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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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Report on the

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

Period 2002

I. INTRODUCTION

CETMO sets out below its report on activities in 2002. The description of the activities follows the format of CETMO's Programme of Work for the period 2002-2003 (CETMO/TRANS/R.51-12/01). A list of international meetings and travel in the course of the year is annexed.

Another document (CETMO/TRANS/R.55-01/03) contains the update of the Programme of Work of CETMO for the period 2003-2004.

II. REPORT ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2002

REPORT ON SUBPROGRAMME 1: Functional

Granting of United Nations status to the Centre

Brief description: The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at its second session in July 1988, adopted decision 169/88 which conferred United Nations status on the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO) (Barcelona). The content of the status will be the subject of subsequent negotiations between the United Nations authorities and the Government of Spain. During 2002, information meetings were held with a view to establishing the basis for the desired status.

Programme of work of CETMO

Brief description: The programme of work of CETMO for 2002 took account of the decisions of the sixth meeting (22 January 2002) of national coordinators. CETMO is further continuing to adapt its activities to the priorities established in the context of the Group of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO) and to the results of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership led by the European Union.

Sixty-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

Brief description: At the sixty-fourth meeting of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe which was held in Geneva from 19-21 February 2002, CETMO submitted a report of its activities and its Programme of Work for the period 2002-2003. The Committee supported the proposal by CETMO for a more detailed analysis within WP.5 of transport flows and scenarios in the Mediterranean.

Cooperation with international bodies and institutions in the Western Mediterranean Brief description: CETMO maintained relations of cooperation with the Ministries of Transport and national bodies in the region.

In this context, it made a working visit to Tunis on 12 and 13 March 2002. This visit enabled the subjects of the updating of the database CETMO-INFRA:PORTS and the availability of data permitting the identification of medium and long-term bottlenecks in port infrastructures to be addressed. This meeting also provided an opportunity for a field visit to the container and ro-ro traffic terminal in the port of Radés.

CETMO also met the French representatives of the General Directorate for Civil Aviation and the Direction du Transport Maritime, des Ports et du Littoral (Directorate for Shipping, Ports and Coasts) in Paris on 22 March to discuss the contribution to its work with reference to airport and port statistics.

On 9 July 2002, CETMO went to Casablanca in order to introduce the initiative on the identification of medium and long-term bottlenecks in port infrastructures to the Office d'Exploitation des Ports (ODEP) (Office for Port Operation). CETMO also took advantage of the organization of the First International Transport and Logistics Fair, which took place in Algiers from 5 to 9 October, to meet representatives from the Algerian Ministry of Transport, port authorities and the General Directorate of Customs.

Lastly, CETMO travelled to Lisbon on 10 October 2002 for a working meeting with representatives of Portuguese organizations concerned with road transport, rail and shipping statistics.

CETMO documentation service

Brief description: The documentation service is public and facilitates studies carried out by the Centre. Exchanges have been set up with other transport documentation centres. The service has been computerized and has telematic links (databases, e-mail, etc.) with other bodies.

CETMO has continued the publication of its quarterly bulletin on the Centre's activities. The following studies appeared in the Bulletin in 2002:

- Advantages and disadvantages of ro-ro services;
- Reflections on cargo transport between the two shores of the Western Mediterranean;
- The Trans-European transport network and its extension beyond the European Union;
- Some thoughts on the optimal integration of short-sea shipping in intermodal transport chains.

CETMO has a web site on the Internet (www.cetmo.org) which allows the Service's documents base to be consulted, lists the main periodicals CETMO receives and publishes a selection of the statistics available in the Centre.

REPORT ON SUBPROGRAMME 2: Transport prospects

Meetings of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean - GTMO Group

Brief description: The third meeting of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean was held in Madrid on 10 January 1997. At this meeting, CETMO was appointed technical secretariat of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group (GTMO). CETMO continued to carry out this role in 2002.

A GTMO coordination meeting was held on 22 January 2002 at the headquarters of CETMO. This meeting provided an occasion for a review of the state of progress of work both within GTMO and with reference to the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum. At the meeting, the Chairman of GTMO proposed that a high-level meeting should be organized in order to update the bases for cooperation within the Group.

GTMO held this high-level meeting in Madrid on 25 June 2002. It was attended by high-level representatives of the Ministers of Transport of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, France, Portugal and Spain, and of the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission. CETMO took part in the meeting as the secretariat of GTMO.

