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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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 Bataineh**, 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