



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

**2012**

This annual report (2012 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 guidelines were discussed by the members of the ARLEM Bureau on 3 December 2012 and the report was adopted by consensus at the fourth ARLEM plenary session in Brussels, Belgium, on 18 February 2013.

## **2012: A YEAR OF TRANSITION AND NEW PROSPECTS FOR THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

This year has, incontrovertibly, been characterised by the continuation of the process of transformation taking place in several partner countries. It has also been marked by unresolved conflicts in Syria, the Middle East and the Sahel, which have cast a shadow over the region. Moreover, these transitions have undeniably influenced the work of the Union for the Mediterranean and the work of the European Union overall, in particular through the review of its neighbourhood policy. During this difficult period and transitional phase, ARLEM has upheld its political commitment by confirming its responsibilities in the articulation of European Union (EU) support to local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.

Two years after the uprising of the Arab spring and a year after the fall of certain regimes in the Mediterranean region, several further steps are needed to consolidate the democratic process that results in participatory governments responding to citizens' needs and demands, and leads to a process of decentralisation and respect for subsidiarity. 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 organisation, the establishment of political dialogue, political responsibility among citizens and politicians and constitutional transformations. However, at the same time, these governments must also take immediate action to restart the economy, improve the public administration's performance and accountability, act decisively against corruption and re-establish security.

Those Mediterranean countries that are following ambitious paths of transition need support to consolidate these processes. The European Union is well aware of the fact that in situations of fragility, specific forms of support need to be defined to enable recovery and resilience. The aim should be to maximise national ownership, both at state and local levels, so as to secure stability and meet basic needs in the short term, while at the same time strengthening governance, capacity and economic growth, maintaining state-building as a central element<sup>1</sup>.

The EU has learnt the lesson of previous experiences and has delivered a new response to a changing neighbourhood<sup>2</sup>. There is a need for greater flexibility and more tailored responses in dealing with rapidly evolving partners and reform needs. The European Union does not seek to impose a model or a ready-made recipe for political reform, but it will insist that each partner country's reform process reflects a clear commitment to universal values that form the basis of the renewed approach, and will develop the partnership on the basis of each neighbour's needs, capacities and reform objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda for change COM(2011) 637 final.

<sup>2</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.

Indeed, the EU has recently recalled the principle of "more for more" as the basis of European Neighbourhood Policy<sup>3</sup>.

Despite the impact of the current financial and economic crisis, the European Union maintains its commitment to the region and to local and regional authorities. In addition, cooperation in the Mediterranean is increasingly taking place on a variety of different scales, as evidenced in the establishment of several task forces and the macro-regional "5+5" Dialogue in the Western Mediterranean<sup>4</sup>, whose aim is to move towards further integration by strengthening institutional capacity at local government level in order to mobilise a number of specific instruments for launching concrete projects that are more responsive to people's needs, this being a top priority for elected officials on the three shores.

The EU and its neighbours must work together to anchor the essential values and principles of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, a market economy and inclusive, sustainable development, in their political and economic fabric<sup>5</sup>. Democratisation and decentralisation are relevant elements when it comes to socio-economic development and are essential to ensure the success of the transition processes in the Mediterranean.

This report will set out our vision of the strategy which should be implemented in the short, medium and long term to respond to both past and impending 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

ARLEM is the arm of the Union for the Mediterranean's governance structure that represents the territorial dimension, enabling representatives from all three shores of the Mediterranean to ensure political representation for local and regional authorities, meet on a regular basis to engage in ongoing political dialogue and encourage inter-regional cooperation.

The spirit of cooperation with the UfM secretariat that emerged when ARLEM was set up has been confirmed by the Barcelona secretariat's approach to the challenges linked with the new situation in

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<sup>3</sup> The "more for more" principle means that "only those partners willing to embark on political reforms and to respect the shared universal values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law have been offered the most rewarding aspects of the EU policy in the Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, "Delivering on a new European Neighbourhood Policy", 15.5.2012 JOIN(2012) 14 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 Mediterranean. Among its planned four priority areas of action, the strengthening of the UfM's territorial dimension, including cooperation with ARLEM, is becoming a key area. This new pragmatic and operational approach is based on a multi-dimensional approach to Mediterranean relations geared to promoting growth, supporting jobs and regional development. This new impetus for collaboration will soon be formalised as part of a Declaration of intent between ARLEM and the UfM secretariat.

In terms of the inter-institutional dimension and collaboration, the role of ARLEM and the increasing importance of its development mean that interaction with the key EU institutions and stakeholders is essential. This document highlights the need for a more joined-up approach with other EU institutions in order to improve the impact and coordination of EU actions in the Neighbourhood area.

