



Inaugural meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly

Conclusions

Barcelona, 21 January 2010

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We, the local and regions' representatives of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, who came together to establish the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM):

1. Underline the longstanding commitment of regions and local authorities from around the Mediterranean, the EU Committee of the Regions and the associations representing regions and local authorities to foster peace, democracy, social and cultural understanding, sustainable growth and prosperity in this region;
2. Take as guiding principles the commitment expressed by the Heads of State and Government at the Paris Summit of July 2008 "to strengthen democracy and political pluralism by the expansion of participation in political life and the embracing of all human rights and fundamental freedoms" and to address "common challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean region, such as economic and social development". These principles are deeply rooted and find their first expression in local and regions' governance as well as in the cooperation between different governance levels;
3. Propose that the ARLEM would represent the Euro-Mediterranean regions' and local authorities' dimension in order to enhance the sub-national contribution to the reinvigorated Euro-Mediterranean partnership, as formulated at the Paris Summit on 13 July 2008 and in accordance with the Marseilles Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM);
4. Are convinced that national approaches in dealing with initiatives from either side of the Mediterranean need to be enhanced to achieve sustainable solutions with the participation of regions and local authorities in shaping and implementing relevant policies for citizens and cooperation between regions and towns within the Euro-Mediterranean region;
5. Commit ourselves to promote and enhance cooperation and work in partnership in an inclusive process; agree that common challenges directly affecting citizens and regions or local levels should be addressed through concrete actions by all partners involved;
6. Are ready to put our long-standing experience in dealing with projects on the ground at the service of the Euro-Mediterranean projects directly involving the regions and the local level;
7. Aim, through the creation of ARLEM, to bring citizens closer to the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and to channel the information on the mutual benefits that the UfM can assure, beyond the existing instruments of cooperation; aim to bring regions and local actors in direct

contact with the EU and UfM institutions in order to better tuning requests with proposals for the general interest;

8. Underline that while framing and implementing strategies and projects, the real needs of citizens need to be put first; therefore suggest that human, technical and academic resources from the regions and the local level be mobilised when implementing projects and that public-private partnership be maximised;
9. Stress that it is necessary to mobilise in order to ensure credits and funding by donors and that there is no unique solution that could unlock credits and financials instruments in all countries; but, at the same time and despite the apparent abundance of projects, there is a lack of coordination between the current development initiatives.

Therefore:

- I. Call on the co-presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean to invite the ARLEM as observer to the UfM meetings;
- II. Announce that in 2010 the ARLEM will particularly deal with urban and territorial¹ sustainable development, the decentralisation process, information society, small and medium enterprises, local water management, cultural cooperation as well as migration and integration; in this context its members and their regions' or local administrations will foster twinning and decentralised cooperation for projects dealing with these topics;
- III. Call on the Spanish presidency of the EU to enlarge its ministerial meeting on territorial development in March 2010 to the UfM representatives for regional and urban development and to the ARLEM co-presidents;
- IV. Ask the ARLEM co-presidents to forward these conclusions to the co-presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Heads of State and Government meeting at the bi-annual summit in June 2010 in Barcelona, and the European Union institutions.

Nominate:

the co-presidents and the members of the Bureau as listed in annex I.

¹ For the purpose of these conclusions, territorial development is economic and social development of a specific territory. The purpose of territorial development is to achieve the regions' and municipalities' potentialities in order to reach a harmonious and sustainable development of each territory.

Take note:

that the members of the Assembly are as listed in annex II and that two committees of no less than 32 and no more than 43 members will be established in the near future and will deal with selected topics as referred to in point II here above.

Annex I

Co-presidents:

President in office of the Committee of the Regions, Mr Luc Van den Brande (Flanders/BE)

President of the region Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate, Mr Mohamed Boudra (MA)

Members of the Bureau:

Governor of Algiers, Mr Mohamed Kebir Addou (DZ)

Mayor of Greater Tafilah, Mr Khalid Al-Hnaifat (JO)

First Vice-president in office of the Committee of the Regions, Mr Michel Delebarre (Dunkerque/FR)

President of the region of Istria, Mr Ivan Jakovic (HR)

President in office of the external relations commission of the Committee of the Regions, Mr Istvan Sertő-Radics (Uszka/HU)

President of the region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Mr Michel Vauzelle (FR)

