



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



**173<sup>rd</sup> meeting**

# **European Committee of the Regions Bureau**

**Conference on**

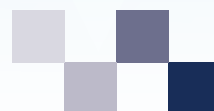
## **Addressing the root causes of migration and the reception of migrants**

**8<sup>th</sup> plenary session**

### **Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM)**

22-23 February 2017

Grandmaster Suite, Hilton Hotel, St Julian's, Malta



# Programme

## Wednesday 22 February 2017

- 09.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.** **Study visit: Marsa Open Centre**
- 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.** **Meeting of National Delegation Coordinators** (*Grandmaster Suite*)
- 12.00 – 02.00 p.m.** **Working lunch of Conference of Presidents of political groups** (*Wignacourt Meeting Room*)
- 12.30 – 02.00 p.m.** **Lunch** (*Spinola Suite*)
- 02.00 – 03.00 p.m.** **173<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the European Committee of the Regions Bureau** (*Grandmaster Suite*)
- 03.00 – 06.00 p.m.** **Conference on Addressing the root causes of migration and the reception of migrants** (*Grandmaster Suite*)
- 06.00 – 08.00 p.m.** **ARLEM preparatory meetings** (*consecutive meetings, Grandmaster Suite*)
- 06.00 – 6.30 p.m.** **Mediterranean partners' coordination**
- 06.30 – 07.00 p.m.** **European partners' coordination**
- 07.00 – 08.00 p.m.** **ARLEM Bureau**
- 08.00 – 11.00 p.m.** **Official reception and dinner** (*Xara Lodge*)

## Thursday 23 February 2017

- 09.00 a.m. – 01.00 p.m.** **8<sup>th</sup> ARLEM plenary session** (*Grandmaster Suite*)





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# 173<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the European Committee of the Regions Bureau

**Wednesday 22 February 2017, 02.00 – 03.00 p.m.**

- 1 Adoption of the agenda**
- 2 Minutes of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Bureau meeting, held in Brussels on 7 February 2017**
- 3 Statement by the President**
  - a Presidency's activities**
  - b Report on the Conference of Presidents**
- 4 Nicosia initiative of support to Libyan municipalities**
  - a Statement by Bettina Muscheidt, Head of EU Delegation to Libya**
- 5 ARLEM capacity-building project for an Integrated and Sustainable Urban Development**
- 6 Any other business**
- 7 Date of the next meeting**

**03.00 – 06.00 p.m**

- 8 Conference: Addressing the root causes of migration and the reception of migrants**

*Interpreting into/from*

EN/FR/DE/IT/NL/ES/SL/HU/LT/MT/SK/BG/AR + DA\*/EL\*/PT\*/FI\*/CZ\*/ET\*/LV\*/PL\*/SL\*/RO\*/HR\*/TR\*

(\* passive interpretation only)



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# Addressing the root causes of migration and the reception of migrants

**Wednesday 22 February 2017, 03.00 – 06.00 p.m.**

*Moderation by Shirin Wheeler, Principal Advisor International Media, European Investment Bank*

## **03.00 – 03.30 p.m. Opening session**

- **Markku Markkula**, President of the European Committee of the Regions and ARLEM co-chair
- **Hon. Carmelo Abela**, Minister for Home Affairs and National Security

## **03.30 – 04.45 p.m. External aspects and economic dimension of EU migration policies: addressing the root causes of migration**

- **Miriam Dalli** (MT/S&D), Member of the European Parliament
- **Peter Bossman** (SI/PES), CoR rapporteur on a Partnership Framework with third countries on Migration, ARLEM member
- **Abdlrauf Beitelmal**, Mayor of Tripoli (Libya), observer in ARLEM
- **Bruno Denis**, Head of Division, Public Sector-Southern Neighbourhood, European Investment Bank

*Debate with participants*

## **04.45 – 05.30 p.m. Reception of migrants, asylum procedures and relocation – Role of local and regional authorities** *(Discussion on the Dublin Regulation reforms and relocation mechanisms)*

- **Vincenzo Bianco** (IT/PES), CoR rapporteur on the Common European Asylum System Reform, ARLEM member
- **Jose Carreira**, Executive Director, European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

