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PARLIAMENTARY COLLOQUY

Regionalisation in Morocco: opportunities and challenges for consolidating decentralised governance

28-29 November 2017, Rabat (Morocco)

Context

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Committee on Internal Affairs, Regions and Municipalities, Housing and Urban Policies, with the participation of Congress members, as well as European and Moroccan experts are organising a colloquy for the members of the House of the Representatives of the Moroccan Parliament, with the participation of Congress members, Moroccan parliamentarians, representatives of the government, Moroccan elected associations as well as Moroccan and European experts.

This event forms part of the Congress' co-operation programme with Morocco aimed at supporting and strengthening the country's ongoing reforms in the field of local and regional government.

Objectives

The aim of the colloquy is to encourage a crossed analysis with Moroccan parliamentarians on the principles of decentralisation and local and regional democracy, based on the European Charter of Local Self-Government and the experiences made with decentralisation reforms in Europe and Morocco. To meet this objective, panel discussions will be organised around two main themes:

1. **Decentralisation of power** – discussion will focus on the issues of the transfer of competences and financial resources; the relations between central and decentralised government, the consolidation of the regionalisation process and territorial governance, as well as the administrative supervision of tasks.
2. **Local governance and the quality of life** – the main emphasis will be on service delivery in territories with special needs, such as rural, remote, peripheral and mountainous areas, as well as on the topics of urban development based on the integration of disadvantaged populations and transparency of governance.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Arabic.



Programme

Tuesday 28 November 2017

8:30-9:00 Arrival and registration of participants

9:00-9:45

Opening session

Chaired by Habib EL MALKI President of the Chamber of Representatives

Speech by **Habib EL MALKI**, President of the Chamber of Representatives

Speech by **Hakim BENCHAMA**, President of the Chamber of Councillors

Speech by **Xavier CADORET**, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Deputy Thematic Spokesperson on the South-Med Partnership of the Congress, Mayor of Saint-Gérard-Le-Puy (France)

9:45-10:30

Presentation of the cooperation programme between the Congress and Morocco

Jean-Philippe BOZOULS, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Presentation of the cooperation programme of the Council of Europe with Morocco

José-Luis HERRERO, Head of Bureau of the Council of Europe in Rabat

10:30-10:45

Coffee break

10:45-11:15

Session 1 : Introductory speeches

The legal and political frame of the decentralized system in Morocco



Zakia Mrini, Chair of the Committee on Internal Affairs, Regions and Municipalities, Housing and Urban Policies

The European framework for local and regional democracy

Leendert VERBEEK, Chair of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, King's Commissioner for the Province of Flevoland (Netherlands)

11:15–11:35

Debate

11:35-12:20

Session 2: Regionalisation : tools and coordination perspectives

Chaired by **Abdellah EL GHAZI**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Internal Affairs, Regions and Municipalities, Housing and Urban Policies

10:45-12:00

Regionalisation: tools and coordination perspectives

Xavier CADORET, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Deputy Thematic Spokesperson on the South-Med Partnership of the Congress, Mayor of Saint-Gérard-Le-Puy (France)

- **Decentralisation and access to public services in disadvantaged areas**

Ibrahime HAFIDI, Vice-Président de l'Association des Régions du Maroc

- **Matching transfer of competences to regional institutions with adequate financial resources**

Aziz ABARAT, Representative of the Ministry of Interior

12:20-12:40

Debate

12:40-13:10

Session 3: Administrative decentralisation

Chaired by **Rafia EL MANSOURI**, member of the Istiqlalien group of Unity and Egalitarianism



Administrative decentralisation: independence, competences and function of decentralised units

Jamaleddin SALAH, Director of Administrative Modernisation

Stewart DICKSON, Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Member of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly (United Kingdom)

13:10-13:30 Debate

13:30-15:00 Lunch break

15:00-15:45

Session 4: Financial decentralisation

Chaired by **Mohamed FADILI**, member of the Committee on Internal Affairs, Regions and Municipalities, Housing and Urban Policies

Matching transfer of competences to regional institutions with adequate financial resources

Representative of the Ministry of Finances

Mohamed BENNIS, Representative of the Ministry of Interior

Abderrahim FATHI, Representative of the Ministry of Interior

Sasa PAUNOVIC, Member of the Serbian delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, President of the municipality of Paracin (Serbia)

15:45-16:05 Debate

16:15-17:30

Session 5: Decentralisation and access to public services in disadvantaged areas

Chaired by **Mohammed EL MELLAHI**, Secretary of the Committee on Internal Affairs, Regions and Municipalities, Housing and Urban Policies

Main topics: role of different stakeholders, benefits, risks and challenges of delivering services in a decentralised context, allocation of responsibilities, transparency, right to access of



information by the citizens ; challenges and opportunities, roles of different stakeholders, new ways of delivering services, private-public partnerships, intermunicipal cooperation, principles of continuity and equity, development of relations between rural and urban areas

Moncef EL HADRI, Representative of the Ministry of Interior

Mohamed BOUDRA, President of the AMPCC

Vanik BERBERIAN, President of the Association of Rural Mayors of France, Mayor of Gargilesse-Dampierre (France)

16:50-17:10

Debate

17:10-17:40

Session 6: Urban development – the perspective of a new urbanity”

Chaired by **Aïcha LABLAK**, President of the Parliamentary Group of Progress and Socialism

Urban development: towards sustainable cities, urban citizenship, social cohesion and solidarity

Hicham BARA, Director of Urban Policy

Leendert VERBEEK, Chair of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, King's Commissioner for the Province of Flevoland (Netherlands)

17:40-18:00

Debate

18:00-18:30

Conclusions and closing speech

Zakia MRINI, President of the Committee on Internal Affairs, Regions and Municipalities, Housing and Urban Policies