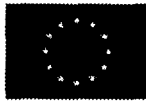


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**ASSOCIATION  
BETWEEN  
THE EUROPEAN UNION  
AND TUNISIA**

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**-The Association Council -**

**Brussels, 17 April 2000 (05.05)  
(OR. fr)**

**UE-TU 2602/00**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

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of : 2nd meeting of the EU-Tunisia Association Council  
on : 24 January 2000  
in : Brussels

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| <u>Annex I:</u>   | List of members of the Tunisian delegation                                           |
| <u>Annex II:</u>  | Statement by Mr Jaime Gama, President-in-Office of the Council of the European Union |
| <u>Annex III:</u> | Statement by Mr Guy Legras, Director-General, European Commission                    |
| <u>Annex IV:</u>  | Statement by Mr Francis Mayer, Vice-President of the EIB                             |
| <u>Annex V:</u>   | Statement by Mr Habib Ben Yagia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia             |

The EU-Tunisia Association Council held its second meeting in Brussels on 24 January 2000.

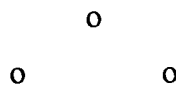
The meeting was chaired by Mr Jaime GAMA, President of the Council of the European Union and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, who led the European Union delegation.

The Tunisian delegation was led by Mr Habib Ben YAHIA, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia.

The European Commission was represented by Mr Guy LEGRAS, Director-General of the Directorate-General for External Relations.

The European Investment Bank was represented by Mr Francis MAYER, Vice-President.

The Co-Secretaries of the Association Council were Mr Mohamed MEZGHANI for Tunisia and Ms Dominique SARAT for the European Union.



As President, Mr Gama welcomed Mr Habib Ben Yahia and the members of his delegation to the second meeting of the EU-Tunisia Association Council. He said that the meeting offered an opportunity to assess the current state of relations between Tunisia and the European Union and inject them with new momentum. He said that the European Union expected the Association Council to play a central role in implementing the Association Agreement, but also to provide a forum for developing a frank and open political dialogue in a spirit of partnership.

Mr Habib Ben Yahia welcomed the holding of this second meeting of the Association Council. He thanked the Portuguese and Finnish Presidencies for preparing the meeting. He hoped that it would mark an important date in the process of Tunisia's integration into the Euro-Mediterranean area. In that connection he referred to the efforts undertaken by Tunisia to implement the Association Agreement and the importance of appropriate EU financial support, particularly during this crucial period of tariff dismantling and upgrading of the Tunisian economy.

1. **Adoption of the agenda (UE-TU 2601/00)**

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL adopted the agenda as set out in UE-TU 2691/00.

2. **State of political, economic, social and cultural relations, and implementation of financial cooperation under the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement**

- (a) The statement made by the President on behalf of the European Union is set out in Annex II.
- (b) The statement made by Mr Guy Legras on behalf of the European Commission is set out in Annex III.
- (c) Mr Francis Mayer, Vice-President of the EIB, then made the statement set out in Annex IV.
- (d) At the President's request, Mr Habib Ben Yahia presented the Tunisian Government's position on this agenda item (see Annex V).

3. **Other business**

No matters were raised under this item.