



Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux (FTDES)

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Copy:

Commissioner and directorate general for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement  
Evaluation consortium

*Tunis, February 10, 2020*

**Subject:** Declaration on the evaluation of Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements.

Dear Commissioners, dear Madam, dear Sir,

In the name of the signatory organisations, coming from the EU and all of the countries concerned by the Association Agreements that are currently being evaluated, I would kindly ask you to take note of the enclosed declaration on this matter. In this common declaration, published last December, we express our concern and oppose the way the evaluation study you commissioned on 6 Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements is currently led.

Our criticism can be summarised in three points:

1. the economic methodology, which has been chosen by the European Commission, is neither transparent nor suitable for an ex-post evaluation of the agreements;
2. civil society has not been sufficiently involved, and our recommendations have not been taken into account;
3. the study does not constitute an evaluation of the consequences of the agreements in terms of sustainable development, including of the impact on the economic, social and environmental rights and well-being of the populations concerned.

Hence, as things stand now, we do not consider that the approach taken by this evaluation yields enough independence and transparency guarantees, assess the impact of the agreements in terms of sustainable development, and uses an appropriated ex-post evaluation methodology to be considered as valid. As a result, we do not consider the future conclusions of this study to provide a meaningful assessment of the consequences of the association agreements. You will find more detail within the declaration itself.

We are therefore calling for this current study to be halted and a new methodology to be formulated, from the terms of reference, in order to guarantee an independent, human rights-based

evaluation, which would assess the consequences of the agreements in terms of sustainable development, therefore in terms of the evolution of social, environmental and economic rights.

The Mediterranean civil society, especially in Tunisia, has long been calling for an evaluation of these agreements. However, guarantees are essential so that this study allows to draw appropriate conclusions on the human development impact of these agreements. Thus, in the light of this need for guarantees, we are asking you to reconsider your method of evaluation.

We remain at your disposal for any additional correspondence. Besides, we are available to meet you in order to discuss this matter in greater detail. The person in charge of this issues will in fact be in Brussels the third week of March 2020 (from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>).

Yours sincerely,

For the Tunisian Forum for Social and Economic Rights

The president

Hedhili Abderrahmane

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للحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية  
Forum Tunisien  
Pour Les Droits Economiques et Sociaux