This meeting confirmed the useful nature of GTMO as a framework for progress in cooperation in the Western Mediterranean and for contributing to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. During the meeting, the institutional bases of subregional cooperation were revised through a proposal for the formalization of a cooperation protocol. The priorities for cooperation in the Western Mediterranean over the next few years were also updated in order to bring them into line, as far as possible, with the calendar established by the European Commission for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, and thus make the most of possible synergies.

Follow-up of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in transport - Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum

Brief description: The third meeting for senior officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum took place in Brussels on 16 and 17 July 2001. The purpose of the Forum is to develop regional cooperation in the transport sector in accordance with the programme of work annexed to the Barcelona Declaration. CETMO participated in its role as GTMO secretariat.

The current state of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the transport sector was reviewed during the Forum. In this context, the European Commission gave a presentation of the progress made in connection with the Euromed Transport Project and the MEDSTAT and INCO-MED programmes. It may be recalled that the Euromed Transport Project - endowed with 20 million euros for the period 2003 to 2006 - will serve as a support for the reform of legislation and the regulatory framework of the transport sector in the Mediterranean partner countries, and for the definition and promotion of a regional transport infrastructure network, which will develop the south-south interconnection and provide continuity in the trans-European network.

GTMO for its part introduced its subregional cooperation activities and the conclusions of its recent high-level meeting in Madrid on 25 June 2002 to the other members of the Forum. These conclusions - which recognized the effectiveness of the subregional cooperation initiatives - were well received by the Forum.

The Forum meeting also served to discuss the main lines of two new regional transport projects which could be financed through the MEDA programme: a project for the promotion and implementation of EGNOS and GALILEO in the Mediterranean and a second project concerning maritime safety. The preliminary lines of these two projects will be discussed in detail in the specific working groups.

CETMO also took part in various working group meetings organized in 2002 for the preparation of the third Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum:

- In particular, CETMO took part in the second "Satellite navigation" working group meeting (Brussels, 17 May 2002). During the meeting, the European Commission and the European Space Agency summed up the latest European EGNOS and GALILEO developments. The main lines of the future regional project on satellite navigation systems applied to transport in the Mediterranean were also discussed.
- CETMO also took part in the second meeting of the "Network and infrastructure" working group (Brussels, 23 and 24 May 2002), established by the European Commission to discuss how to deal with the problem of infrastructures in the context of regional Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. The meeting provided an opportunity for presenting the activities of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in the Mediterranean region, and an introduction to the new Euro-Mediterranean investment machinery. During the meeting, GTMO proposed that in the future the EIB should take a greater share in financing transport infrastructure projects in the region and that measures should be adopted to facilitate the access of Mediterranean partner countries to that financing in advantageous conditions.

Analysis of Mediterranean transport flows

Brief description: In July 2002, CETMO published its biennial report on the development of foreign trade in the Western Mediterranean. The report analyses the foreign trade of the countries of southern Europe and the Maghreb and the trade between them, on the basis of information contained in the CETMO-FLUX 99.1 database and a varied bibliography.

THINK UP

Brief description: THINK UP is a thematic network of the European Union's Fifth Framework Programme of Research and Development, the purpose of which is to analyse and understand the modelling of transport demand and the creation of scenarios.

The final meeting of THINK UP was held in Brussels on 1 October 2002. It was devoted to considering the main conclusions obtained with this thematic network and a presentation of the initial results of the meta-model EXPEDITE for the planning of transport policies in Europe and the discussion of measures to be applied to encourage modal transfer.

Fifteenth session of UN/ECE Working Party WP.5

Brief description: The fifteenth session of the WP.5 Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics of the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee was held in Geneva from 2-4 September 2002. CETMO participated in the meeting and presented the follow-up of its activities for the Mediterranean and an informal proposal to WP.5 to hold a seminar on trends in cargo transport flows in the Mediterranean.

REPORT ON SUBPROGRAMME 3: Transport operations and facilitation

REG-MED

The meeting to launch REG-MED, the first initiative concerning transport in the Mediterranean approved in the European Union's Fifth Framework Programme on Research and Development, was held in Brussels on 13 December 2002. REG-MED is a thematic network coordinated by CETMO, with the following objectives:

- identification and analysis of obstacles to international transport in the Mediterranean;
- search for and proposal of solutions to overcome those obstacles and facilitate flows of goods between the countries of the region; and
- evaluation of how international agreements and conventions and the establishment of a link with the Community regulatory framework can contribute to reducing those obstacles.

