



**Draft ARLEM annual report**  
**on**  
**The territorial dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean**

**2013**

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This annual report (2013 edition) was prepared by the ARLEM co-presidents, Ramón Luis Varcárcel Siso (President of the Committee of the Regions, (Murcia region/ES) and Ali Abd El-Rahman (Governor of Giza/EG). The report will be submitted for adoption at ARLEM's 5th plenary session to be held in Tangiers, Morocco, on 24 February 2014.

## **2013: A YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND NEW PROSPECTS FOR THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The year has been eventful and challenging for the European Union and its neighbours. The EU continued to work on overcoming the financial crisis, and the related economic downturn in several Member States. Some of its partner countries in the neighbourhood continued to face conflicts, political instability and difficult socioeconomic conditions. During this difficult period of economic and political challenges, ARLEM has continued to campaign to increase European Union (EU) support to local and regional authorities (also "LRAs") in the southern and eastern Mediterranean.

Three years after the beginning of the democratic uprising known as the Arab spring, and the changes of regime and/or constitutional reforms that it has triggered across the Mediterranean region, additional steps are still needed to consolidate the democratic process. Efficient and democratic local government systems that are autonomous vis-à-vis the central government and have the necessary resources to effectively respond to local citizens' needs and demands, still have to take hold in many countries of the Mediterranean region.

New governments need time, resources and trust to stay on the path towards a truly democratic society. The transition to a democratic system requires political dialogue and constitutional changes. However, at the same time, governments must also take immediate action to restart the economy, improve the public administration's performance and accountability, act decisively to fight corruption and re-establish security.

Mediterranean countries that are following ambitious paths of political transition need support to consolidate these processes. The EU revised the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in 2011, establishing instruments to provide more support to partner countries building deep and sustainable democracy and to support inclusive economic development.<sup>1</sup> The new ENP's main features are political association and economic integration, the mobility of people, more EU financial assistance, a stronger partnership with civil society and better cooperation on specific sector policies.<sup>2</sup>

Local and regional authorities are strategic partners for good governance and successful development outcomes, and vital players in the external policy of the EU. They are key players in the promotion of participatory and inclusive decision-making processes, the definition of development plans and the increased efficiency in the delivery of basic services, which are essential to the success of the transition to democracy.

The European Commission has identified the importance of the role of local and regional authorities in developing new strategies in the field of development cooperation and reflected it in several

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – European Neighbourhood Policy: working towards a stronger partnership (JOIN(2013)4 final).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Communications, most recently in the Communication on Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes.<sup>3</sup> The European Commission has stated that development policies and strategies are requiring an increasing participation of all relevant actors, and that local and regional authorities are fundamental in the elaboration of these strategies because they increase the impact of EU aid assistance.

It is clear that despite the impact of the current financial and economic crisis, the European Union maintains its commitment to the region and to its local and regional authorities. Cooperation with the Mediterranean is increasingly taking place at different levels and with different stakeholders, as evidenced by the establishment of several task forces and a renewed commitment to the macro-regional "5+5" Dialogue in the Western Mediterranean,<sup>4</sup> aimed, inter alia, at promoting further integration by strengthening institutional capacity at the local government level. Nevertheless, we deplore the lack of a forward-looking approach vis-à-vis the Mediterranean at the level of the European Council and the Council of Foreign Affairs, more focused on reacting to crisis-management issues than on creating socio-economic perspectives for the Mediterranean partners.

The EU and its neighbours must work together to anchor the essential values and principles of human rights, participatory democracy and the rule of law, a market economy and inclusive, sustainable development, in their political and economic fabric.<sup>5</sup>

This report will set out our vision of the strategy which should be implemented in the short, medium and long term to respond to changes and developments in this region, particularly in the southern Mediterranean.

## **1. THE STATE OF THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSION OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

### **1.1 ARLEM: an added value in neighbourhood policy and in the governance of the UfM**

Within the governance structure of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), ARLEM safeguards the representation of the territorial dimension. As an assembly that regularly brings together political representatives of local and regional authorities from the three shores of the Mediterranean, ARLEM facilitates political dialogue on issues of common concern and encourages inter-regional cooperation at the local and regional level.

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<sup>3</sup> Communication on Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes, COM(2013) 280 final.

<sup>4</sup> Three Task Forces - EU/Tunisia, EU/Jordan and EU/Egypt - have already been set up to work together with partners and resources from EU institutions and Member States. The 5+5 Dialogue covers Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. See the Joint Communication from the European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, "Supporting closer cooperation and regional integration in the Maghreb: Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia" JOIN(2012) 36 final.

<sup>5</sup> Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, "A new response to a changing Neighbourhood", COM(2011) 303 final.

The spirit of good cooperation that has characterised relations between the UfM Secretariat and ARLEM since the latter's creation in 2010 was given fresh impetus this year through the signing of Declaration of Intent between ARLEM and the UfM Secretariat on 18 February 2013, as well as ARLEM's active participation, in the second half of 2013, in three Ministerial Conferences of the UfM. Among the UfM's priority areas of action, the strengthening of the UfM's territorial dimension, including cooperation with ARLEM has this year become a key priority. This new focus on the territorial dimension translates into a multi-dimensional approach to Mediterranean relations geared to promoting growth, supporting jobs and regional development.

ARLEM placed a lot of emphasis this year on strengthening cooperation with key EU institutions and other stakeholders. Further avenues for cooperation are set out in this document.

In line with its intention to enhance its presence in the EU institutions and the UfM, ARLEM was granted observer status at the 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM (PA-UfM), on 12 April 2013. Greater synergies between the activities of their respective commissions/committees should be sought, so as to boost the quality of political and strategic analysis on the Mediterranean region.

ARLEM also increased its cooperation with the Anna Lindh foundation and ARLEM member Hani Abdelmasih al-Hayek (Mayor of Beit Sahour, Palestine) participated in the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Forum, held in Marseille, France, on 4-7 April 2013.

ARLEM's potential has also been highlighted by the European Parliament. The importance of involving local and regional authorities through ARLEM has been recognised on several occasions by the Parliament as necessary to ensuring democratic processes in the Mediterranean region. There is a clear need to develop mechanisms that allow civil society in UfM Member States to "*learn, participate and articulate ideas, initiatives and proposals for the development of actions and projects of the UfM*"<sup>6</sup>.

Given the multiple challenges in the Mediterranean, it is crucial for ARLEM to build lasting and structured partnerships with the various actors and strengthen synergies between their respective activities. In this regard, it was important throughout 2013 to ensure that implementation of the political recommendations was monitored closely and that ARLEM's priorities were synchronised with those of the other institutions. Moreover, the presence of ARLEM as an observer at meetings of senior officials, as well as the participation of ARLEM members in Ministerial Conferences, has proved to be useful to ensuring a high institutional profile for the Assembly vis-à-vis both the UfM Member States and the EU institutions present, particularly the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

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<sup>6</sup> Recommendations by Raimón Obiols PA-UpM: Which Euro-Mediterranean partnership to respond to the new context of democratic transition in the Mediterranean?