In line with its intention to enhance its presence in the EU institutions and the UfM, ARLEM has requested observer status at the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM (PA-UfM), which should be granted by the Parliamentary Assembly in April 2013. This status should encourage collaboration between the political representatives sitting in these two assemblies in order to promote the democratic dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue. In addition, greater synergy and permeability 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's potential has also been highlighted by the European Parliament. The importance of involving LRAs through ARLEM has been recognised as necessary to ensure 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 2012 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 at meetings of senior officials as an observer has proved to be useful for 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). This collaborative approach has been promoted by ARLEM through the reinforcement of cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO) and its Directorate-General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO). The outcome expected from this collaboration is the implementation of ARLEM's recommendations and policies and the necessary support to increase LRAs' involvement in the programmes and funding schemes proposed at EU level.

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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?

In addition, ARLEM has had the opportunity to increase its cooperation with the European Training Foundation (ETF), especially concerning job creation, training and the development of small and medium-sized businesses. As a result of this rapprochement, a report on technical and vocational training in the Mediterranean has been drawn up by the ECOTER commission, in cooperation with the ETF, and, at the institutional level, a Declaration of intent is on the agenda.

As regards synergies in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, ARLEM has been developing lines of action with the EMUNI University. A declaration of intent was signed on 30 January 2012 during ARLEM's plenary session in Bari. Based on this statement, the two organisations have engaged in enhancing the existing potential expertise brought by the university and research networks, with the aim of helping ARLEM rapporteurs and working together to set up a Euro-Mediterranean Think Tank.

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. During the ARLEM's Bureau meeting, held on 11 June 2012 in Rabat, Morocco, the ARLEM members discussed this request and responded positively. According to ARLEM's rules of procedure, the approval of the EESC request will be recommended to the plenary Assembly, which will take a decision in the course of its next meeting, in February 2013. Granting the status of observer to the EESC will thus not only allow regular exchanges and give ARLEM members and civil society representatives the opportunity to enter into direct contact, but also promote more intense cooperation between the various players involved in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

Beyond the EU institutional framework, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) also cooperates with the Council of Europe, whose Congress of Local and Regional Authorities has observer status in ARLEM. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is currently fully participating in developing the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy, in particular by launching cooperation activities with Morocco and Tunisia.

## **1.2 ARLEM, a forum for ongoing political dialogue**

2012 has been a key year for the consolidation of ARLEM's structures and programme. August 2012 marked the end of ARLEM's first term of office, after two-and-a-half years of work. After the two-and-a-half year co-presidency assumed by Ms Mercedes Bresso (Piedmont, IT) and Mr Boudra (Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate, MA), the beginning of the second mandate, on 10 August 2012, was marked by a smooth and successful handover to the new co-presidents, Mr Valcárcel Siso (Murcia/ES) and Dr Ali Abd El-Rahman (Giza/EG). The new co-chairs of the ECOTER commission are Peter Bossman (Piran/SI) and Lütfü Savas (Antakya/TR), and the new co-chairs of the SUDEV commission are Hani Al-Hayek (Beit Sahour/PS) and Michel Vauzelle (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur/FR).

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 focus their political commitment on three main priorities:

- support for the decentralisation and regionalisation undertaken or planned in many countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean;
- the multilevel approach of neighbourhood policy;
- the territorialisation of the UfM's sectoral priorities.

Discussions within the Bureau, which met three times in 2012 - in Bari on 30 January, in Rabat on 11 June, in the presence of Morocco's Interior Minister, Mohand Laenser, and in Brussels on 3 December 2012<sup>7</sup> - have confirmed the political challenges our Assembly needs to address in order to ensure that the reform and democratic transition processes taking place in a number of the partner countries go hand in hand with the emergence of local democracy.

The topics for the two thematic reports by the ECOTER and SUDEV commissions in 2012 were chosen on the basis of an analysis of current challenges facing local and regional authorities. In this regard, technical education and vocational training, and sustainable tourism are two vital levers for reinvigorating sustainable economic and social development in the Mediterranean.

In the course of its discussions on the economic and social outlook in the Mediterranean, the ECOTER commission drew attention to the crucial period of transition now facing the Southern Mediterranean. With the under 30s now comprising over 60% of the population, the first transition that needs to be weathered is a demographic one. Secondly, there is the urban transition, addressing the fact that the region is now the most highly urbanised area in the world. The third and final transition is economic, ensuring that investment is translated into jobs. The discussions also demonstrated the need to consider the role of institutions in economic development and to adopt a bottom-up approach in order to anchor democratic governance. The situation has been made still more complex by the fact that the impact of the systemic crisis in the north and the recent developments and political turbulence in the south are being experienced differently in each of the countries affected, in ways that are specific to each individual society and economy, making it difficult to adapt responses both at national level and in relation to the new contours of the region as a whole. Given that the question of employment has been at the heart of the protests that have led to popular uprisings, the ARLEM's members believe that the economic and social challenges, particularly the alarming levels of unemployment, require a strong response in employment policy. In this context, it was stated that technical and vocational training and education below university level are crucial for the Mediterranean countries. In line with this, the ECOTER report on "Technical education and vocational training in the Mediterranean"<sup>8</sup>, drawn up in close cooperation with the European Training

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<sup>7</sup> CdR 93/2012, CdR 1545/2012, CdR 2401/2012.

