

No. 25784

**FRANCE
and
TUNISIA**

**Agreement concerning co-operation in the field of education
for Tunisian pupils residing in France (with annex).
Signed at Paris on 12 March 1986**

Authentic texts: French and Arabic.

Registered by France on 16 March 1988.

**FRANCE
et
TUNISIE**

**Accord concernant la coopération dans le domaine de l'en-
seignement pour les élèves tunisiens résidant en France
(avec annexe). Signé à Paris le 12 mars 1986**

Textes authentiques : français et arabe.

Enregistré par la France le 16 mars 1988.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION FOR TUNISIAN PUPILS RESIDING IN FRANCE

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia,

Desiring to strengthen their ties of friendship, to increase understanding between the Tunisian and French peoples and to intensify their co-operation in the field of education,

Convinced that, for children living abroad, a continuing acquaintance with their language and culture constitutes an essential factor for the full development of their personality and for adaptation to their surroundings, and is also an important element for their reintegration in their country of origin,

Have agreed on the following provisions:

Article 1. During the period of compulsory school enrolment in public educational establishments in France, instruction relating to the Arabic language and to knowledge of their country and culture shall be organized for Tunisian pupils, in agreement with their families.

In this instruction, the general principles of French national education shall be respected.

CHAPTER I. PRIMARY EDUCATION

Article 2. This instruction may take two different forms. It may:

Either be integrated into the optional activities of French schools. In this case, it shall be given either in the morning or in the afternoon without distinction so as to ensure the full use of the teaching staff. It shall be integrated into the official French academic timetable, on the basis of a minimum of three hours a week, where possible not consecutive;

Or be organized in the form of after-school activities where, owing to the dispersion of the pupils concerned in school groups, regroupings are necessary.

Article 3. The setting up of this instruction shall be ensured by the French authorities in co-operation with the competent Tunisian authorities.

Article 4. The teachers designated by Tunisia under this Agreement shall be integrated into the school teaching staff, after appointment by the French authority, and shall be assigned to a base school. They shall be subject to the laws and regulations in force in the establishments where they work.

¹ Came into force on 11 June 1986, the date of the last of the notifications (effected on 5 May and 11 June 1986) by which the Parties informed each other of the completion of the required constitutional formalities, in accordance with article 18.

Article 5. The results obtained by Tunisian children in the activities provided for in article 2 shall be taken into account in the same way as those obtained in other disciplines in the general evaluation of their academic work. They shall be entered in the school record and brought to the attention of their families.

Article 6. The education authorities of the two countries shall jointly ensure the ongoing training and monitoring of Tunisian teaching staff working in French schools.

Furthermore, the French Party shall facilitate, to the extent possible, the participation of Tunisian teachers in seminars, courses and educational meetings organized for French personnel, particularly in the field of modern educational techniques.

Article 7. In order to guarantee overall consistency between the instruction regularly given in French schools and the instruction referred to in article 2, the two Parties shall decide to organize educational co-operation. With regard to textbooks and other teaching materials, the procedures shall be as follows: the Tunisian Party shall communicate to the French Party, with a view to the meetings of the Mixed Working Group provided for in article 17, the contents of the instruction proposed by it. The modalities of their implementation shall be decided jointly by the two Parties.

CHAPTER II. SECONDARY, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Article 8. Tunisian pupils enrolled in French secondary establishments (*collèges*, vocational education *lycées*, *lycées*) shall be informed of the advantage to them of choosing Arabic as their first or second living foreign language.

Article 9. Pupils who have been unable to benefit from the provisions of the foregoing article 8 may be invited to follow, in *collèges*, vocational training *lycées*, and *lycées*, optional activities relating to instruction in Arabic and Tunisian civilization. These activities shall be provided by Tunisian teachers and organized jointly by the two parties.

CHAPTER III. TEACHING PERSONNEL

Article 10. In accordance with requirements, the Government of Tunisia shall appoint and remunerate tenured Tunisian teachers from the registers from the Ministry of National Education. The mission of these teachers shall be a limited one, the duration of which shall be determined by the two Parties. These teachers shall benefit under the provisions of the General Convention on Social Security of 17 December 1965.¹

Article 11. The French Government shall accord to the Tunisian teachers working in France the same protection that it grants to French teaching personnel.

Article 12. Tunisian teachers shall benefit under the provisions relating to the issuance by the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the "On mission" card, which confers them the status of persons on educational mission in France.

Article 13. Tunisian teachers put forward by their Government shall be assigned, by agreement with the Tunisian authorities, to a base school or establish-

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 743, p. 3.

ment, with an indication of the various establishments or schools in which they will have to serve.

CHAPTER IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 14. The Tunisian authorities may be authorized to organize examinations in France and to issue diplomas to Tunisian nationals. The competent French authorities shall provide the necessary facilities for this purpose, in particular by making examination halls available.

Article 15. The Contracting Parties shall encourage direct co-operation in the areas of exchange of educational documentation and the training of teaching personnel. For this purpose, an educational co-operation programme comprising studies, research and joint work relating to the teaching of Arabic in primary schools and secondary establishments in France may be organized. This programme shall be reviewed by the Mixed Working Group provided for in article 17.

Article 16. Textbooks and educational documentation (maps, educational films, slides and other audio-visual products of an educational nature) intended for instruction under this Agreement may be imported free of customs duties in accordance with a procedure set forth in the annex.

Article 17. In order to ensure the proper implementation of this Agreement, a Franco-Tunisian Working Group shall be established. Its task shall be to examine questions relating to:

- the general implementation of the Agreement;
- matters pertaining to the organization of the instruction (arrangement of timetables, content, conventions, etc.);
- preparations for each new school year;
- the implementation of educational co-operation.

It shall meet at Paris as required, and at least once a year to make preparations for the new school year.

Article 18. Each of the two Parties shall notify the other of the completion of the constitutional formalities required for the entry into force of this Agreement.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the second such notification.

DONE at Paris on 12 March 1986, in duplicate in the French and Arabic languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

[JEAN-PIERRE CHEVÈNEMENT]

For the Government
of the Republic of Tunisia:

[Signed]

HÉDI MABROUK
Ambassador of Tunisia to France

ANNEX

The educational books and documents in the Arabic language from Tunisia established by the Tunisian authorities in order to ensure the instruction provided for by this agreement, either within the framework of the regular or the after-school academic activities of the schools or outside of the normal hours of the French secondary establishment shall be imported free of import duties and taxes.

The granting of this régime shall be contingent, in each case, on the prior submission of a request signed by the head of the central authority which shall be designated by mutual agreement for that purpose.

This request must indicate distribution of books and materials by the recipient establishment and must include a commitment to forward them to the stated destination.

The books shall remain the property of the Republic of Tunisia until such time as they are delivered, where appropriate, to the families concerned, against a receipt.

The books and materials benefiting from these exemptions may be neither given nor lent, free of charge or in return for payment, to any persons other than the pupils without the prior agreement of the competent national administrations.