Following the signing of a Declaration of Intent between ARLEM and the ETF, ARLEM participated in the ETF Policy Leader's Forum on Public Management of Education, Training and Employment in the Arab States of the southern and eastern Mediterranean, which was held in Marseille on 6 October 2013.

Another sign of the increasing relevance of ARLEM's work is the request from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to be granted the status of observer at ARLEM meetings, which was approved by the ARLEM Plenary Session held in Brussels on 18 February 2013.

Beyond the EU institutional framework, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) also cooperates with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CLRA), which has observer status in ARLEM. One of the main areas of cooperation with the Congress is neighbourhood policy, in which the Congress is particularly active, having launched cooperation activities with Morocco and Tunisia.

In order to further strengthen ARLEM's relationship with the European Associations representing local and regional authorities that are members of the Assembly,<sup>7</sup> the ARLEM Secretariat hosted a meeting with representatives of these associations in Brussels on 18 November 2013 and seeks to further develop joint or complementary activities, as it was the case with the UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) in 2013. In this context, ARLEM calls on the associations to study possible ways of collaboration in 2014 to maximise common visibility in order to achieve our common goals.

## 1.2 ARLEM, a forum for ongoing political dialogue

2013 saw the further consolidation of ARLEM's structures and programme. In view of ARLEM's potential to strengthen the territorial dimension of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, its members have, throughout the year, confirmed their wish to continue to focus their political commitment on three main priorities:

- providing support for the decentralisation and regionalisation undertaken or planned in many countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean;
- advocating a multilevel approach in the European neighbourhood policy; and
- promoting the territorialisation of the UfM's sectoral priorities.

Discussions in the ECOTER commission in 2013 focused on a cohesion policy for the Mediterranean region and members agreed that it was in the EU's interest to establish a path towards socio-economic convergence between north and south. The ECOTER commission noted that such a renewed policy should incorporate methodologies from the European cohesion policy, which has proven to be a key

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The Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), Arco Latino, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR), the Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities (COPPEM), MedCities, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

tool for reducing economic, social and territorial disparities among European regions, as well as for boosting competitiveness.

The ECOTER Commission also discussed the topic of the role of women in Euromed cooperation, drawing on the ARLEM position paper on the same subject. ECOTER Commission Member Linda Gillham (Member of Runnymede Borough Council, United Kingdom) presented key messages from the ARLEM position paper on the role of women in Euromed cooperation during the Ministerial Conference of the UfM on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, which took place in Paris on 12 September 2013, emphasising the importance of addressing women's concerns at all levels of the political decision-making process, in particular at the local level, and calling on all levels of government to take the gender perspective into account in the drafting of policies, methods and instruments which affect the daily lives of the local population.

Discussions in the SUDEV commission in 2013 focused on sustainable urban mobility, which was identified as a vital lever for sustainable economic and social development in the Mediterranean and was chosen as the topic for the 2013 SUDEV report. On 14 November 2013, the UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport was held in Brussels. It represents the first ministerial conference on transport since the launch of the UfM and after the 2005 Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Transport held in Marrakech. SUDEV rapporteur Karim Bennour (President of the People's Municipal Assembly of Algiers, Algeria) presented key messages of his draft report on sustainable urban mobility at the conference: transport needs to be an integral part of urban planning which should be focused on access to destinations and services; urban mobility plans should be developed in all UfM countries in order to reduce the use of private cars and foster non-motorised ways of transport, effective, reliable, affordable and safe public transport as well as a better connection of different modes of transport. In this perspective, local and regional authorities need to be given the adequate responsibilities, competences and means in order to fully play their role.

Of all the major activities in which ARLEM was asked to take part during 2013, which have helped to strengthen its legitimacy and raise its profile, the contributions of our members to the discussions at the following events deserve particular mention. In this context, attention needs to be drawn to the very significant increase in the active participation of ARLEM members in external events.

- The Third Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean, held in Marseille, France, on 3-4 April 2013 (ARLEM representative: Mercedes Bresso, Piemonte/ IT);
- The Anna Lindh Mediterranean Forum, held in Marseille, France, on 4-7 April 2013 (ARLEM representative, Hani Abdelmasih Al-Hayek, Beit Sahour/PS);
- The Third Assises of Decentralised Cooperation for Development, held in Brussels on 9-10 April 2013 (ARLEM representative Hani Abdelmasih Al-Hayek, Beit Sahour/PS, also present: Mohamed Boudra, Taza al-Hoceima-Taounate/MA, Mercedes Bresso, Piemonte/IT, and Lotta Håkansson Harju, Järälla /SE);
- The 9th Plenary of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, held in Brussels, Belgium, on 11-12 April 2013 (ARLEM representative: Luc van den Brande, Vlaanderen/BE);

- The Union for the Mediterranean Launch Conference for the 'Governance and Financing in the Mediterranean Water Sector' Project, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 28-29 May 2013 (ARLEM representative: Hani Abdelmasih Al-Hayek, Beit Sahour/PS);
- The Third Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, held in Paris, France, on 12 September 2013 (ARLEM representative: Linda Gillham, Runnymede/UK);
- The Mediterranean Economic Conference on Employment and Territorial Development, co-organised by the Union for the Mediterranean and the Tunisian Government, held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 17-18 September 2013 (ARLEM representative: Peter Bossman, Piran /SI);
- The ETF Policy Leader's Forum on Public Management of Education, Training and Employment in the Arab States of the southern and eastern Mediterranean, held in Marseille on 6 October 2013 (ARLEM representative: Luc Van den Brande, Vlaanderen/BE);
- The Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Brussels, on 14 November 2013 (ARLEM representative: Karim Bennour, Algiers /DZ);
- The High-level Covenant of Mayors Forum "The Covenant of Mayors – a vector of change for the European Neighbourhood region and Central Asia", held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 14-15 November 2013 (ARLEM representative: Luc Van den Brande, Vlaanderen/BE);
- The Dunkirk+10 Forum of European Local Authorities for Palestine: Optimizing Euro-Palestinian Decentralised Cooperation, held in Dunkirk, France, on 28-29 November 2013 (ARLEM representatives: Iyad Jallad, Hani Abdelmasih Al-Hayek, Beit Sahour/PS);
- The 13<sup>th</sup> FEMIP conference on energy efficiency in the Mediterranean region, held in Brussels, on 10 December 2013 (ARLEM secretariat present);
- The Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Energy, held in Brussels, on 11 December 2013 (ARLEM representative: Michel Lebrun, Viroinval/BE).