<sup>8</sup> Draft report on "Technical Education and Vocational Training in the Mediterranean" CdR 9113/2012, rapporteur Ms Nihal El-Megharbel replaced by Mr Bossman, co-chair of the ECOTER commission after the rapporteur's resignation mid 2012.

Foundation, establishes a clear diagnosis of the situation and proposes avenues for fostering regional cooperation, within which ARLEM would have a specific role in promoting vocational and technical training in the Mediterranean.

The SUDEV commission focused its discussions on sustainable tourism, the issue addressed in its thematic report<sup>9</sup>. For local and regional authorities in the region, tourism plays a key role in economic development and global integration. Accordingly, the report proposes a comprehensive approach, incorporating tourism and sustainable development. The Mediterranean region as a whole, encompassing the northern, eastern and southern shores, is the principal tourist destination in the world, and tourism is a vibrant sector in terms of economic growth and employment. At the same time, the traditional mass tourism model creates many challenges and the shift towards more sustainable tourism needs to become a priority issue, paying attention to economic, social and environmental challenges, local development and cultural heritage, amongst other issues. The work of the SUDEV commission confirmed that local and regional authorities play a key role in establishing standards for sustainable tourism. The report makes the specific recommendation that long-term strategies should be developed in partnership with other regions or supported through exchanges of experience and good practice and inter-regional cooperation. Given that ARLEM has initiated or stepped up cooperation at institutional level with a number of European and international organisations, the SUDEV commission calls for coordination of the various partnerships and for national and local policies to be combined through the adoption of a territorial approach. Lastly, the commission also calls for support and funding for the development of sustainable tourism.

Of all the major activities in which ARLEM was asked to take part during 2012 and which have helped to strengthen its legitimacy and raise its profile, our contributions to the discussions at the following events deserve particular mention: the World Water Forum held in Marseilles in March 2012, the Lisbon Forum, organised by the North South Centre in December 2012, the "Regional seminar for local authorities in the European Neighbourhood South", held in Tunis from 20-22 November 2012, the Forum on "New Challenges for Skills" organised by the ETF in Amman in September 2012 and the 2012 conference of the "Support programme for regional cooperation in the Mediterranean and Balkans" held in September 2012.

### **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 facing their citizens. Indeed, ARLEM has launched several initiatives and published studies in order to facilitate cooperation among the region's LRAs, building stable and fruitful partnerships for the exchanges of good practices and know-how. Some examples are the following:

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<sup>9</sup> Draft report on sustainable tourism (CdR 10120/2012, rapporteur Ms Sabban (Île-de-France Regional Council/FR)).

ARLEM has commissioned a study on "EU funding for local and regional authorities from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries – an information guide". The purpose of this study is to develop a handbook 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. ARLEM's aim with this study is to produce a practical guide for the use of LRAs in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

During the Bari plenary session (30 January 2012), a handbook on development cooperation projects for the water sector in the Mediterranean<sup>10</sup> was distributed. The aim of this document is to address in a pragmatic way the information needs of LRAs when looking for new sources of funding and opportunities available at the EU level in the field of water. It is a short Q&A guide presenting in simple language and in a concise way how to find information on funding opportunities in the water sector in the Mediterranean for LRAs.

The ARLEM secretariat has launched a newsletter to inform members and friends of ARLEM about its activities and the activities conducted within the framework of Euro-Mediterranean policies and programmes. Members are invited to share information about their activities and projects so that a genuine network of transregional cooperation can be formed within ARLEM. Two newsletters have already been published with information on ARLEM activities, the European Commission's calls for proposals available to LRAs and specific projects.

The portal on decentralised cooperation was presented during the Bari plenary session to ARLEM members<sup>11</sup>. It has been created to help the launch of partnerships between LRAs and to give an overview of the existing decentralised cooperation. ARLEM members are invited to indicate the cooperation they have been involved in and to use this tool to establish new partnerships in order to create a proper database that can provide new, practical avenues for cooperation between local and regional authorities in the Mediterranean.

