

## Concept and Programme

### Webinar on the consultation of local and regional authorities by central authorities

Tuesday 24 November 2020 (14:30-18:00) Interpretation EN-ARA

#### Concept:

Dialogue and consultation of territorial authorities by central authorities are key principles enshrined in the European Charter of Local Self-Government. The Charter enshrines "the right of local authorities to be consulted by higher levels of government" as a fundamental principle of European democratic and legal practice. Conducted in a timely and appropriate manner on all matters of direct concern to local authorities, including financial aspects, consultation contributes to the strengthening of democracy and good governance, as well as to the development and implementation of effective policies and legislation.

To give concrete expression to the implementation of this fundamental principle, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe adopted, at its 35th Session in October 2018, Resolution 437 (2018) on "Consultation of local authorities by higher levels of government". These guidelines underline the importance of having both appropriate laws and institutions in place. They invite governments to incorporate the principles of the Charter into law and to establish or strengthen national associations of local authorities.

While the Congress supports Morocco and Tunisia in strengthening democracy at the local and regional level, this workshop will aim at:

- presenting examples of European experience in the consultation of local and regional powers by central government: experts, members of Congress (including delegations of Partners for Local Democracy) and representatives of European associations of local and regional authorities will discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with consultation;
- identify ways to improve existing systems and/or, where necessary, support their establishment, particularly in Morocco and Tunisia.

This event is organised as part of the Council of Europe's policy towards neighbouring regions, in particular Neighbourhood Partnerships with Morocco and Tunisia (2018-2021), and the South-Med Partnership of the Congress. This activity benefits from the financial support of Liechtenstein, Norway and Spain in the framework of the Council of Europe Neighbourhood Partnerships with Morocco and Tunisia (2018-2021).

## PROGRAMME

### 14:30 – 14:40 Opening of the webinar by the Moderator

**Dmitri MARCHENKOV**, Head (a.i.) of the Cooperation and External Relations Division of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Welcome words

### 14:40 – 15:00 Introductory Session

**Gunn-Marit HELGESEN**, First Vice-President of the Congress – Opening remarks

**Andreas KIEFER**, Secretary General a.i. of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities – Principles contained in the European Charter of Local Autonomy

### 15:00 Consultation mechanisms

The role of associations in consultation mechanisms between levels of government - typology

**Tania GROPPi**, Member of the Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government, Full Professor of Public Law, University of Siena

#### Overview of the situation in Morocco

- **Khalid SAFIR**, Wali Director-General of Territorial Authorities of the Ministry of the Interior
- **Sâad BEN MBAREK**, President of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Prefectural and Provincial Councils (AMPCPP)
- **Mohamed BOUDRA**, President of the Moroccan Association of Mayors (AMPCC)

### 16:15 Overview of the situation in Tunisia

- **Mondher BOUSNINA**, President of the Foresight and Support Authority for the Decentralisation Process
- **Monia AAJEL**, Member of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Tunisian Communities (FNCT)
- **Amel ELLOUMI BAOUAB**, President of the High Authority for Local Finance

Break

**16:45 Roundtable: exchange with representatives of European associations**

**Moderator: Kelmend ZAJAZI**, Executive Director of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)

- **Gunn-Marit HELGESEN**, First Vice-President of the Congress, First Vice-President of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), Co-President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
- **Maris PUKIS**, Senior Adviser of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG)
- **David MELUA**, Executive Director of the National Association of Local Powers of Georgia (NALAG)
- **Pauline TIVELET**, Project Officer for European and International Affairs, Association of Mayors of France (AMF)

*Exchange with the participants*

**17:50 Conclusions**