In addition, the co-presidents held bilateral talks with the Secretary-General of the UfM (Brussels, February 2013, and Barcelona, May 2013), with the Association of Local Authorities of Israel (Tel Aviv, June 2013) and several local authorities of the Palestinian Authorities (West Bank, June 2013).

### 1.3 **ARLEM, a lever for cooperation between local and regional authorities in the Euromed zone**

As a local and regional assembly, ARLEM's key objective is to assist regional and local authorities in designing and promoting sustainable policies, so as to help them identify projects that can reduce the negative impacts of the current challenges and problems their citizens are facing. Indeed, ARLEM has launched several initiatives and published studies in order to facilitate cooperation among the region's local and regional authorities, building stable and fruitful partnerships for the exchanges of good practices and know-how.<sup>8</sup>

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The information guide "EU funding for local and regional authorities from the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries" helps to identify how southern and eastern Mediterranean countries can access EU funds and programmes, considering the specificities of each country and providing a complete overview of the possibilities. This guide, commissioned by ARLEM, was distributed in three language versions at the fourth ARLEM plenary in February 2013.

Decentralised cooperation, which is defined as publicly and privately funded aid provided by and through local authorities, networks and other local actors,<sup>9</sup> has an important role to play as a vehicle for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. This is why the CoR is currently working on making Euro-Mediterranean cooperation more visible in the European Portal of Decentralised Cooperation<sup>10</sup>. This Portal is a joint initiative by the CoR and the European Commission that provides facts and figures on development activities carried out or financed by the EU's local and regional authorities and can help with the launch of new partnerships. ARLEM members are increasingly providing information on the cooperation they have been involved in, in an effort to create a proper database that can provide new, practical avenues for cooperation between local and regional authorities in the Mediterranean and help to establish new partnerships.<sup>11</sup>

Decentralised cooperation with one specific partner was the focus of the "Dunkirk+10 Forum of European Local Authorities for Palestine" which was held on 28-29 November in Dunkirk, France, and in which both Palestinian ARLEM members participated.

The topic of "Capacity building of local and regional authorities: a support for development" was one of the main topics of the Third Assises on Decentralised Cooperation, which the CoR and the European Commission hosted in Brussels on 9-10 April 2013 and at which several ARLEM members spoke. In particular, Hani Abdelmasih Al-Hayek (Mayor of Beit Sahour, Palestine) and Co-president of the SUDEV Commission, represented ARLEM at this round table.

Institutional capacity building in the area of urban development and urban governance will be at the core of an ARLEM-led project to be labelled by the UfM. This important policy area is about to receive new impetus in 2014, with the UfM planning to put new emphasis on its urban strategy. Moreover, ARLEM's capacity building project falls in the scope of the new priorities for the European Neighbourhood Instrument for 2014-2020, which has as one of its main priorities bringing tangible benefits to both the EU and its partners in democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance and sustainable development.

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9 Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions: Local authorities - actors for development, COM(2008) 626 final.

10 <http://cor.europa.eu/portal>.

11 Available data suggests that among ARLEM's European members, Spain and France are the two countries most active in decentralised cooperation. As regards partner countries from the South, Morocco and Palestine host around 70% of all decentralised cooperation projects and receive almost 55% of the funds allocated by European LRAs to decentralised cooperation. Mauritania (7.8%), Lebanon (7%), Tunisia (6.1%) and Algeria (4.5%) together host a quarter of the total number of decentralised cooperation projects, whereas Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Albania, Jordan, Syria, and Libya together are involved in a mere 3% of decentralised cooperation projects with European LRAs. Decentralised cooperation experienced a real take-off during the 2000s, both in terms of the number of decentralised cooperation projects and the funds invested. However, recent political troubles do seem to have had an effect on decentralised cooperation. In Egypt or Tunisia, for example, decentralised cooperation seems to have stagnated or decreased since 2010. With respect to Libya and Syria, there have never been many decentralised cooperation projects with European local authorities.

The pilot project focuses on three activities, including learning from experts, learning from common experience and learning from partners. In the pilot phase, the project will work with around 10-15 partners, coming from regions and municipalities.

## 2. **ARLEM'S OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2012-2015 MANDATE**

During the current mandate, it is essential for ARLEM to tackle three main issues: closing the territorial gap; boosting territorial development as a lever for growth and jobs in the regions; and promoting the principle of subsidiarity and the institutional capacity building needed to manage structures for the provision of local public services and to manage funds for cooperation.

The partner countries on the northern shore are coping with economic recession, marked by rising unemployment and stringent budget constraints that are hampering their capacity for action. This situation is having a particularly serious effect on local and regional authorities. At the same time, in the south and east of the Mediterranean, despite higher growth rates, the partner countries are faced with endemic unemployment, which is affecting their prospects for economic and social development. The economic and social situation, aggravated by regional and local disparities, was the initial spark behind the popular desire for change expressed in a number of countries along the southern shore of the Mediterranean. Constitutional reform, aimed at moving towards greater democracy, is underway in several countries, and is being accompanied in some cases by moves towards greater local and regional participation in the political process.

The new priorities for the European Neighbourhood Instrument for 2014-2020 include, among others, bringing tangible benefits to both the EU and its partners in terms of democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance and sustainable development, as well as the "more for more" principle, which means better adjusting EU assistance to partner countries' needs and progress. ARLEM supports the approach recommended by the ENP for promoting a more partnership-based neighbourhood policy that ensures a level of differentiation and greater openness in the democratic process and civil society.

For the EU, a key factor is the process of building democracy in partner countries. Democratisation and decentralisation are essential to the process of socio-economic development and crucial when it comes to turning the transition processes in the Mediterranean into a success. The ENP is a tool to support and encourage this process. ARLEM supports the approach recommended by the ENP for promoting a more partnership-based neighbourhood policy that ensures a level of differentiation and greater openness in the democratic process and civil society.

It has been foreseen that the new ENP will develop its programmes in three priority sectors, in which local and regional authorities could contribute and fully participate:

- the exchange of experiences and the development of regional platforms, open to diverse sectors and actors;

- "People to people" dialogue: addressed to civil society, this consists of social dialogue with different actors and includes the existing Civil Society facility. Local and regional authorities will also be encouraged to participate; and
- Rule of law, promotion of democracy, and good governance.

During 2014, the different programmes under the European Neighbourhood Instrument will be proposed and, once these have been approved, calls for proposals will be published by the end of 2014 and throughout 2015. ARLEM will monitor this process very closely and work with its members and its partners to make full use of the opportunities and possibilities offered by the new ENP to promote the territorial development of the Euromed region.