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

The new mandate comes at a particularly sensitive time for all three shores of the Mediterranean. The partner countries on the northern shore are coping with economic recession, marked by rising unemployment and stringent budget constraints that are impeding their capacity for action. This situation is having a particularly serious effect on local and regional authorities, which are calling for the future Multiannual Financial Framework to include an EU budget that supports cohesion policy as an investment tool for boosting competitiveness in a sustainable way and helping to reduce regional disparities and ensure that Europe's resources are used more effectively.

Despite higher growth rates, the partner countries in the South and East are faced with endemic unemployment, which is affecting their prospects for economic and social development. The

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<sup>10</sup> All these documents are accessible via the ARLEM website: [www.cor.europa.eu/arlem](http://www.cor.europa.eu/arlem).

<sup>11</sup> [www.cor.europa.eu/portal](http://www.cor.europa.eu/portal).

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. 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, supported by the new European Neighbourhood Policy.

This transitional period will certainly last some years until it crystallises. This challenge should be addressed by ARLEM and given priority over the next few years. ARLEM's commitment to its Mediterranean members should translate into a strong contribution to the creation of favourable conditions that facilitate the success of the transitions, which should be measured in terms of positive developments in governance, cooperation and territorial development.

For ARLEM, it is essential 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 local public services and funds for cooperation. Working not only with LRAs but also with civil society has led ARLEM to interact more widely, so as to promote the multiplication of concrete partnership projects and support existing or future funding programmes.

## **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 multilevel democracy. The process of constitutional reform begun in countries such as Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt should help to secure the gradual development of local and regional democracy, based on a legislative framework that recognises democratic principles, standards and values. This should allow powers and responsibilities to be transferred from central government to the local and regional level with a view to guaranteeing effective and appropriate governance to respond to local challenges and specificities.

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

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. There are now twelve 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). In relation to the reform process initiated in Morocco, particularly the introduction of the requisite conditions to move forward with regionalisation, ARLEM welcomes the draft law that should serve as a basis for a new structure of local and regional government.

In Tunisia, although the overall economic situation has improved in recent years, regional disparities have worsened. The north, north-west and centre-east have witnessed strong growth and poverty reduction rates thanks to tourism, offshore activities and high public investment. On the other hand, in the south and centre-west of the country, poverty reduction has been much slower and the interior regions are experiencing the highest levels of unemployment. A renewed framework for decentralisation, clarifying the competences and means for sub-national levels of government, while ensuring a reduction of regional disparities, will be an essential element in the new constitution. It is in this context that the Ministry for Regional Development oversaw the publication of a white paper on regional development in November 2011; this included around 50 proposals aimed at shaping the gradual elimination of regional disparities and promoting balanced development. With regard to the process of transformation in Tunisia, the new constitution that is currently being drafted should include the principles of local and regional self-government as well as mechanisms for increasing powers and financial autonomy at local and regional levels in order to ensure integrated development.

As far as Egypt is concerned, it is important that the new constitution strengthen decentralisation and fiscal decentralisation to help improve basic service delivery efficiency and local democracy and accountability. We therefore welcome the planned developments in local government, particularly the country's new administrative structure.

Our action will focus on support based on political dialogue and the exchange of expertise and experience, in partnership with the national authorities in the countries concerned, the European institutions and the Union for the Mediterranean. In this context, the priority will be links with the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities<sup>12</sup>, which holds observer status in ARLEM, and making full use of the potential of the new Neighbourhood Policy.

For its part, the Committee of the Regions will feed its assessments of the decentralisation and regionalisation processes into ARLEM's political work, drawing both on its regular opinions and on a study 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>13</sup>. 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.

Building sustainable democracy also means ensuring gender equality and increasing the participation of women in political and economic life. In some countries, legislative provisions enacted with the aim of ensuring a more balanced composition of parliaments have encountered resistance in practice and therefore have not had the desired effect. Local and regional authorities have a key role to play in

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<sup>12</sup> Resolutions 342/2012 and 343/2012 of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

<sup>13</sup> [www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu).

narrowing the gap between the population and institutions, promoting a culture of political participation at local level and ensuring that policy decisions take local needs into account.

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

The territorial dimension is necessary to respond to the need for 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. This approach will be one of the cornerstones for determining ARLEM's annual work priorities, which will be structured around the two key challenges facing the region, namely economic and territorial development and environmental sustainability<sup>14</sup>.

Corroborating the assembly's maturity and ambition, 2012 saw the first ever annual work programme, setting the priorities for action and programming the activities and cooperation with other institutions and organisations. This document was also aligned to the UfM's annual work programme for 2012. In view of the UfM's work programme, some of ARLEM's activities were designed to fit in well with the relevant meetings (ministerial meetings, high level conferences, expert groups), enhancing cooperation between both organisations.