Joint analysis and discussion of these questions will take place as a result of the organization of four workshops in which the essential aspects of a complete international goods transport chain will be envisaged. The workshops will address subjects such as the simplification of customs procedures, the harmonization of checks at borders, the facilitation of international transport by sea and by road, the use of information and communication technologies or the organization of door-to-door intermodal transport chains. The UN/ECE Transport Division was invited to take part in the REG-MED Scientific Committee.

REPORT ON SUBPROGRAMME 4: Statistics and information on transport and other activities

Harmonization of statistics

Brief description: With the aim of ensuring the quality of the statistics put out by CETMO, the Centre continued:

- To revise the inventory of centres producing information and documentation on the transport of goods and passengers in the context of the Mediterranean;
- To analyse the sources selected: critical review of the statistics established, comparative analysis, description of features, homogeneity, compatibility, etc., analysis of distribution patterns and proposals for obviating differences linked to the creation of a databank.

In this context, the participation of CETMO in the final conference of the MED-TOUR project (Madrid, 4 and 5 March 2002) provided an excellent opportunity for an approach to the problems of tourism statistics in the Mediterranean.

CETMO database

Brief description: CETMO continued the updating and improvement of the CETMO database on flows of goods and passengers, infrastructures and transport regulation.

This year, CETMO updated the sub-base on regulation (CETMO-LEX 02.1) and the sub-bases on transport infrastructures (CETMO-INFRA 00.1) with the help of the various national delegations. Work on the updating of the database on flows of goods (CETMO-FLUX 01.1) has already started.

All of the sub-bases are updated in accordance with the working agreements of the latest meeting of national coordinators. The sub-bases are an indispensable instrument for familiarity with transport in the region.

MED-TRANS

Brief description: In 2002, CETMO continued with the follow-up of the MED-TRANS project on transport statistics in the Mediterranean.

In this context, CETMO took part in a seminar on statistics for the transport of goods and passengers by road, in Luxembourg, on 10 and 11 July. The purpose of the seminar was to offer the representatives of Mediterranean partner countries a brief description of the existing situation and future prospects for road transport statistics in the European Union. The participants in the seminar for their part explained ongoing initiatives in their respective countries and their main requirements for statistical data in the sector. During the seminar, various national experiences concerning planning, implementation and use of mobility surveys were described.

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

Annex

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND TRAVEL IN 2002

JANUARY	Algiers Madrid Barcelona Barcelona Cordoba	MEDSTAT - Project on maritime statistics in the Maghreb - Start-up workshop Coordination Meeting with the Ministry of Development Seventh GTMO Coordination Meeting Sixth Meeting of national coordinators of CETMO MEDSTAT - Sixth meeting of the Committee of Directors
FEBRUARY	Brussels Geneva Brussels Madrid	Working meeting with EC/DG TREN and EC/DG Research Sixty-fourth meeting of the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee Final conference of the SPOTLIGHTS thematic network "IV Mesa nacional Short Sea Shipping", organized by Uniport Bilbao
MARCH	Brussels Madrid Tunis Paris	Working meeting with EC/DG TREN and EC/DG Research MED-TOUR - Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Tourism Statistics Working visit to the Ministries of Transport and OMMP Working meetings with the Directorate-General for Civil Aviation and the Direction du Transport Maritime, des Ports et du Littoral
MAY	Madrid Brussels Brussels	Working meetings with representatives of Puertos del Estado and AENA Second meeting of the "Satellite navigation" working group - Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum Second meeting of the "Network and infrastructure" working group - Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum
JUNE	Valencia Madrid Barcelona	European conference on "Surface Transport Technologies for Sustainable Development" GTMO high-level meeting Eurocongrès 2000 seminar: "L'intermodalité et les TEN aux ports du sud de l'Europe"
JULY	Casablanca Luxembourg Brussels	Working visit to ODEP MED-TRANS - Seminar on road transport statistics Third meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum
SEPTEMBER	Geneva Brussels	Fifteenth session of WP.5 on Transport Trends and Economics Working meeting with EC/DG EuropeAid and EC/DG TAXUD
OCTOBER	Algiers Lisbon Brussels Brussels	First International Transport and Logistics Fair Working meeting in the DGTT of the Ministério das Obras Públicas, Transportes e Habitação Workshop on "Customs, taxation and rules of origin", organized as part of the Euromed Market Project THINK-UP - Final seminar
NOVEMBER	Madrid Vielha Barcelona	1er Encuentro Especializado del Sector Portuario Español Working meeting with the Ministry of Development and France's Ministry for Infrastructure, Transport and Housing Second annual European Conference on energy and transport
DECEMBER	Brussels	REG-MED - Meeting to launch the thematic network