## 2.1 **Consolidating the moves towards decentralisation and regionalisation in the Mediterranean**

The changes that have taken place in several southern Mediterranean countries as a result of the strong popular desire for democratisation offer new opportunities for establishing democracy at the grassroots level. The process of constitutional reform under way in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, among others, has the potential to pave the way for the gradual development of democracy, based on a legislative framework that recognises democratic principles, standards and values. This process should lead to decentralisation with a view to guaranteeing effective and appropriate governance to respond to local challenges and specificities in light of the principle of subsidiarity.

ARLEM has commissioned a study to create a map of the state of the process of decentralisation and regionalisation in the countries to the east and the south of the Mediterranean. Together with an earlier study commissioned by the CoR on the division of powers between the European Union, the Member States and local and regional authorities, which has been extended to include an analysis of candidate and potential candidate countries,<sup>12</sup> this provides ARLEM with a kind of observatory to monitor trends in decentralisation and regionalisation in its member states, allowing it to take a position on such processes.

In Morocco, a comprehensive constitutional reform was approved in a referendum in July 2011. This includes limited devolution of powers and the decentralisation of the resource allocation system following the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Regionalisation. The Advisory Committee on Regionalisation also recommended that the number of regions be reduced from the current 16 to 12 regions. The new constitution foresees a shift in power and resources from the centre to the regions, empowering regional councils that are directly elected by voters instead of regional representatives of the executive (walis). However, the organic law on regionalisation, which the Constitution foresees and which is to lay down details of the actual division of competencies between the State and sub-national levels of government, has not yet been adopted, giving rise to uncertainty over the current state of advancement of the process of decentralisation in Morocco.

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[www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu).

In Tunisia, the 23 October 2011 elections led to a constituent national assembly charged with drawing up a new constitution for the country. A committee of "regional and local public authorities" was set up within the assembly. The purpose of this commission was to draft the articles of the chapter in the constitution concerning regional and local authorities. The principles taken into account by the commission in its work were as follows: (a) the principle of elected local councils, (b) the principle of free administration and (c) the principle of functional and financial autonomy. The draft constitution of 2013 clearly enshrines the principle of the direct election of municipal and regional councils; the councils of the regions<sup>13</sup>, however, will be elected indirectly by the members of the municipal and regional councils. In the final version of the draft, chapter VII on "Local powers" stipulates how the public authorities are to exercise their powers. It includes articles 128 to 139 and enshrines the principle of the election of municipal and regional councils (article 130), the principle of legal personality and the financial and administrative autonomy of the regional and local authorities (article 129) and the principle of free administration (article 129). The draft also enshrines the regional and local authorities' own powers, those shared with the central authority and the powers transferred by the latter (article 131).<sup>14</sup>

As far as Egypt is concerned, a new constitution was approved by a referendum on 14-15 January 2014. The draft maintains the current appointment system, whereby governors and local officials are appointed by the central government, stating that "The law regulates the manner in which governors and heads of other local administrative units are selected, and defines their mandate" (article 179). At the same time, local councils (which are elected) are empowered to withdraw confidence from the heads of local units (article 180), but those decisions can be overturned by the central government if they are considered to "damage the public interest" (article 181). As regards decentralisation and local government, Article 176 of the draft constitutions provides that "*the state ensures support for administrative, financial, and economic decentralisation. The law organises empowering administrative units in providing, improving, and managing public utilities well, and defines the timeline for transferring powers and budgets to the local administrative units*".<sup>15</sup>

As regards Jordan, in June 2011, the Jordanian monarch formed a national committee to redraft the constitution. The committee amended some articles of the constitution and made recommendations for additional change. These included the creation of a new administrative division at the regional level and a proposal for a municipal elections law, to allow for the direct election of mayors (currently appointed by the King). Even though the law has not come into effect and there is no clear plan outlining the timetable for reforms, ARLEM welcomes these steps towards decentralisation of local government.

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13 Not to be confused with the regional councils.

14 Study on a Map of the state of the process of decentralisation and regionalisation in countries to the east and the south of the Mediterranean, KLU Leuven.

15 <http://www.idea.int/wana/egypts-third-constitution-in-three-years-a-critical-analysis.cfm>.

Concerning Turkey, on 30 September 2013, the Turkish government announced a democratisation package. The progress report of the European Commission considered this to be a very positive step. In the context of work on a new constitution and in relation to the peace process with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), a growing consensus has emerged in Turkey of the need to lift Turkey's reservation on the European Charter of Local Self-Government and the possibility of introducing a new system of elected governors; however, no firm commitment has been reported yet. At the same time, there has been some progress in devolving power to local government. A new Law on Metropolitan Municipalities was adopted in December 2012 and will enter into force after the next round of local elections on 30 March 2014. The new law increases the number of metropolitan municipalities to 29 and extends the scope of competences of certain metropolitan municipalities by replacing the Special Provincial Administrations headed by appointed governors. Other changes introduced by the new law partially address concerns raised by the Council of Europe that small municipalities often lack the capacity to deliver public services, by extending metropolitan municipal boundaries to provincial ones. Furthermore, the new law offers new financial resources and investment opportunities by establishing investment monitoring coordination centres in place of special provincial administrations. However, it does not implement Council of Europe recommendations on strengthening municipalities by enabling them to raise their own revenue.

As regards the ARLEM partner countries in the eastern Mediterranean, the European Union acknowledged for the first time in 2000 that the Western Balkan countries were potential candidates for EU membership. Since then, and especially since the adoption in 2003 of the "Thessaloniki Agenda", paving the way for the European integration of the Western Balkans, Croatia has become a Member State of the EU,<sup>16</sup> Montenegro has become a candidate country,<sup>17</sup> Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina are potential candidates for accession;<sup>18</sup> and Turkey has opened the chapter on regional policy in its process of accession to the EU.<sup>19</sup>

European integration is worth remembering here because it has been and still is a powerful tool to help the territorial de-centralisation process: not only because accession requires the adoption of a de-centralised model of administration, to ensure the regional and local management of European structural funds, but also because the existence of both an efficient and democratic local government system, autonomous vis-à-vis the central government and with resources enough to effectively fulfil its mission, plays a key role in ensuring that a candidate country meets the Copenhagen criteria – i.e., the political criteria for accession.

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16 On 1 July 2013.

17 On 17 December 2010.

18 Albania applied for membership on 1st April 2009.

19 The CoR currently organises and chairs two Joint Consultative Committees (JCCs) and two Working Groups (WGs). These include the JCC with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the JCC with the Republic of Montenegro, as well as the Working Group on relations with Turkey and the Working Group on the Western Balkans.