With this in mind, it is particularly desirable to enhance synergies between the thematic divisions of the UfM secretariat and the two ARLEM commissions. The mandate given to the UfM secretariat and ARLEM's interaction with the various European institutions offer a promising path for gradually encouraging the involvement of LRAs in the UfM's operational strategy and funding.

Under the UfM's Annual Work programmes for 2012 and 2013, the priority is to deliver concrete results by developing flagship projects within its guidelines. 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.

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Members will draw on the work that ARLEM has already undertaken since its creation, in particular the work conducted by its commissions, including the following reports (which can all be found on ARLEM's website: [www.cor.europa.eu/arlem](http://www.cor.europa.eu/arlem)).

- The link between desertification and climate change in the Mediterranean region (rapporteur Nichi Vendola (Puglia/IT)) (CdR 418/2011 fin).
- Renewable energy (rapporteur Michel Lebrun (Wallonia/BE)) (CdR 295/2011 fin).
- Small and medium enterprises (rapporteur Fathallah Oualalou (Rabat/MA)) (CdR 378/2011 fin).
- The preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage (Asim Güzelbey (Gaziantep/TR)) (CdR 386/2011 fin).
- Report on urban development in the Mediterranean M. Khalid Al-Hnaifat, Mayor of Grand Tafilah (Jordan) (CdR 62/2011 fin).
- Report on local water management in the Mediterranean (Ramón Luis Valcárcel, (Murcia/ES) (CdR 61/2011 fin).

Finally, ARLEM should deploy its capacity to act and propose measures with a view to territorialising the sectoral priorities of the UfM. In addition, when it comes to the selection and implementation of practical UfM projects, we 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**

The key objective for this mandate will be to provide elected representatives from all three shores with the in-depth assessment of the economic and social outlook in the Mediterranean that will allow them to work together to meet the current challenges that have been sharpened by the economic crisis affecting the European Union and the transition process taking place in a number of countries.

The recession in European countries led to a sharp reduction in external demand and international financial flows (remittances from expatriates, foreign trade, foreign direct investment/FDI). This shock led to a reduction in growth by 2-2.5% on average and impacted employment and public budgets (with deficits of 7% of GDP on average<sup>15</sup>). The Arab Spring was also felt in economic terms. In recent years strong food price fluctuations have impacted countries' GDP, and have, more specifically driven the poorest populations into a more vulnerable situation, as they spend the major part of their income on food.

A favourable environment for business, high levels of literacy and general education, affordable housing, childcare services, and public transport, are not always a given. In this regard, local authorities could, provided they are given the necessary means, make a major contribution to economic and social progress. Moreover, as ARLEM is well aware of the unemployment situation in the Mediterranean countries, the Med Initiative for jobs has been well received. This UfM action programme targeting unemployment at local and national level, which brings together three sectors: business education and training, job intermediation, and business-enabling infrastructure, will be a cornerstone of ARLEM's activities in the next few years<sup>16</sup>.

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 LRAs, 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 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 LRAs in rural areas and smaller towns in relation to the bigger cities.

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15 [http://www.eib.org/attachments/country/femip\\_study\\_femise\\_en.pdf](http://www.eib.org/attachments/country/femip_study_femise_en.pdf).

16 Annual work programme 2012 and 2013, UfM Secretariat, [www.ufmsecretariat.org](http://www.ufmsecretariat.org).

## 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.

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. In particular, it has stressed the need to cooperate with the European Commission on the extension of the Covenant of Mayors to the Southern Mediterranean.

The topics of water and desertification were addressed in reports by ARLEM's SUDEV commission, which mapped out a common political path and strategy for the region, taking into account the role of LRAs in identifying and implementing measures to deal with desertification. The problems related to water demand and desertification and water shortage in semiarid areas of the Mediterranean were also tackled, with particular emphasis on the Murcia Declaration, which was the result of a meeting held in November 2011 at the Campus Mare Nostrum. ARLEM is regularly monitoring the implementation of its report on local water management, adopted in 2011.

During the Global Water Solidarity Forum that took place on 9-10 October 2012 in Oujda, Morocco, several actors, including the United Nations Development Programme, the UfM, ARLEM and the Mediterranean Institute for Water, among others, discussed which decentralised solidarity mechanisms and regional cooperation are needed to make the Right to Water and Sanitation a reality in the Mediterranean.

In the final conclusions, the forum's participants state that the local and regional authorities on all three shores of the Mediterranean basin represented in ARLEM are strongly in favour of a water strategy for the Mediterranean, involving all levels of governance (global, national, regional and local) and undertake to introduce innovative measures and Decentralised Solidarity Mechanisms to ensure universal access to drinking water and sanitation in the Mediterranean and to develop and reproduce them on a larger scale.

