



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/2003/10/Add.1
10 January 2003

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
(Sixty-fifth session, 18-20 February 2003,
agenda item 11 (e))

QUESTIONS RELATED TO TRANSPORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

**Work of the transport study and training centres
in the Mediterranean region**

**Information submitted by the United Nations Transport Study
Centre for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO)**

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Update of the

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT STUDY CENTRE FOR THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (CETMO)

Period 2003-2004

I. INTRODUCTION

The Programme of Work of CETMO for the period 2003-2004 is a revision of the previous version and includes the main topics addressed at the sixth meeting of national coordinators in January 2002. The Centre's Programme of Work also takes into consideration the activities to be carried out under DESTIN and REG-MED, two projects which the European Commission has adopted as part of the INCO-MED programme and which CETMO coordinates.

It is also adapted to the programme of work adopted by the Inland Transport Committee. In particular, it takes into account the resolutions and decisions of various United Nations bodies concerning the coordination of the Centre's Programme with that of the Committee and their complementary nature and the granting to CETMO of United Nations Centre status; these are mainly to be found in WP.5 documents and ECE/TRANS/72 (forty-ninth session of the Inland Transport Committee), ECE/TRANS/74 (fiftieth session of the Inland Transport Committee), E/1988/36-E/ECE/1170 (forty-third session of ECE) and ECOSOC Decision 169/88.

The Programme of Work covers the period from January 2003 to December 2004. Since it is revised annually, it can rapidly be updated.

Another document (CETMO/TRANS/R.54-12/02) set out in detail CETMO's activities in 2002.

II. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE PERIOD 2003-2004

SUBPROGRAMME 1: Functional

1.1 Organizational activities

Brief description: Among the Centre's organizational activities, mention may be made of the following:

Definition and negotiation of the terms of the United Nations status of the Centre.

Meetings with national coordinators: The sixth meeting of national coordinators of CETMO took place in Barcelona in January 2002. The lines of work established for the Centre at this meeting comprise: the updating and improvement of the CETMO database and the tools for its use and dissemination; the analysis and forecasting of transport flows in order to define a multimodal infrastructure network in the Western Mediterranean and

identify medium- and long-term priorities; support for the work of GTMO (Western Mediterranean Transport Group) and the follow-up of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in transport; and the facilitation of transport in the region. Regular contacts with the national coordinators are scheduled for the period 2003-2004 in order to inform them of the progress of work.

1.2 Finalizing of transport initiatives in the Western Mediterranean

Brief description: The work of the Centre may result in the proposal of initiatives dealing with a particular point (infrastructure, facilitation of procedures, etc.) among certain countries in the activity area. The Centre helps to finalize these initiatives and acts as coordinator and distributor with a view to ensuring their full integration into programmes of work on the Mediterranean as a whole. The countries concerned may also give the Centre responsibility for the full or partial implementation of these initiatives. The Centre uses the results obtained in the context of the latter to draw up proposals for use by other countries in the region, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa and the European Union.

1.3 CETMO's participation in the work of WP.5 and the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee

Brief description: CETMO participates and collaborates in the work of the WP.5 Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and the Inland Transport Committee, in the context of its regular relations with UN/ECE. The importance of this collaboration should be stressed in view of the Mediterranean activities of the Inland Transport Committee's programme. An annual report on CETMO's activities is submitted to the Committee so that all ECE countries can benefit from the activities carried out by the Centre.

1.4 Cooperation with other international bodies and institutions in the Western Mediterranean

Brief description: CETMO cooperates on a continuing basis with the Ministries of Transport of the countries of the region, with the European Commission and with various national and international bodies also active in the Mediterranean: SNED (Morocco), SECEG (Spain), INRETS (France), CNET (Algeria), chambers of commerce, etc.

1.5 Documentation Service

Brief description: CETMO continues to improve the computerization of the service and the distribution of the studies it publishes and of the CETMO bulletin - a quarterly information bulletin (French and Spanish editions) with a section Dossier CETMO, which publishes the main findings obtained in the various studies. The Documentation Service has an e-mail address (e-mail: cetmo@cetmo.org) and a web site (<http://www.cetmo.org>). The catalogue of the document collection may be consulted from the Centre's web site.

SUBPROGRAMME 2: Transport prospects

2.1 Analysis of Mediterranean transport flows

Brief description: CETMO will continue with the analysis of international flows of goods and passengers in the Western Mediterranean. Simultaneously in 2003 it will make a more detailed estimate of regionalized flows of goods between the four European countries and of familiarity with the organization of transport chains between the opposite shores of the Mediterranean. Output expected: Biennial report on the development of international flows of goods in the Western Mediterranean; development of a methodology for estimating international flows of goods between regions in the Western Mediterranean, based on the data available in the CETMO-FLUX sub-base; proposal to UN/ECE for the organization, in collaboration with the other United Nations regional commissions concerned, of a seminar to analyse medium- and long-term flows of goods in the Mediterranean regions; report, in the context of the DESTIN project, on the organization of transport chains between the opposite shores of the Western Mediterranean.

2.2 Definition of socio-economic and transport base scenarios

Brief description: CETMO will promote thinking on the definition of socio-economic and transport scenarios in the Western Mediterranean. Output expected: Report on base scenarios for international transport in the Western Mediterranean.

2.3 Modelling of international traffic in the Western Mediterranean

Brief description: CETMO will also promote thinking on the development of a forecasting model for traffic adapted to the Western Mediterranean, both for international goods traffic and for passenger traffic. Output expected: Report, in the context of the DESTIN project, on traffic forecast models in Europe and in the Maghreb and the proposal of a methodology for developing a traffic forecast model adapted to the Western Mediterranean.