All candidate countries have in the meantime become signatories of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CLRA), and in all of them progress has been made regarding political and administrative de-centralisation. Progress has however been uneven and is threatened, like elsewhere, by the financial pressures on local and regional authorities arising from the current economic situation in Europe.

Local self-government is rather new in Albania. 12 regions, and, at the local level, 304 communes, grouped into 69 municipalities were created in 2000. In a recent document, the European Commission, after recognising that Albania today is a "highly decentralised country", also notes that "the administrative and technical capacities at the local and regional level need to be further strengthened", stating the need to overcome the deep political divisions that has obstructed reforms for a number of years and defining as a key priority to reform local and regional administration "with a view to enhancing professionalism and de-politicisation [...] and to strengthening a transparent, merit-based approach to appointments and promotions" .

As regards Bosnia-Herzegovina, the fact that the country is still living with an international governance system, on the one hand, and a persistent political and institutional internal deadlock, on the other hand, has also led to insufficient progress in public administration (including local administration) reform and has seriously affected the functioning of self-government. Local elections were held on October 2012 and the election observation mission of the CLRA considered that they were conducted "*in accordance with the standards for democratic elections elaborated by the CoE and other international institutions*", signalling a significant evolution in the way they were prepared and organised. Also hampering progress is the fact that there is no clear division of power between the different levels of government. For that reason, an expert group was set up with support from the United States and the EU, which has drafted recommendations for reform of the Federation's Constitution aiming to address the costly and complex governance structure.

Despite having amended recently the law on self-government, favouring increased transparency, efficiency and accountability of local administration, and having enacted a new welcomed law on territorial organisation, Montenegro still needs to strengthen its local administrative structures, notably to increase its absorption capacity of pre-accession funds.

In all three cases, further progress in the path of de-centralisation requires, besides dialogue between all the relevant national and sub-national political actors, the exchange of know-how and experience, which is within ARLEM's capacity to foster and promote.

In addition, the CoR's involvement in the work of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, which is offering support to some of the countries in the southern Mediterranean that are drawing up new constitutions, is a positive step towards ensuring that these constitutions incorporate the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality and proximity.

Decentralisation processes need to be accompanied by measures to enhance the administrative, financial and institutional capacities of local and regional authorities and uphold the subsidiarity principle, through improving efficiency and good governance.

## 2.2 Ensuring that the UfM's sectoral policies include a territorial dimension

The territorial dimension is necessary to respond to the need for an efficient administration of public services and to face economic difficulties, aggravated by instability. To improve performance on the territorial dimension, a number of key elements need to be considered, including sustainability, cohesion and good governance, whilst also taking account of democratisation and the development of institutional capacities.

ARLEM members took the opportunity to highlight the territorial dimension at several Ministerial Conferences of the UfM that have taken place this year, including the Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society held in Paris on 12 September 2013, the Ministerial Conference on Transport, convened in Brussels on 17 November 2013, and the Ministerial Conference on Energy, also in Brussels, on 11 December 2013.

Under the UfM's annual work programmes for 2012 and 2013, the priority was to deliver concrete results by developing flagship projects within the parameters of the work programme. In order to fulfil its mandate, the UfM has developed a process of screening and analysing the projects, and it is also working towards the development of a strategy and an operational plan to attract funding. The fundraising strategy consists in establishing a network of financiers and donors who could provide funding for UfM labelled projects, as well as promoting the creation of new financing schemes applicable to UfM projects. The UfM is developing projects in five different fields of great importance for the region: business development and funding coordination; transport and urban development; energy, environment and water; higher education and research; and social and civil affairs.

ARLEM has taken steps to use its capacity to act and propose measures with a view to territorialising the sectoral priorities of the UfM, by developing the abovementioned project on the reinforcement of institutional and administrative capacities of local and regional authorities in the management of public policies, which will be launched in 2014. In addition, when it comes to the selection and implementation of practical UfM projects, ARLEM will ensure that regional and local players are involved, especially when the projects in question have clear territorial implications.

**(a) Economic, social and territorial development**

Recently, GDP growth in the Mediterranean partner countries averaged 2.7%. While most economies recorded slightly stronger growth than in previous years, challenging domestic and international conditions impeded a more vigorous recovery. The continuing euro area crisis weighed on demand for exports, remittances and tourism. High food and oil prices adversely affected commodity importers. Private investment failed to recover.<sup>20</sup>

In light of the above, a favourable environment for business, high levels of literacy and general education, affordable housing, childcare services, and public transport, is not always present. In this regard, local authorities could, provided they are given the necessary means, make a major contribution to economic and social progress. The recent Mediterranean Economic Conference on Employment and Territorial Development, co-organised by the Union for the Mediterranean and the Tunisian Government in Tunis on 17-18 September 2013 stated that although local development and job creation are relatively new areas of government intervention, there is a large stock of knowledge that can already be drawn on from across the Mediterranean region and from the EU. It was also noted that there is a growing demand on the ground for an exchange of knowledge on best practices and on the lessons from these experiences, both to help promote new projects in the field of employment and to increase the scale and effectiveness of existing ones.

ARLEM members are acutely aware of the unemployment situation in the southern Mediterranean countries. For that reason, the UfM's Med for jobs initiative ("Med4Jobs") has been particularly welcome. This UfM project aimed at increasing the employability of young people and women in the Mediterranean region through education and training, at closing the gap between labour demand and supply, and at fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and private sector development received the full support of the representatives of local and regional authorities during the ARLEM Bureau meeting in Barcelona in May 2013. ARLEM members drew attention to the crucial role regions and cities can play in respect of job creation, entrepreneurship and support for small and medium sized enterprises, and this aspect was further highlighted during presentations given during the meeting by representatives of the four award-winning "European Entrepreneurial Regions" Catalonia, Murcia, Brandenburg and Nord-Pas-de-Calais. The meeting concluded that it would help job-creation if an equivalent award was created for entrepreneurial regions from the eastern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.

Further, ARLEM has called for the adoption of a Mediterranean urban strategy, a spatial planning system for the Mediterranean, and the establishment of a Mediterranean urban agency, a task which could be taken on by the Secretariat of the UfM for the time being. Especially knowing that access to resources for implementing public policies is unequal for local and regional authorities, attention should be paid to other factors for their development, such as reduced territorial fragmentation, a boost for local development as a lever for growth, and the implementation of structures to organise

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FEMIP Annual Report 2012, [http://www.eib.org/attachments/country/femip\\_annual\\_report\\_2012\\_en.pdf](http://www.eib.org/attachments/country/femip_annual_report_2012_en.pdf).

local public services. Urban governance has become another important aspect of good local governance and sustainable cities. At the same time, there is a need to promote a balanced approach to urban development issues, taking into account overall territorial development and the role of local and regional authorities in rural areas and smaller towns in relation to the bigger cities.