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

In the face of demographic trends and socio-economic change in the Mediterranean, there is now growing recognition of the need to strike a new balance and to place cities and regions at the centre of public action at all levels. Consequently, ARLEM needs to play a prominent role in the debate on the adoption of a macro-regional approach and the emergence of a cohesion policy for the Euromed zone.

This is, in effect, the critical moment for introducing an integrated strategy for the Mediterranean based on the principles underpinning the European Union's cohesion policy for the 2014-2020 multiannual programming period and the new Neighbourhood Instrument.

In this regard, designing regional development strategies is a first step towards shaping a convergence policy for the Southern Mediterranean countries. In order to avoid the initiatives implemented under Neighbourhood Policy, which often result from intergovernmental negotiations, from becoming dispersed and compartmentalised, it is vital not only to introduce a territorial planning approach, particularly in the national action plans which will predominate in the structure of the revised ENP, but also to make full use of the interregional and cross-border strands.

Consequently, during the next programming period, it will be crucial to establish a process of experimentation to test out a regional development programme, assessing which content and instruments could be transposed from the intra-European cohesion policy.

A long preparation period will therefore be required in order to mobilise the requisite funding and instruments and ARLEM should make this a priority in order to build up a detailed picture of what will be entailed, in particular the substantial efforts that will need to be made to strengthen the institutional capacity of local and regional players.

In this perspective, particular emphasis should be placed on development dynamics at the local and regional levels, urban and rural development strategies and cross-border cooperation instruments such as the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

One of the key achievements of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument has been the creation of a Cross-Border Cooperation programme for the Mediterranean Sea-Basin, which replicates the structural fund model based on co-financing, partnership and multiannual programming. Financed by the ERDF, it has resulted in a process that should be continued and accentuated in the next multiannual programme for 2014-2020<sup>17</sup>.

Indeed, ARLEM has always called for an innovative Euro-Mediterranean cohesion policy. Promoting local and regional authorities' access to ENP funding, extending the Covenant of Mayors to Southern Mediterranean cities and regions and enforcing territorial cooperation in strategic fields such as sustainability and energy infrastructures are all measures that can indeed open the way to this kind of innovative Euro-Mediterranean cohesion policy.

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<sup>17</sup> It should be noted that local and regional authorities are directly concerned by the MED, PACT and CIUDAD programmes included in the Neighbourhood Instrument's Social, Cultural and Human Partnership dimension.

Better regional integration would increase the GDP of the southern countries and foster growth for the whole Euro-Mediterranean region. The idea of launching a Mediterranean macro region<sup>18</sup> is often brought forward when the challenges that this region faces and the future of the Union for the Mediterranean are discussed. Indeed, there are strong interdependencies among the countries around the Mediterranean in relation to agriculture, the environment, social issues, transport and energy. Many stakeholders hope that a macro-regional approach would help them find solutions to the challenges of the region that are difficult to overcome by traditional intergovernmental cooperation. In particular, it is argued that a Mediterranean macro region could deal with the issue of the fragmentation of the different Mediterranean funding instruments and programmes and improve their coordination and complementarity. Some also hope that a macro regional strategy could help breath new life into the UfM by better involving the various actors, better streamlining the existing programmes and providing a multilevel framework for the programming, preparation and implementation of projects.

However, ARLEM is also conscious that the Mediterranean, which is currently covered by the UfM and comprises 43 countries, is a big and complex area. Given that several actors and institutions are already active in the area, good coordination would be essential, especially with the UfM and the EU.

The first years of experience with macro regions has shown that the integrated approach of this concept leads to closer and better coordination among various levels of government and stakeholders, all striving to achieve common goals, and allows for cooperation across national borders. The difficulties and deadlocks of traditional cooperation and policy instruments could thus be overcome. At the same time, there are some fears that the strategies could lose focus because of the amount of actors involved and some highlight the lack of human resources for administrative tasks. Consequently, it has also been suggested that macro regional strategies be linked closely to other EU policies to ensure that they are more integrated<sup>19</sup>.

Looking at the local and regional dimension of macro regions, the experience with the Baltic Sea Strategy showed that LRAs play an important role and are essential actors in macro regional strategies. They complement cooperation and have a broad range of experience to offer. Regarding Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, LRAs also have a lot of experience in cross-country cooperation and a wealth of technical knowledge.

The Committee of the Regions considers that euroregions provide important experience for neighbourhood policy. They became a useful instrument in the accession process for the Central

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18 According to the definition of the European Commission, a macro region is "an area including territory from a number of different countries or regions associated with one or more common features or challenges (...) geographic, cultural, economic or other". The concept of macro region in the EU is based on the "three 'no's": no new EU laws, no new institutions and no additional funding, and the aim is to improve governance and find solutions to common challenges. The borders of macro regions are flexible and are based on both geographical and functional aspects. They therefore embrace geographic zones, but can vary according to functional requirements and different policy fields.

