



**European Committee
of the Regions**



HIGHLIGHTS

New ARLEM term

Karl-Heinz Lambertz and Mohammed Boudra are the new co-presidents of ARLEM for the next two and a half years

The 2017-2019 term of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) started on 26 July 2017 with the election of the new President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Senator of the German-speaking Community of Belgium. Mr Lambertz will act as co-president of ARLEM representing the EU group. The co-president representing the Mediterranean group is Mohammed Boudra, Mayor of Al Hoceima and President of the AMPCC, Morocco.

During the new term ARLEM's Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development will be co-chaired by Hussain Mhaidat (Director of Local Councils, Amman/Jordan) for the Mediterranean group and Olgierd Geblewicz (Marshal of West Pomerania, Poland) for the European Union.

24/10/2017

At their 19th meeting in Brussels the ARLEM Bureau members will discuss transparency as an important aspect of good governance at sub-national level, as well as local election observation as a way of strengthening the institutional framework of local governance.

Other items on the agenda include the activities of the Union for the Mediterranean, preparations for the next ARLEM plenary session and ARLEM activities in 2018.

24/10/2017

The two ARLEM reports for 2017 will be discussed at the third meeting of the ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development: *Women's empowerment in the Mediterranean region* (rapporteur: Mary Freehill, PES/IE, Member of Dublin City Council) and *The role of the sub-national authorities from the Mediterranean region in addressing radicalisation and violent extremism of young people* (rapporteur: Mohamed Kamal El Daly, Governor of Giza, Egypt).

The Urban Agenda in the Mediterranean, with a debriefing after the UfM Ministerial Meeting in Cairo in May 2017, is also on the agenda.



**European Committee
of the Regions**



EVENTS

Union for the Mediterranean calendar:

18/10/2017

The first UfM Energy and Climate Forum in Cairo brought together representatives of governments, businesses and the financial sector to identify cooperation opportunities and mechanisms for energy transition with a special focus on renewable energy.

To read more: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/first-ufm-energy-climate-business-forum/>

9/11/2017

The UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development will discuss the operational steps to be taken to implement the UfM Urban Agenda, fostering innovative and sustainable solutions, promoting better knowledge and best practices on common urban development priorities, and identifying new projects that would be replicated in the region.

22/11/2017

In Barcelona the UfM is co-organising, with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), the *Women and Entrepreneurship & Investment program 2017* in conjunction with MedaWeek Barcelona, a leading business and investment event.

To read more: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/weip-barcelona-2017/>

27/11/2017

The 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on *Strengthening the Role of Women in Society* will take place in Cairo, Egypt. The Conference will bring together the ministers of the 43 Member States of the UfM responsible for women's affairs and gender equality. Following the previous UfM Ministerial Conferences on *Strengthening the Role of Women in Society* – held in 2006 in Istanbul, in 2009 in Marrakech and in 2013 in Paris – the ministers will meet to further support women and girls of the Euro-Mediterranean region in their quest for empowerment and equality.

To read more: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-ministerial-conference-strengthening-role-women-society/>

29/11/2017

The UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on the Blue Economy will take place in Naples (Italy) with the following objectives: to provide a regional platform for discussing opportunities and challenges in relation to promoting the blue economy; to exchange views on alternative approaches and methodologies for boosting the blue economy; and to identify policies/strategies for harnessing



**European Committee
of the Regions**



the potential of the blue economy in promoting growth, jobs, investment and sustainable poverty reduction.

To read more: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-regional-conference-blue-economy/>

12/12/2017

The annual meeting of the three UfM Energy Platforms will take place in Barcelona, providing an opportunity to set out the deliverables and the implementation status of activities included in the 2017 Work Programme and to present activities planned for 2018.



**European Committee
of the Regions**



RECENT MEETINGS | EVENTS and NEWS

11/10/2017

A workshop on good governance and transparency in Mediterranean municipalities took place during the European Week of Regions and Cities organised by the European Committee of the Regions. In line with ARLEM's 2017 priority on good governance at subnational level, this workshop addressed various challenges, strategies and practices in the field of good governance and transparency. Municipalities are taking up the challenge and considering how to put in place systems to ensure integrity and transparency, as they generally cannot rely on the checks and balances at the central level. Key speakers were Luc Van den Brande, ARLEM member; Chawki Tabib, President of the Tunisian Anti-corruption Agency; Guido De Clercq, Transparency International Belgium; Majid Abu Zaid, Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), Palestine; Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Seferihisar and chairman of the Association of Social Democratic Municipalities, Turkey; and Aitana Mas, Director General of Transparency and Participation, government of Valencia Region, Spain.

10-11/7/2017

The European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions organised the 5th Assises of Decentralised Cooperation/Regions and Cities for Development. More than 600 participants – local and regional authorities from the EU, Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and Latin America – came together to discuss common challenges and build sustainable partnerships for development cooperation. The 5th edition of the Assises focused on the crucial role of local and regional authorities **in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals locally**, with reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To read more: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/UNs-development-goals.aspx>

13-15/6/2017

Since 2015 the European Committee of the Regions has developed a close political and, increasingly, very practical relationship with Libyan cities, known as the Nicosia Initiative. The relationship has the double aim of helping to improve public services in Libya and helping Libyan cities to integrate into the international community. As part of the initiative, the Friuli Venezia Giulia region (Italy) organised a training course about fishing cooperatives in June 2017. Politicians and technical experts from the cities of Tobruk, Benghazi, Sirte and Tripoli **visited Friuli** to learn how to improve their aquaculture and create jobs for young Libyans, and how to develop trade relations with the European Union and secure Libya's coasts. Creating employment always means taking young people away from crime. A comprehensive programme including vocational training and certification of sea products is being prepared with a view to further action in this field.



**European Committee
of the Regions**



13-14/2/2018

In February 2018 the 7th annual MUNI WORLD conference will be held in Tel Aviv. The conference aims to promote technological innovation and efficient management in local authorities, as well as providing insight and expertise to local officials on issues related to urban planning and local development.

You can find additional details here: <http://www.muniexpo.co.il/>