**(b) Environmental sustainability**

Of the various sectors where cooperation is needed to support local and regional authorities, policies for combating environmental degradation and promoting sustainable resource use will be a key priority during this mandate. Cooperation will focus on the challenges connected with overuse of resources, the partners' transition towards less carbon intensive modes of development (looking particularly at transport and energy policy), the sustainable city concept, and, lastly, the specific situation of rural areas, all issues which come under the remit of the SUDEV commission.

In 2013, the SUDEV commission focused its work in particular on the topic of sustainable urban mobility, a question which lies at the intersection of economic, social and environmental concerns. Currently, an estimated 5% of the gross domestic product is being lost due to congested transportation networks. Traffic accidents are a major cause for premature death in most cities and countries and the quality of life in cities is heavily impaired by air and noise pollution. Some parts of the population do not enjoy physical access to key services such as education and health nor to employment possibilities, while the transport sector impacts heavily on climate change. The report on sustainable urban mobility elaborated by SUDEV rapporteur Karim Bennour (President of the People's Municipal Assembly of Algiers, Algeria) is addressing these shortcomings and giving specific recommendations, thus contributing to one important element of the urban development currently high on the agenda in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

Concerning renewable energy in the Mediterranean, ARLEM has stressed the importance of a multi-actor and multilevel approach that brings together the different stakeholders and organisations so as to define inclusive strategies and share experience and knowledge. The UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy which was held in Brussels on 11 December 2013 presented another opportunity for ARLEM rapporteur Michel Lebrun (Viroinval, Belgium) to highlight the importance of involvement and ownership at all levels regarding the ambitious objectives of a Mediterranean energy community.

As regards the involvement of local and regional authorities in joint efforts for higher energy efficiency in the Mediterranean, the 13<sup>th</sup> FEMIP conference that was held on 10 December 2013 in Brussels sent out positive signals as to the political will and awareness particularly on the European side. Following ARLEM's call for cooperation with the European Commission on the extension of the Covenant of Mayors to the southern Mediterranean, ARLEM is participating as an observer in the steering committee of the project "Cleaner energy saving Mediterranean cities". At the high-level Covenant of Mayors Forum "The Covenant of Mayors – a vector of change for the European Neighbourhood region and Central Asia", held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 14-15 November 2013, Luc

Van den Brande (Vlaanderen, Belgium) reiterated ARLEM's commitment to bringing about a real energy transition and to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Following its report on local water management in the Mediterranean, ARLEM contributed to the UfM's Launch Conference for the "Governance and Financing in the Mediterranean Water Sector" Project, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 28-29 May 2013 (Hani Abdelmasih Al-Hayek, Beit Sahour/PS). The particular local challenges of water governance were discussed at the 5<sup>th</sup> SUDEV meeting held on 15 June 2013 in Bethlehem, Palestine, following the invitation of SUDEV co-chair Hani Abdalmasih Al-Hayek.

### **2.3 Contributing to a macro-regional strategy and a cohesion policy for the Euromed zone**

Regions and cities on both shores of the Mediterranean suggest taking fresh steps to draw on the EU's sound experience in the area of territorial development, cooperation and cohesion to underpin existing cooperation mechanisms and to organise these mechanisms on a long-term basis.

Cross-border cooperation and other elements of the ENP have even allowed structural funds to be invested in projects involving non-EU Mediterranean countries without any prospect of joining the EU. Both European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation (within the framework of the ENP) have the potential to promote true convergence between the two shores of the Mediterranean and to achieve sound cohesion, not only between the Member States, but also between the Member States and their neighbours.

Taking account, first and foremost, of the basic objectives of the European cohesion policy as a key tool for reducing economic, social and territorial disparities between European regions, but also for boosting competitiveness, this is a crucial time to take this model, which has yielded many benefits for European territorial development, and to reflect on how this policy – its principles, conditions, methodologies and even resources – could be extended in scope and applied in the South. The regions of the member states that recently joined the EU after decades of dictatorship or totalitarian regimes have made efficient use of regional and cohesion policy based on the principle of partnership and decentralisation, paving the way for sound economic, social and territorial development in Central and Eastern Europe. This model of development can be used for future steps in the southern Mediterranean countries.

Indeed, this renewed design for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, geared towards an innovative cohesion policy for the region, could adopt the European cohesion policy as a model, which is based on the partnership principle, and tie in with the ENP's "more for more" principle. This would also involve supporting decentralisation in the South by promoting and co-financing key projects and initiatives and establishing joint development objectives.

In this context and taking a more macro-based view, the introduction of a macro-regional perspective for the Mediterranean should be proposed<sup>21</sup>, enabling current Mediterranean cooperation<sup>22</sup> within the framework of the ENP and the UfM to be carried out more efficiently, more effectively and in a more focussed and coordinated manner.

In order to lead the debate on the adoption of a macro-regional approach and the emergence of a cohesion policy for the Euromed zone, ARLEM has this year concentrated on drawing up a report that calls for a two-pronged approach that would include the extension of macro-regional assessments to the neighbourhood as well as the application of a cohesion policy approach to the Mediterranean. The latter would include the extension of methodologies, concepts and instruments from the European cohesion policy to the southern Neighbourhood Policy and thus improve the territorial dimension of the ENP in the south.

This would also involve supporting devolution in the south by promoting and co-financing key projects and initiatives and establishing joint development objectives. This would require coordination between key public and private stakeholders and would generate greater consistency among policies, accompanied by more effective financial instruments which can be applied in the relevant territory on the basis of the principles of partnership, multilevel governance and thematic concentration.

At the same time, ARLEM calls on the Mediterranean partner countries to consider the creation of macro-regional strategies, becoming involved in the assessments of their regions and local authorities and setting aside on a voluntary basis a proportion of the bilateral funds of the ENP with a view to implementing priorities set at macro-regional level.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **3.1 Political recommendations**

We reaffirm our commitment to and our conviction that:

1. The EU must continue to be the primary strategic partner for the countries in the south and east of the Mediterranean and must therefore be capable of helping these countries to set a clear economic path for the future and to lay the foundations for better governance, whilst respecting their sovereignty. Therefore we express our deep respect for the people of the southern Mediterranean who are calling for democracy, political pluralism, fundamental freedoms and respect of human rights and condemn all forms of violence and violation of human rights.

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<sup>21</sup> European Parliament (2012). Evolution of EU macro-regional strategies: present practice and future prospects, especially in the Mediterranean. EP resolution 3.7.2012 (2011/2179(INI)).

<sup>22</sup> CPMR (2011) Turn neighbourhood policy into a genuine cohesion policy at the borders of the European Union, September 2011.

