



**European Committee
of the Regions**



Version: 13 January 2021, 12:00

Twelfth plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM)

22 February 2021
Venue: fully remote

Programme

22 February 2021

9.30 a.m.-10.30 a.m.

25th meeting of the ARLEM Bureau

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

11 a.m.- 4.30 p.m.

12th ARLEM plenary session

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Agenda (all times in Central European Time)

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As of

10.00 a.m. *Speakers and members wishing to take the floor must test the connection on the virtual platform (Interactio).*

11.00 a.m. Opening session

- Opening statements by ARLEM co-presidents: **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, president of the European Committee of the Regions, and **Musa Hadid**, Mayor of Ramallah, Palestine
- Statement by Amb. **Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean
- Statement by **Josep Borrell**, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice President of the European Commission (*tbc*)
- Statement by **David Maria Sassoli**, President of the European Parliament, Member of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (*tbc*)
- Adoption of the agenda
- Adoption of the minutes of the 11th plenary session held on 23 January 2020 in Barcelona, Spain

11.30 a.m. Towards a renewed partnership between the EU and its Southern Neighbours in the context of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

- Statement by **Olivér Várhelyi**, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement (*videomessage*)
- **Amb. Yousef Bataine**, Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jordan
- **Jérôme Cassiers**, Mashreq/Maghreb (MaMa) Working Party chair, European External Action Service (*tbc*)
- **Florence Gaub**, Deputy-Director of the EU Institute for Security Studies

(EUISS)

12.30 p.m. A new Green Deal for the Mediterranean: the Agenda 2030 for a Greener Med

Round table with contributions by:

- **Isidro González**, Deputy Secretary General of UfM in charge of Water & Environment
- **Agnès Rampal** (FR/EPP), Deputy Mayor of Nice
- **Davor Percan**, Head of Unit, Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation, Global Sustainable Development, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Debate with ARLEM members
- Adoption of the draft report on "Agriculture and food security in the context of climate change in the Mediterranean"

1.00 p.m. Lunch break

2.30 p.m. The power of transformation: Digitalisation as a key factor to boost business around the Mediterranean

Round table with contributions by:

- **Rachid Maaninou**, Deputy Secretary General of UfM in charge of Economic Development and Employment (*tbc*)
- **Lizzy Delaricha**, Mayor of Ganei Tikva, Israel
- **David Ringrose**, Head of Unit, Policy Outreach and International Affairs, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission (*tbc*)
- **Samir Abdelkrim**, Founder of StartupBRICS, France
- Debate with ARLEM members
- Adoption of the draft report on "Digitalisation of small and medium sized businesses in the Mediterranean region"

3.30 p.m. ARLEM works in 2021

For adoption

- Recommendations 2021
- Update of the Action Plan 2020-2022

For decision

- Topics and rapporteurs for the ARLEM reports 2021

For information

- Activity report 2020

4.00 p.m. Ceremony of the 2021 ARLEM Award:

Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean

4.30 p.m. End of meeting