19 The European Parliament supports the implementation of a macro-regional strategy for the Mediterranean basin and calls for an inclusive approach, involving national, regional and local authorities, regional organisations, financial institutions, and NGOs (PE 448.006 V 001). The EESC has also recently raised the possibilities of a macro-regional policy in the Mediterranean (ECO/332).

European countries and, after their EU accession, a useful instrument for regulating relations with non-EU neighbours. Furthermore, the specific features of the European Union's southern border, being a sea border, should not be considered as an obstacle to the creation of euroregions. The importance of the initiatives to establish euroregions such as Andalusia-Gibraltar-Morocco, Notio Egeo-Turkey, Vorio Egeo-Turkey and Polis-Trakiakent should be stressed, although they are still in their early stages<sup>20</sup>.

More specifically, the Committee recommends that southern euroregions should have partners in other parts of the continent and that links of this kind should in particular be created between euroregions on the EU's southern border and euroregions in Central and Northern Europe bordering on Eastern Europe. The Committee stresses that the ENP must not be allowed to fragment into isolated strands and that the European Union's regional policy should seek to prevent this. It also notes that the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation seems the right instrument for strengthening cohesion and coordination, by rationalising the distribution of funds and highlighting the role of regional and local authorities, on the basis of the principles of multilevel governance and with the broader involvement of civil society organisations.

With regard to the central Mediterranean Sea area, the European Council confirmed at its meeting on 13 and 14 December 2012 that it wishes the European Commission to present a new EU strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region, a move which the Committee of the Regions has already recommended<sup>21</sup>.

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

#### **3.1 Political recommendations**

We reaffirm our commitment and our convictions 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.
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

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<sup>20</sup> Opinion of the Committee of the Regions, "European Neighbourhood Policy Review" (CdR 198/2011 fin).

<sup>21</sup> Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on "Territorial Cooperation in the Mediterranean through the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion" (CdR 168/2011 fin).

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 EUROMED partnership has to make massive investments in promoting democracy and territorial development to support the processes of decentralisation and regionalisation currently taking place in a number of Southern Mediterranean countries. In this regard, we have no intention of imposing a particular model – there being, indeed, no single model of decentralisation within the European Union. Rather, our aim is to promote a culture of multilevel governance based on universal values such as the rule of law, democracy and respect for fundamental rights.
4. The ongoing reforms offer an opportunity to strengthen cities and regions, both politically and financially, and this momentum should not be missed. We are committed to work to promote the institutional reinforcement of regions and local bodies, to apply the principle of subsidiarity and the multilevel governance in the Mediterranean, to consolidate skills in public administration and to obtain sufficient resources and autonomy to implement the public policies that lie within their domain.
5. Operational cooperation is an avenue that should be actively pursued with a view to developing genuine territorial governance. To this end, 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).
6. Economic integration, respecting each country's prerogatives, should be fostered. The potential for economic integration in the Southern Mediterranean is fundamental for all three shores, since it can help to create new jobs. From this point of view, we believe that EUROMED cooperation must focus on human capital, education and training, these being the only real antidotes to the risk of social destabilisation, which is often evoked in analyses of the objective trends emerging in this part of the world.
7. 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 2013

#### 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 local and regional democracy. In order to strengthen the underpinnings of sustainable democracy, 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.

For ARLEM, the basis of democracy is to be found primarily at local and regional level. LRAs are closer to citizens than any other public institution which translates into a more efficient, equitable and accountable delivery of basic services, 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>22</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 and regionalisation 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.

This 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. It will be dedicated to elected officials and public administrations. During this phase, it will be consolidated 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.

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<sup>22</sup>

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).

Accordingly, from 2013, 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 needed institutional capacity building, 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, this is something that ARLEM has been calling for ever since its creation. Our Assembly will also have to take a position on a successful 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.

Accordingly, ARLEM intends to be involved with the launch of the European Commission's pilot programmes inspired by the EU's cohesion policy and aimed at promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion, initially with Morocco and Tunisia, as a precursor to a more extended territorial initiative in the region.

These three strategic priorities should serve as the triple foundation for ARLEM's work during this mandate and be further underpinned by a consolidation of the network of relationships with key institutions and bodies which is leading to increasing recognition of ARLEM as a political assembly within the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue. The strategic priorities will be translated into concrete forms of action set out in the annual work programme that now structures our activities.

