173rd meeting
European Committee of the Regions
Bureau

Conference on
Addressing the root causes of migration and the reception of migrants

8th 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.  173rd 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.  8th ARLEM plenary session (Grandmaster Suite)
Wednesday 22 February 2017, 02.00 – 03.00 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Minutes of the 172nd 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/LT/MT/SK/BG/AR + DA*/EL*/PT*/FI*/CZ*/ET*/LV*/PL*/SL*/RO*/HR*/TR* (* passive interpretation only)
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 Carreia, 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
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. 18th meeting of the ARLEM Bureau

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

(* passive interpretation only)
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-CONPOI-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
Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU’s assembly of 320 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.