2. Cities and regions can make a considerable contribution to the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Community initiated thanks to the Barcelona Declaration, the association agreements, European Neighbourhood policy (ENP), the action plans and the UfM, based on a climate of mutual trust, thereby overcoming historical and current conflicts and laying down the foundations for closer cooperation between our peoples, while at all times respecting their values and sensitivities. We are convinced that decentralised cooperation and city diplomacy are essential in the process of stabilisation and democratisation of countries in transition.
3. The Syrian conflict and the ongoing humanitarian crisis and its implication for neighbouring countries are of very grave concern and call on the EU and international community to provide local authorities with sufficient means to assist Syrian refugees. The management of migration flows, particularly in the Mediterranean, should be developed in a comprehensive way in order to promote sustainable solutions involving all the stakeholders, notably third countries, EU member states as well as regional and local authorities.
4. The EUROMED partnership has to make massive investments in promoting democracy and territorial development to support the processes of decentralisation by promoting a culture of multilevel governance based on universal values such as the rule of law, democracy and respect for fundamental rights.
5. The ongoing reforms offer an opportunity to strengthen cities and regions' capacity to deliver social and economic development. We are committed to working to promote the institutional reinforcement of local bodies, to apply the principles of subsidiarity and multilevel governance, to consolidate skills in a reformed public administration and to obtain sufficient resources to implement the public policies that lie within their domain. To that effect, positive cooperation with the European Commission in the context of the Local Administration Facility (LAF) programme must be expanded to local governments in the neighbourhood countries.
6. We intend to work towards the establishment of an integrated, macro-regional approach fully integrating local and regional authorities and towards a cohesion policy specifically adapted to the region, facilitating south-south cooperation and backed by funding, in particular from European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).
7. Economic integration, respecting each country's prerogatives, should be fostered. The potential for economic integration in the southern Mediterranean is fundamental, since it can help to create new jobs. From this point of view, we believe that cooperation must focus on human capital, education and training, these being antidotes to the risk of social destabilisation, which is often evoked in analyses of the objective trends emerging in this part of the world.
8. The development of a new type of partnership between Euro-Mediterranean local and regional authorities and European and international donors and investors is an absolute

priority for guaranteeing sustainable and balanced territorial development. Consequently we urge financial institutions, including the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to focus on local needs, in particular support for employment, access to basic services and funding for infrastructure projects.

### 3.2 **Expected Achievements in 2014**

#### A) **Supporting the current processes of decentralisation, in particular by anchoring them in constitutional processes in order to ensure the territorialisation of the UfM's sectoral policies.**

The transition to democracy taking place in several countries in the region is also a potential opportunity for further developing multi-level governance. In order to strengthen the structures on which sustainable democracy is built, which is the number one objective for the European Union's new neighbourhood policy, local and regional authorities have been recognised as playing a key role in promoting a culture of political participation.

Local and regional authorities are closer to citizens than any other public institution which translates into a more efficient, equitable and accountable delivery of basic services, and therefore play a positive role in contributing in building democratic institutions and effective administrations.

ARLEM must be in a position to support this process and to respond in accordance with the partner countries' specific needs for both technical and political expertise and exchanges. Through the CoR's structured relationship with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission and the Congress of local and regional authorities, ARLEM could be involved in the pan European bodies' work towards the progressive establishment of grassroots democracy<sup>23</sup>.

#### B) **Strengthening the institutional capacity of local and regional authorities to manage public policies in order to ensure the territorialisation of the UfM's sectoral priorities**

Any support for a territorial development strategy requires investment in institutional capacity building, with the additional objective of increasing the impact of EU intervention. The public sector reforms generated by a process of decentralisation involve a number of different political, administrative and fiscal dimensions and must therefore be accompanied by a mechanism for strengthening the capacity of the public structures responsible for their implementation.

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At its meeting on 18 November 2013, the Council (Foreign Affairs) adopted as an "A" item the EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe in 2014-2015. As regards local and regional democracy, the Council (Foreign Affairs) decided on the strengthening of cooperation between the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the EU Committee of the Regions, within their respective areas of responsibility. In January 2012, the EU and the Council of Europe signed a joint programme, supported by funding of EUR 4.8 million, allowing the partner countries to draw on the expertise of the Council of Europe in a number of different areas (including constitutional reform, elections, combating corruption and judicial reform).

ARLEM's first pilot project, which will be presented to the Barcelona secretariat, will have as general objective the strengthening of skills and capacities of local and regional institutions and their public services and public management staff in the area of urban development. It will be targeted at elected officials and public administrations. During the pilot phase, it will be implemented in a limited number of cities and territories of the Mediterranean and be based on partnerships, the exchange of experiences and processes and policies with a view to generating mutual understanding and transferring know-how.

From 2014 onwards, ARLEM will harness its own resources to develop an initiative aimed at supporting regional/local public administration by facilitating the transfer of good practice and experience on local and regional administration in order to ensure the necessary institutional capacity building in the sectoral priority area of urban development, to be presented to and accredited by the UfM. The project will build on the new neighbourhood policy guidelines and be developed in coordination with the existing initiatives and in partnership with the stakeholders in this field.

**C) Implementing a cohesion policy promoting south-south cooperation and supported by funding, especially from the European Union's Neighbourhood Policy**

Having noted the risk of a growing territorial divide resulting from the accelerating regional disparities in many of the partner countries, the implementation of a cohesion policy promoting south-south cooperation and supported by funding, especially from the European Union's Neighbourhood Policy, is something that ARLEM has been calling for ever since its creation. Our Assembly also takes a position on a macro-regional approach for the EUROMED zone, based on the principles of multilevel governance and oriented towards achieving the necessary economic integration, in particular by encouraging coordination of the various programmes, instruments and investments.

ARLEM will work towards the adoption of a cohesion policy approach in the Mediterranean, aimed at promoting the extension of methodologies, concepts and instruments of the European cohesion policy to the southern Neighbourhood Policy, while at the same time improving the territorial dimension of these instruments. Further, ARLEM will work towards the extension of macro-regional assessments to the neighbourhood, combined with an integrated strategy.

Lastly, the keys to enhancing the impact of ARLEM's work will be strengthening the political discussions that take place between its members and the representativeness of these local and regional elected representatives from all three shores of the Mediterranean, which make this political assembly a unique forum in what is a decisive period for Euro-Mediterranean relations.

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**N.B.** Appendices overleaf.