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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## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **A Overview of the new 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>23</sup>:

- Mr Valcárcel Siso, President of the CoR (Murcia/ES)
- Mr Andersen (Bornholm/ DK)
- Ms Bresso, 1st Vice-President of the CoR (Piemonte/IT)
- 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 Boussouf (Constantine province/DZ)
- Ms El Khiel (Arbaoua/MA)
- Mr Hamza (Nouakchott/Mauritania)
- Mr Luka (Shkoder/AL)
- Mr Toukabri (first delegate of the governorate of Kébili/TN)

#### **SUDEV co-presidents:**

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

#### **ECOTER co-presidents:**

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

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

**B Overview of ARLEM meetings in 2012:**

- 3rd ARLEM plenary session: 30 January 2012, Bari, Italy
- 7th ARLEM Bureau meeting: 29 January 2012, Bari, Italy
- 8th ARLEM Bureau meeting: 11 June 2012, Rabat, Morocco
- 4th ECOTER commission meeting: 4 July 2012, Brussels, Belgium
- 5th ECOTER commission meeting: 19 November 2012, Piran, Slovenia
- 9th ARLEM Bureau meeting: 3 December 2012, Brussels, Belgium
- 4th SUDEV commission meeting: 16 January 2013, Brussels, Belgium

APPENDIX 2:

**LIST OF ARLEM MEMBERS**

European Union GROUP

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CITY, REGION / COUNTRY CODE</b>
ANDERSEN	Knud	Bornholm / DK
ARNAOUTAKIS	Stavros	Crete / GR
BARO	Hervé	Aude / FR
BLANC	Jacques	Languedoc-Roussillon / FR
BOSSMAN	Peter	Piran / SI
BRESSO	Mercedes	Piemonte / IT
COHEN	Michael	Kalkara / MT
COSIMI	Alessandro	Livorno / IT
COSTA	Antonio	Lisbon/ PT
DE LA TORRE PRADOS	Francisco	Malaga/ ES
GEMESI	Gyorgy	Gödöllö / HU
GILLHAM	Linda	Runnymede/UK
GRIÑÁN MARTÍNEZ	José Antonio	Andalucía / ES
HAKANSSON HARJU	Lotta	Järfälla / SE
JOSEPH	Jean-Louis	Bastidonne / FR
KISSIOV	Vladimir	Municipal Concilor of Sofia/BG
KROGMANN	Martina	Lower Saxony / DE
LEBRUN	Michel	Wallonie / BE
LE DRIAN	Jean-Yves	Bretagne / FR
LOUKAIDOU	Eleni	Nicosia / CY
MACÁRIO CORREIA	José	Faro/PT
MAS GAVARRO	Artur	Cataluña / ES
MAVROMMATI	Louisa	Engomi/CY
MEANEY	Brian	Co. Clare/EI
MIFSUD	Malcolm	Pietà / MT
O'LOUGHLIN	Fiona	Kildare County / IE
ORTEGA Y ALEMANI	Joana	Cataluña / ES
PINTO	Carlos	Covilhã / PT
ROATTA	Jean	Marseille / FR
ROUILLON	Christophe	Coulaines / FR
SABBAN	Michèle	Ile-de-France / FR
SÉRTŐ RADICS	István	Uszka / HU
SPACCA	Gian Mario	Marche / IT
SWIETALSKI	Leszek	Stare Bogaczowice / PL
SZWABSKI	Stanislaw	Gdynia / PL
TRIAS	Xavier	Cataluña / ES
VALCÁRCEL SISO	Ramón Luis	Murcia / ES
VAN DEN BRANDE	Luc	Vlaanderen / BE
VAUZELLE	Michel	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur / FR
VENDOLA	Nichi	Puglia / IT
ZAFEIROPOULOS	Grigorios	Attica / GR

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS GROUP<sup>24</sup>

SURNAME	NAME	CITY, REGION / COUNTRY CODE
ABDALMASIH	Hani	Beit Sahour / PS
ADDOU	Mohamed Kebir	Alger / DZ
AL-HNAIFAT	Khalid	Greater Tafilah / JO
ALI ABD EL-RAHMAN	Youssef	Giza / EG
BEGTESHI	Eglantina	Durres/ AL
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
HAMZA	Ahmed	Nouakchott / MR
JAKOVIĆ	Ivan	Istria / HR
KATIČIN	Danijel	Tkon / HR
LUKA	Lorenc	Shkodra / AL
Municipalité de Jendouba	*	Jendouba / TN
Municipalité de Sidi Bouzid	*	Sidi Bouzid / TN
NACER	Hussein	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
SELMANOVIĆ	Erdal	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina / BA
SOW	Moussa Demba	Kaedi / MR
TOPBAŞ	Kadir	Istanbul / TR
TOUKABRI	Riyadh	Kébili / TN
YAHAV	Yona	Haifa / IL
YAICHE	Abdelghani	Constantine/DZ

<sup>24</sup> The nomination of 6 members from 3 countries (Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority) is in progress. The membership of our 3 Syrian members is currently suspended.

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