*Debate with participants*

## **05.30 – 06.00 p.m. Closing session**

- **Roberta Metsola** (MT/EPP), Member of the European Parliament (video message)
- **Hani Abdalmasih Al Hayek**, Mayor of Beit Sahour (Palestine), co-chair of ARLEM



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# Eighth plenary session

# Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly

## (ARLEM)

Wednesday 22 February 2017

**06.30 p.m. Mediterranean partners' coordination meeting,** chaired by co-president  
**Hani Abdalmasih Al Hayek**

*Interpreting into/from AR, EN, FR, TR (access for ARLEM members only)*

**06.30 – 07.00 p.m. European partners' coordination meeting,** chaired by co-president **Markku Markkula**

*Interpreting into/from EL, EN, ES, FR, IT + FI \* (access for ARLEM members only)*

**07.00 – 08.00 p.m. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ARLEM Bureau**

*Interpreting into/from AR, EL, EN, FR, TR + ES\* (access restricted to Bureau members)*

*(\* passive interpretation only)*



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# Eighth plenary session

# Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly

## (ARLEM)

Thursday 23 February 2017, 09.00 a.m. – 01.00 p.m.

Interpreting into/from AR, EL, EN, FR, MT, TR + ES\*, IT\*

### 09.00 a.m. Opening session

- Opening statements by the ARLEM Co-Presidents: **Markku Markkula**, President of the European Committee of the Regions, and **Hani Abdalmasih Al-Hayek**, Mayor of Beit Sahour, Palestine
- Statement by **Joseph Cordina** (MT/PES)
- **Adoption of the agenda** (COR-2016-02937-00-02-CONVPOJ-TRA)
- **Adoption of the minutes of the seventh plenary session** held on 18 January 2016 in Nicosia, Cyprus (COR-2016-00842-00-00-PV-TRA)

### 09.30 a.m. Adoption of ARLEM thematic reports 2016:

#### Cross border cooperation in the Mediterranean region

- Presentation and adoption of the draft report on "**Cross border cooperation in the Mediterranean region**" (rapporteur: **Francesco Pigliaru**, President of the Sardinia Region, Italy, and CoR member) (COR-2016-01032-00-01-TCD-TRA)

#### Energy and climate change in the Mediterranean region

- Presentation and adoption of the draft report on "**Energy and climate change in the Mediterranean region**" - (rapporteur: **Mohamed Sadiki**, Mayor of Rabat, Morocco) (COR-2016-01031-00-00-TCD-TRA)

10.00 a.m.

## **The revised European Neighbourhood Policy – New Challenges for the Sub-National Authorities**

- **Piero Fassino**, Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Thematic spokesperson on the South-Mediterranean Partnership
- **Mihaela VasIU**, Policy coordinator, European External Action Service, Division for "*Strategy and Instruments of the European Neighbourhood Policy*"

*Exchange of views*

11–11.15 a.m.

## **Family photo / Coffee break** (*location tbc*)

11.15 a.m.

## **Local authorities for stabilisation and territorial development in Libya – tools for decentralised cooperation**

- Statements by **Bettina Muscheidt**, Ambassador, the Head of the EU Delegation to Libya (tbc)
- Statements by **representatives of the Libyan municipalities**
- Exchange of views

11.45 a.m.

## **Presentation of ARLEM Activity report for 2016** (*COR-2016-06838-00-00-TCD-TRA*)

### **Debate and adoption of ARLEM Action plan and priorities 2017**

(*COR-2016-06203-00-02-TCD-TRA*)

### **Debate and adoption of ARLEM Political recommendations 2017**

(*COR-2016-06202-00-00-TCD-TRA*)

### **Amendment of the Rules of Procedure**

(*COR-2016-06498-00-00-TCD-TRA*) and appointment of the rapporteurs

### **Confirmation of the incoming ARLEM co-presidency**

### **Confirmation of the incoming Membership of ARLEM Bureau**

### **Confirmation of the new co-chairmanship of the ARLEM commission**

### **Date and venue of the next *plenary meeting***

12.15 p.m.

## **Representative of the Maltese Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

12.30 p.m.

## **End of meeting**

12.30 – 01.00 p.m.

## **Press conference**



## European Committee of the Regions

Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 350 regional and local representatives from all 28 Member States, representing over 507 million Europeans. Its mission is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union if its rights are infringed or it believes that EU law infringes the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

Edited by the Directorate for Communication of the European Committee of the Regions

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