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Report on the follow-up to the activities of CETMO

July 2003-July 2004*

1. General activities

1.1 Relations with CETMO national coordinators

1.1.1 Working visits to the countries of the region

During the year CETMO maintained its cooperation and regular contacts with the various ministries of transport and national bodies in the region.

In this context, CETMO travelled to Algiers on 13 and 14 December 2003. This working visit provided an opportunity to present the preliminary results and conclusions of REG-MED to some 30 representatives of national administrations, port authorities and professional associations in Algeria, and discuss in detail port prospects in Algeria with them. Both the presentation and the discussion were part of a round table organized by the Algerian Ministry of Transport and chaired by its General Secretary.

* The UNECE Transport Division has submitted the present document after the official documentation deadline due to resource constraints.

CETMO also visited Casablanca on 17 February 2004, for the day event organized by ASMEX (Moroccan Association of Exporters) with the aim of strengthening collaboration between shippers and transport operators in Morocco. This event made it possible to draw up a list of the difficulties in the transport chain which are an obstacle to the placing of Moroccan products on foreign markets and to lay the bases for continuing dialogue in order to resolve these difficulties.

1.2 Relations with the UNECE Inland Transport Committee

The seventy-sixth meeting of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe took place in Geneva from 17 to 19 February 2004. During the meeting, in accordance with usual practice, CETMO presented a report on its activities and its programme of work for the period 2003-2004.

1.3 GTMO secretariat

CETMO continues to act as technical secretariat of the Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO). As secretariat, CETMO takes part in the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport and ensures the follow-up to the discussions and decisions of the Forum's working groups. The Centre also participates as an observer in the plenary meetings regularly convened by the Project Consortium of the Euromed Transport Project and the European Commission.

1.3.1 Fourth meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum

The fourth meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum was held in Brussels on 28 October 2003. The Forum, supported by the European Commission, was attended by senior officials of the 12 Mediterranean partner countries, member countries of the European Union, the European Commission and various international institutions. CETMO participated in its role as the secretariat of GTMO.

The meeting began by reviewing the status of the Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation initiatives, launched by the European Commission. These include the Regional Euromed Transport Project and various research and development activities that are part of the Community's fifth framework programme (REG-MED, DESTIN and MEDA TEN-T).

The European Commission then submitted the conclusions of the various working groups established within the Forum, on maritime safety, maritime policy, ports and short sea shipping, air transport and satellite navigation.

1.3.2 Follow-up to the working groups of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum

Working group on air transport

The European Commission organized the first meeting of the working group on air transport in Brussels on 22 September 2003. A second meeting took place in Brussels on 16 June 2004. Two vital points were discussed at these meetings: the latest progress in Community policy on air transport and implications for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, and ongoing projects within MEDA and cooperation prospects in European neighbourhood policy.

Working group on maritime policy, ports and short sea shipping

The European Commission also organized the meeting in Brussels on 20 October 2003 of the working group on maritime policy, ports and short sea shipping. This enabled the European Commission to submit a presentation to the Mediterranean partner countries on the main progress made in sectoral Community policy and to identify possible areas for regional cooperation, particularly in training.

1.3.3 Plenary meetings of the Euromed Transport Project

The Consortium of the Euromed Transport Project and the European Commission convened representatives of the 12 Mediterranean partners in Damascus from 29 to 31 March 2004 to revise the first version of the diagnostic study of transport in the MEDA region. CETMO was invited to participate as an observer.

During the meeting, a team of international experts presented their principal observations on transport systems and policies in each subregion: Maghreb, Mashrek and Malta-Cyprus-Turkey. The experts also proposed guidelines to bring legislations closer together and remove existing bottlenecks. The conclusions of the meeting will contribute to the preparation of the final version of the diagnosis which will be the basis for priority action on transport by the European Commission.

1.4 CETMO database

CETMO has continued to update and improve the CETMO database on flows of goods and passengers (FLUX), infrastructures (INFRA) and transport regulation (LEX). The three sub-bases are an indispensable tool for familiarity with transport in the region.

During this period, CETMO updated the CETMO-LEX sub-base (03.1 version). The CETMO web site (www.cetmo.org) enables this sub-base to be consulted interactively. In addition, the updating of the sub-base CETMO-FLUX 01.1 has been completed.

The success of the improvement and updating of the CETMO database has only been possible as a result of the collaboration of the national coordinators and the sectoral organizations providing basic data.

1.5 The REG-MED thematic network

REG-MED is a thematic network coordinated by CETMO with the following objectives: (i) to identify and analyse obstacles to international transport in the Mediterranean; (ii) to seek and propose solutions for overcoming these obstacles and facilitating flows of goods between the countries of the region; and (iii) to evaluate how international agreements and conventions and closer adherence to the Community regulatory framework can contribute to reducing those obstacles.

Joint analysis and discussion concerning these issues will take place through four workshops, during which the fundamental aspects of a complete chain for the international transport of goods will be examined. All information concerning these workshops can be found via the Internet on the web site www.reg-med.net.

1.5.1 REG-MED workshop on the facilitation of international maritime transport and port passage in the Mediterranean

The second of the workshops scheduled within REG-MED was held in Tunis on 9, 10 and 11 October 2003. Some 50 experts took part in the workshop and considered aspects of maritime transport services that restrict the fluidity of international transport, priorities for facilitating port passage and the impact of banking practices in the facilitation of the transport of goods in the region.