2.4 Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean - GTMO Group

Brief description: The Western Mediterranean Transport Group (GTMO) reviewed priority areas for cooperation in the Western Mediterranean at the high-level meeting held in Madrid in June 2002. The priorities identified were: the definition and development of a multimodal transport network in the Western Mediterranean, with emphasis on the interconnection with the Trans-European Networks and with the networks of neighbouring countries; the investigation of advantageous means of infrastructure financing with financial partners; the facilitation of trade and transport with emphasis on the transport chain as a whole; the bringing up to standard of companies involved in transport operations with a view to establishing a free trade zone; the establishment of a databank and methods enabling the regular identification of priorities in the Western Mediterranean; research and development on transport in the Western Mediterranean and the participation of the countries of the Maghreb in Community research programmes. CETMO, which is responsible for the GTMO secretariat, supports the Group's efforts.

Output expected: Support as GTMO secretariat for the signing of a new protocol for cooperation in transport in the Western Mediterranean; preliminary proposal for a strategic transport network in Western Mediterranean in the context of the extension of the RTET; proposal and implementation of a simple methodology for identifying medium-term bottlenecks in airport infrastructures in the Western Mediterranean; support for the participation of partners from the countries of the Maghreb in the sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

2.5 Follow-up of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in transport

Brief description: CETMO, as the international study centre for the Western Mediterranean, is paying close attention to the follow-up to the Barcelona Conference (Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and MEDA programme) and to that of the Third Pan-European Transport Conference in Helsinki (Mediterranean PeTrA).

In particular, CETMO is following the strategy established by the European Commission in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum which should permit reflection in greater depth on Mediterranean transport problems. The third meeting of the Forum was held in Brussels in July 2002. It enabled a review to be made of progress on the Euromed Transport Project, support to be given to the main lines of the two new regional projects which could be financed through the MEDA programme (on satellite navigation and the safety of shipping in the Mediterranean), and the mandates of several groups of experts to be ratified. Output expected: Participation in the fourth Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum and in the working groups; follow-up of the state of progress of work in the context of the Euromed Transport Project.

SUBPROGRAMME 3: Transport operations and facilitation

3.1 International conventions and agreements

Brief description: In order to provide a framework for work on the facilitation of trade and international transport, the main international agreements and conventions which may have an impact on facilitation need to be identified together with the degree to which they are implemented in each country. Output expected: Report on international conventions and agreements with an impact on the facilitation of transport in the Mediterranean, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations or other international institutions.

3.2 Simplification and harmonization of procedures

Brief description: The purpose of this item is to make progress on the questions of simplification and harmonization, currently the subject of joint reflection with a view to the development of trade and the facilitation of transport in the region. Output expected: Organization of four workshops in 2003-2004, in the context of the REG-MED project, on the one hand to identify regulatory obstacles and practices with an influence on the facilitation of transport between the countries of the Maghreb and the European Union, and on the other to analyse how the implementation of international agreements and a closer approach in the Maghreb to the regulatory framework of the Community may contribute to reducing those obstacles. During the workshops, the topics addressed will include the simplification of customs

procedures and checks at borders, the facilitation of shipping and passage through ports or conditions for ensuring efficiency of door-to-door transport chains between the opposite shores of the Mediterranean. The active participation of the UN/ECE Transport Division in the workshops is expected.

SUBPROGRAMME 4: International transport statistics and information

4.1 Harmonization of statistics

Brief description: CETMO will continue the following activities to ensure the quality of the Centre's statistics:

- Inventory of existing sources: identification of centres producing information and documentation on goods and passenger transport in Western Mediterranean;
- Analysis of selected sources: critical examination of statistics produced, comparative analysis, description of features, homogeneity, compatibility, etc., analysis of scatter and proposals for overcoming differences in connection with the establishment of a databank;
- Collection of data for the updating of the CETMO database.

Output expected: These activities are ongoing with the collaboration of the national coordinators and benefit from CETMO participation as an observer in the MEDTRANS project on the harmonization of transport statistics in the Mediterranean, in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

4.2 CETMO database

Brief description: CETMO manages a database on flows of goods and passengers, infrastructures and transport regulation in Western Mediterranean. The most recent update established 1999 as a reference year for the sub-base on flows (CETMO-FLUX) 2000 for infrastructures (CETMO-INFRA) and 2001 for regulation (CETMO-LEX).

Output expected: Updating of the CETMO-FLUX, CETMO-INFRA and CETMO-LEX sub-bases, while endeavouring to improve and develop the database information and the means of dissemination; assessment of the possibilities of collecting data on port-to-port goods traffic flows; reflection on access - public and/or restricted - to data in the CETMO-FLUX and CETMO-INFRA sub-bases using the CETMO web site; proposal for a revised structure of the database, which can be used to model international goods and passenger traffic flows in the region.

4.3 Circulation of statistics

Brief description: The national coordinators are the means of disseminating the CETMO database.

Output expected: A selection of the statistics available in CETMO will be made accessible to the public on its web site.

As always, all of CETMO's work is available to the Inland Transport Committee and its working parties.

Annex

**LINKING THE CETMO 2003-2004 PROGRAMME OF WORK
TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK (2000-2004) OF THE
UN/ECE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

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2.4 Meetings of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean - GTMO	
2.5 Follow-up of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in transport	
3. TRANSPORT OPERATIONS AND FACILITATION	Activity 02.2.2 Activity 02.5.2 Activity 02.7
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3.2 Simplification and harmonization of procedures	Activity 02.11
4. STATISTICS AND INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT	Activity 02.12
4.1 Harmonization of statistics	
4.2 CETMO database	
4.3 Circulation of statistics	
