

ARLEM's inter-institutional relations and cooperation

ARLEM has institutional relations with the European External Action Service, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the European Economic and Social Committee, which has observer status at ARLEM sessions. ARLEM has gained observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM, encouraging cooperation between the political representatives of the two assemblies in order to help strengthen the democratic dimension of Euro-Mediterranean dialogue.

So as to promote their joint values and principles, the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe also has observer status within ARLEM.

In order to step up its activities, ARLEM has signed cooperation agreements with the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat, the European Training Foundation (ETF), and the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI).

The ARLEM secretariat

The ARLEM secretariat's facilities and human resources are provided by the European Committee of the Regions. The secretariat takes care of the organisation of ARLEM meetings, the participation of ARLEM members in high-level panels on Euromed policies, inter-institutional exchanges and follow-up to the drafting and impact of its reports and projects.

All ARLEM publications and news can be found on our website: www.cor.europa.eu/arlem which has a link to the Map of decentralisation and regionalisation in the Member Countries of the Union for the Mediterranean.

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/arlem/Pages/default.aspx>



For further information on ARLEM, please contact the secretariat:

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The Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly



What is the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly?

ARLEM is the assembly of local and regional elected representatives from the European Union and its Mediterranean partners.

It was set up in 2010 by the European Committee of the Regions - the European Union's political assembly of regional and local representatives - and represents the territorial dimension within the Union for the Mediterranean, allowing elected representatives from the three shores of the Mediterranean Sea to represent their local and regional authorities politically, maintain political dialogue and promote interregional cooperation.

What is the aim of ARLEM?

The Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly aims to:

- give a territorial dimension to the Union for the Mediterranean;
- promote local democracy, multi-level governance and decentralised cooperation around the three shores of the Mediterranean;
- encourage North-South and South-South dialogue between local and regional authorities;
- promote the exchange of best practice, knowledge and technical experience in the areas for which local and regional authorities are responsible;
- promote regional integration and cohesion.

How many members does the Assembly have, and which countries are involved?

The Assembly has 80 members. Its membership is divided up equally between the 15 Mediterranean partners and the European Union. The Assembly thus comprises 40 members from the Mediterranean partners and 40 members from the European Union (32 members of the European Committee of the Regions and 8 members representing European associations of local and regional authorities active in the field of Euro Mediterranean cooperation).

The seats of the Mediterranean partners are divided up as follows:

Egypt	5
Turkey	5
Algeria	4
Morocco	4
Syria	3*
Tunisia	3
Albania	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
Israel	2
Jordan	2
Lebanon	2
Mauritania	2
Palestinian Authority	2
Monaco	1
Montenegro	1

* The membership of our 3 Syrian members is currently suspended

Who are the members of the Assembly?

The members of ARLEM are representatives of regional and local bodies of the 43 Union for the Mediterranean member states.

Who chairs ARLEM?

ARLEM is chaired by a joint presidency, representing the Mediterranean partners and the European Union. The co-presidents are the president of the European Committee of the Regions and a member nominated by the Mediterranean country partners.

How does ARLEM operate?

The Assembly brings together ARLEM members at its **annual plenary session** in the course of which the annual report, annual work programme and thematic commission reports are adopted.

The ARLEM **Bureau** meets several times per year to define the Assembly's strategy and range of activities.

The Commission for **Sustainable Territorial Development** drafts thematic reports on the following topics: decentralisation, urban and territorial development, cultural cooperation, the information society, migration and integration, small and medium-sized enterprises, trade, sustainable development, water management, waste management, energy, particularly solar energy, transport, agriculture and tourism, etc.