## APPENDIX 1:

### A. Overview of the ARLEM mandate as from 10 August 2012-2015

#### Co-presidents:

- Mr Abd El-Rahman (Giza/EG)
- Mr Valcárcel Siso (Murcia/ES)

#### Bureau members:

Representing the European Union group<sup>24</sup>:

- Mr Valcárcel Siso, President of the CoR (Murcia/ES)
- Ms Bresso, 1st Vice-President of the CoR (Piemonte/IT)
- Mr Knud Andersen (Bornholm/DK)<sup>25</sup>
- Mr Costa, President of the CIVEX commission (Lisbon/PT)
- Mr De la Torre Prados (Mayor of Malaga/ES)
- Mr Van den Brande (Vlaanderen/BE)

Representing the Mediterranean partners group:

- Mr Abd El-Rahman (Giza/EG)
- Mr Yaiche (Constantine/DZ)
- Ms El Khiel (Arbaoua/MA)
- Mr Hamza (Nouakchott/Mauritania)<sup>26</sup>
- Mr Luka (Shkoder/AL)
- Mr Toukabri (first delegate of the governorate of Manouba/TN)

Observer: Linda Gillham (Runnymede / UK)

#### SUDEV co-presidents:

- Mr Abdelmasih Al Hayek (Beit Sahour/PS)
- Mr Vauzelle (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur/FR)

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<sup>24</sup> In accordance with an agreement between the CoR's political groups, Linda Gillham (IE/EA) has been invited to attend Bureau meetings as an observer.

<sup>25</sup> Member of the Bureau in 2013, will be replaced in 2014.

<sup>26</sup> Member of the Bureau in 2013, will be replaced in 2014.

**ECOTER co-presidents:**

- Mr Bossman (Piran/SL)
- Mr Savaş (Antakya/TR)

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**B. Overview of ARLEM meetings in 2013:**

- 4rd ARLEM Plenary Session: 18 February 2013, Brussels, Belgium
- 10th ARLEM Bureau meeting: 18 February 2013, Brussels, Belgium
- 11th ARLEM Bureau meeting: 23 May 2013, Barcelona, Spain
- 5th SUDEV commission meeting: 15 June 2013, Bethlehem, Palestine
- 6th ECOTER commission meeting: 4 October 2013, Rabat, Morocco

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APPENDIX 2:

LIST OF ARLEM MEMBERS

EUROPEAN UNION GROUP

SURNAME	NAME	CITY, REGION / COUNTRY CODE
ARNAOUTAKIS	Stavros	Crete / GR
BLANC	Jacques	Languedoc-Roussillon / FR
BODKER ANDERSEN	Per	Kolding / DK
BOSSMAN	Peter	Piran / SI
BRESSO	Mercedes	Piemonte / IT
COSIMI	Alessandro	Livorno / IT
COSTA	Antonio	Lisbon/ PT
CROCETTA	Rosario	Sicily/IT
DE LA TORRE PRADOS	Francisco	Malaga/ ES
<i>DIAZ PACHECO</i>	<i>Susana</i>	<i>Andalucia/ES (tbc)</i>
FABRA PART	Alberto	Valencia/ES
GEMESI	Gyorgy	Gödöllő / HU
GILLHAM	Linda	Runnymede/UK
HAKANSSON HARJU	Lotta	Järfälla / SE
JOSEPH	Jean-Louis	Bastidonne / FR
KISSIOV	Vladimir	Municipal Concilor of Sofia/BG
LEBRUN	Michel	Viroinval / BE
LOUKAIDOU	Eleni	Nicosia / CY
MAS GAVARRO	Artur	Cataluña / ES
MAVROMMATI	Louisa	Engomi/CY
MEANEY	Brian	Co. Clare/EI
O'LOUGHLIN	Fiona	Kildare County / IE
ORTEGA Y ALEMANI	Joana	Cataluña / ES
ÖZSAN BOZATLI	Hande	Istanbul / TR
PELLA	Roberto	Valdengo/IT
PINTO	Carlos	Covilhã / PT
ROATTA	Jean	Marseille / FR
ROUILLON	Christophe	Coulaines / FR
SÉRTŐ RADICS	István	Uszka / HU
SPACCA	Gian Mario	Marche / IT
SWIETALSKI	Leszek	Stare Bogaczowice / PL
SZWABSKI	Stanislaw	Gdynia / PL
VALCÁRCEL SISO	Ramón Luis	Murcia / ES
VAN DEN BRANDE	Luc	Vlaanderen / BE
VAUZELLE	Michel	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur / FR
VENDOLA	Nichi	Puglia / IT
VIOLA	André	Aude / FR
ZAFEIROPOULOS	Grigorios	Attica / GR

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS GROUP<sup>27</sup>

SURNAME	NAME	CITY, REGION / COUNTRY CODE
ABDALMASIH	Hani	Beit Sahour / PS
ALI ABD EL-RAHMAN	Youssef	Giza / EG
BENNOUR	Karim	Wilaya d'Alger / DZ
BOHBOT	Shlomo	Ma'alot-Tarshiha / IL
BOUDRA	Mohamed	Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate/ MA
CHABAT	Abdelhamid	Fez / MA
DJURAGIĆ	Mario	Republika Srpska / BA
EL GHAZAL	Nader Mohamed	Tripoli / LB
EL KHIEL	Fatna	Arbaoua / MA
GOLUBOVIĆ	Vuka	Berane / ME
GÜRÜN	Osman	Muğla / TR
GÜZELBEY	Asim	Gaziantep / TR
JALLAD	Iyad	Tulkarm/PS
LUKA	Lorenc	Shkodra / AL
MASAD	Fawzi	Amman/JO
MHAIDAT	Hussain	Amman/JO
Municipalité de Jendouba	*	Jendouba / TN
Municipalité de Sidi Bouzid	*	Sidi Bouzid / TN
NACER	Hocine	Tizi Rached (Wilaya de Tizi-Ouzou)/ DZ
NAUFAL	Nouhad	Kesrouan / LB
OK	İsmail	Balikesir / TR
OUALALOU	Fathallah	Rabat / MA
RAIMBERT	Christian	Monaco / MC
SAVAŞ	Lütfü	Antakya / TR
SOW	Moussa Demba	Kaedi / MR
TOPBAŞ	Kadir	Istanbul / TR
TOUKABRI	Riadh	Manouba / TN
YAHAV	Yona	Haifa / IL
YAICHE	Abdelghani	Constantine/DZ
ZAHER	Mohamed Abdel	Cairo/EG
ZOUKH	<i>Abdelkader</i>	<i>Algiers/DZ (tbc)</i>

<sup>27</sup>

The nominations of one member each from **Albania**, **Mauritania** and **Bosnia-Herzegovina** is in progress; the membership status of four of our five **Egyptian** members is currently uncertain. The membership of our three **Syrian** members is currently suspended.

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The Tunisian authorities will shortly nominate members to represent these two seats.