



**European Committee
of the Regions**



Version: 15 February 2021, 13:00

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

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Agenda (all times in *Central European Time*)

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8.30 – 9.30 a.m. *Speakers and members wishing to take the floor must test the connection on the virtual platform (Interactio).*

10.30-

11.00 a.m.

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 **Olivér Várhelyi**, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement (*videomessage*)
- 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

- **Amb. Yousef Bataine**, Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jordan
- **Carl Hallergard**, Deputy Managing Director, Middle East and North Africa, European External Action Service
- **Florence Gaub**, Deputy-Director of the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

12.30 p.m. Lunch break

- 2.00 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"
- 2.45 p.m. The power of transformation: Digitalisation as a key factor to boost business around the Mediterranean**
Round table with contributions by:
- **Hamed El Etreby**, Senior Economic Advisor, Economic Development and Employment Division, UfM Secretariat
 - **Lizzy Delaricha**, Mayor of Ganei Tikva, Israel
 - **Ingrid Schwaiger**, Deputy Head of Unit, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
 - **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"
- 3.45 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
- 4.15 p.m. Ceremony of the 2021 ARLEM Award:**
Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean
- 4.30 p.m. End of meeting**
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