NOTICE OF MEETING

Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM)
Workshop on Civil Protection

Co-chairs
Mina Bouhdoud, Mayor of Lagfifat (Morocco) and a representative of the EU Group in ARLEM

Venue
Carcassonne, France

Date
1 July 2024
4.00 – 6.30 p.m. (local time)

Interpreting from/into AR, EN, FR, IT, TR (ES passive)

This workshop takes place as a concrete follow-up to the ARLEM report on Cities and regions’ role in Mediterranean Civil Protection by rapporteur and host André Viola (FR/PES), adopted on 25 October 2023 in Alghero, Italy. The aim is to provide ARLEM members with concrete information on available programmes in the Mediterranean, as well as on opportunities for cooperation.

Draft agenda

| 3.45 p.m. | Participants arrive |
| 4.00 p.m. | Welcome and introduction |
|           | - Hélène Sandragné, President of the Departmental Council of Aude |
|           | - Statement by the co-chairs of the ARLEM Commission |
|           | - H.E. Ambassador John Paul Grech, Deputy Secretary General for Social and Civil Affairs, Union for the Mediterranean (tbc) |
|           | - Representative from the Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) of the European Commission (tbc) |
| 4.15 p.m. | Roundtable 1: Cooperation and governance in Mediterranean Civil Protection |
|           | Statement by Ms Mina Bouhdoud, Mayor of Lagfifat (Morocco), Co-chair of the ARLEM Commission |
This first roundtable will focus on the state of play of cooperation and collaboration in the Mediterranean in terms of civil protection, as well as the opportunities to link all levels of governance. Programmes and concrete projects in the European Union and the Mediterranean region will be presented, including the Mediterranean Framework on Civil Protection and PPRD MED.

- **Representative from DG ECHO**
- **Mohamed Ataknit**, Expert for External technical on-site assistance (OSA) in the Southern Neighbourhood countries, DG ECHO
- **André Viola**, ARLEM rapporteur, member of the Departmental Council of Aude (FR/PES), and host

Discussion and exchange of best practices with members

**Guiding questions:**

- How does cooperation on wildfires represent an opportunity to strengthen links between Euro-Mediterranean countries?

- What are the connecting elements that still need to be improved between Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and the sub-national and local levels? How can local communities and municipalities contribute to this?

- In what way, at the end, is civil protection, as a whole, a factor of peace, stability and development? And what are the public policy levers that can encourage societies to be more resilient?

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<th>4.50 p.m.</th>
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| 5.00 p.m. | **Roundtable 2: Case studies: Prevention, Preparedness and Response**  
**Statement by a representative of the EU Group in ARLEM**  

During the second roundtable, several specific on-going case studies will highlight concrete actions in the Mediterranean taking place in the domain of wildfire risks, which aim to create synergies on issues common to the region and closely linked to the local level.

- **Hermeline Malherbe**, President of the Departmental Council of Pyrénées Orientales (France) (tbc)
- **Manuel Rodríguez Vázquez**, Director General de Defensa do Monte, Xunta de Galicia (Spain)
- **Philippe Meresse**, Director of the New Technologies Unit, Entente Valabre (France)
- **Representative from the Risk assessment mission on palm-tree fires in the oasis, Morocco**

Discussion and exchange of best practices with members

**Guiding questions:**
- What are the main obstacles to the implementation of local projects in land use planning policies?

- What are the challenges of wildfire risk assessment and mitigation in the Euro-Mediterranean zone?

- How can the European Union, through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, further amplify its action other than in the capacity response in the event of a disaster?

6.10 p.m. Closing
- André Viola, ARLEM rapporteur, member of the Departmental Council of Aude (FR/PES)

6.30 p.m. End of the meeting