Annex II

EU GROUP

TITLE	SURNAME	NAME	CITY, REGION / COUNTRY CODE
Mr	ANDERSEN	Knud	Bornholm / DK
Mr	ANTICH I OLIVER	Francesc	Illes Balears / ES
Ms	ARMENGOL	Francina	Mallorca / ES
Mr	BLANC	Jacques	Languedoc-Roussillon / FR
Ms	BRESSO	Mercedes	Piemonte / IT
Mr	CIMINO	Michele	Sicilia / IT
Mr	COHEN	Michael	Kalkara / MT
Ms	COPPOLA	Maria Luisa	Veneto / IT
Mr	DELEBARRE	Michel	Dunkerque / FR
Mr	ERVELÄ	Risto	Sauvo / FI
Mr	GEMESI	György	Gödöllő / HU
Mr	GOTTARDO	Isidoro	Sacile / IT
Mr	GRÑÁN MARTÍNEZ	José Antonio	Andalucía / ES
Ms	HAKANSSON HARJU	Lotta	Järfälla / SE
Mr	HARLINGHAUSEN	Rolf	Hamburg / DE
Mr	HEREU I BOHER	Jordi	Barcelona / ES
Mr	JOSEPH	Jean-Louis	Bastidonne / FR
Mr	KROPIWNICKI	Jerzy	Łódź / PL
Mr	LAHART	John	South Dublin / IE
Mr	LEBRUN	Michel	Wallonie / BE
Ms	LOUCAIDES	Eleni	Nicosia / CY
Mr	MARTINI	Claudio	Toscana / IT
Mr	MICALLEF	Ian	Gżira / MT
Mr	MILIA	Graziano Ernesto	Cagliari / IT
Mr	MONTILLA AGUILERA	José	Catalunya / ES
Mr	PAPASTERGIOU	Georgios	Pieria / GR
Mr	QUAYLE	Dave	Trafford / UK
Mr	ROATTA	Jean	Marseille / FR
Mr	ROUILLON	Christophe	Coulaines / FR
Ms	SABBAN	Michèle	Ile-de-France / FR
Ms	SCHOINARAKI-ILIAKI	Evangelia	Heraklion / GR
Mr	SCHUSTER	Wolfgang	Stuttgart / DE
Mr	SÉRTŐ RADICS	István	Uzka / HU
Mr	SPACCA	Gian Mario	Marche / IT
Mr	SZWABSKI	Stanislaw	Gdynia / PL
Mr	VALCÁRCEL SISO	Ramón Luis	Murcia / ES
Mr	VAN DEN BRANDE	Luc	Vlaanderen / BE, President of the CoR
Mr	VAUZELLE	Michel	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur / FR
Mr	VENDOLA	Nichi	Puglia / IT
Ms	VIDMAR	Jasmina	Maribor / SI

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS GROUP

TITLE	SURNAME	NAME	CITY, REGION / COUNTRY CODE
Mr	ABDEL LATIF	Lobna	Cairo / EG
Mr	ADDOU	Mohamed Kebir	Alger / DZ
Mr	AL-BASHIR	Amer	Greater Amman / JO
Mr	AL-HNAIFAT	Khalid	Greater Tafilah / JO
Mr	ALI	Erfan	Municipal Administration Modernization Program / SY
Mr	BENNOUR	Karim	Hydra / DZ
Mr	BOUCHBOUT	Shlomo	Ma'alot-Tarshiha / IL
Mr	BOUDRA	Mohamed	Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate / MA
Mr	BOUSSOUF	Rabah	Wilaya de Constantine / DZ
Mr	CHABAT	Abdelhamid	Fez / MA
Mr	DJURAGIĆ	Mario	Republika Srpska / BA
Mr	ELABI	Adel	Damascus / SY
Mr	EL DAKAK	Said	Qalyubiya / EG
Mr	EL JAMALI	Rachid	Fayha'a / LB
Ms	EL KHIEL	Fatna	Arbaoua / MA
Mr	GOLUBOVIĆ	Vuka	Berane / ME
Mr	GÜRÜN	Osman	Muğla / TR
Mr	GÜZELBEY	Asim	Gaziantep / TR
Mr	HAMZA	Ahmed	Nouakchott / MR
Mr	HUSSEIN	Adly	Qalyubiya / EG
Mr	JAKOVČIĆ	Ivan	Istria / HR
Mr	KATICIN	Danijel	Tkon / HR
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Mr	LABIB	Adel	Alexandria / EG
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Mr	MANSOUR	Ahmad	Aleppo / SY
Mr	MLIKA	Mohamed Mehdi	Sousse / TN
Mr	MOHAMMED MARICHE	Hocine	Tizi Rached / DZ
Mr	MOUSSA DEMBA	Sow	Kaédi / MR
Mr	NAUFAL	Nouhad	Kesserouen / LB
Mr	OK	İsmail	Balikesir / TR
Mr	OUALALOU	Fathallah	Rabat / MA
Mr	RAIMBERT	Christian	Monaco / MC
Mr	SELMANOVIĆ	Erdal	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina / BA
Mr	TOPBAŞ	Kadir	Istanbul / TR
Mr	YAHAV	Yona	Haifa / IL