1.5.2 REG-MED workshop on the conditions to ensure efficient multimodal transport in the Mediterranean

The third workshop in the REG-MED initiative was held in Casablanca on 4 and 5 March 2004. The topics analysed during the workshop concerned the impact of land transport on the fluidity of transport in the Mediterranean and the conditions for ensuring efficient multimodal transport in the region.

1.5.3 REG-MED workshop on information and communication technologies as a means of facilitating international transport in the Mediterranean

The final REG-MED workshop was organized in Madrid on 3 and 4 June 2004. It was devoted to considering the contribution of information and communication technologies (ICT) to facilitating transport in the region. The papers presented and the discussions concerned ICT as a means of facilitating port passage, the contribution of interoperability between systems for ensuring the fluidity of flows of goods and the links between security and safety and between ICT and fluidity.

1.6 The DESTIN project

DESTIN - Defining and Evaluating a Strategic Transport Infrastructure Network in the Western Mediterranean - is a Community research and development project of the fifth framework programme, the objective of which is to define and evaluate a strategic transport infrastructure network in the Maghreb, designed as an extension of the Trans-European Transport Network in the European countries of the Western Mediterranean.

More specifically, the aim of DESTIN is: (i) to research the multimodal transport chains between the Maghreb countries and between each of these and the European Union and other Mediterranean countries; (ii) to develop and apply specific models for forecasting international goods and passenger traffic in the Western Mediterranean, with support from a geographical information system and relevant databases; (iii) on the basis of the above results, to propose and apply methods and criteria to identify a strategic transport network in the Western Mediterranean and evaluate priorities for its development; and (iv) to design a system to assist decision-making in order to revise the identification of these priorities easily.

A consortium of partners from Europe and the Maghreb, with CETMO as project coordinator, will be involved in implementing the DESTIN project, which started up in 2003 and

is scheduled to last for 30 months. During the project, a group of experts, including the region's ministers of transport, will follow it up to check that the instruments developed are practical and sustainable and in order to ratify the results obtained.

CETMO organized the first meeting of the above group of experts in Barcelona on 8 and 9 September 2003. Experts appointed by the ministers of transport of the Western Mediterranean, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and representatives of the project Consortium took part in the meeting. The aim of the first meeting was (i) to explain the precedents for and context of the DESTIN project; (ii) to introduce and ratify a proposal for a reference infrastructure network to be used in the three Maghreb countries during the project; (iii) to introduce and discuss the methodology of the models which will be used to forecast international goods and passenger traffic on this network; and (iv) to indicate the data and information needed for the project.

CETMO organized a second meeting of the group of experts of the DESTIN project in Barcelona on 10 and 11 May 2004. The meeting was in two parts. The first part - organized in seminar form with around 30 participants - reviewed (i) international flows of goods between the two sides of the Western Mediterranean, and (ii) obstacles to the fluidity of these flows and interoperability in the region. A special session (iii) was devoted to reflection on the concept of the motorway of the sea from the angle of flows between the European Union and the Maghreb. The objective of the second part of the meeting - for the group of experts only - was (i) to review the overall state of progress of the project and (ii) to present and discuss scenarios proposed in the context of DESTIN.

1.7 Supporting measure MEDA TEN-T

MEDA TEN-T (*MEDiterranean And Trans-European Networks for Transport*) is a supporting measure of the Community fifth framework programme, the aim of which is to establish a permanent network of experts in the Mediterranean to facilitate understanding of transport trends and the integration of infrastructure networks in the region.

A conference on barriers to interoperability and interconnectivity of transport in the Mediterranean was held in Athens in the context of MEDA TEN-T on 30 and 31 October 2003. This made it possible to review transport plans and policies in the various Mediterranean partner countries and to select several Euro-Mediterranean demonstration corridors which can be used to illustrate projects for priority infrastructures for the region and analyse other requirements for the improvement of efficiency in transport in the Mediterranean.

2. CETMO publications

"Update and report of the CETMO programme of work", CETMO (2003).

These two documents give a full overview of CETMO's activities, completed or scheduled. They can be found on the web site www.cetmo.org.

"CETMO-LEX database on the regulation of transport in the Western Mediterranean, version 03.1", CETMO (2003).

On its web site, www.cetmo.org, CETMO offers the 2003.1 version of the CETMO-LEX sub-base. This sub-base is a compilation of legislative documents, concerning the international carriage of passengers and goods, in force in the seven Western Mediterranean countries. The international agreements of the United Nations and EU transport legislation have also been taken into consideration.

“CETMO-FLUX database, version 01”, CETMO (2003).

This is a new updating of the CETMO-FLUX database with data for flows of goods and passengers for the year 2001. The “Goods” component of the database contains unimodal and international flows between the countries of the Western Mediterranean and flows between these countries and external zones.

“Second REG-MED workshop - The facilitation of international maritime transport and port passage in the Mediterranean”, Tunis, 9-11 October 2003.

“Third REG-MED workshop - The conditions to ensure an efficient multimodal transport in the Mediterranean”, Casablanca, 4-5 March 2004.

“Fourth REG-MED workshop - Information and communication technologies as a means of facilitating international transport in the Mediterranean”, Madrid, 3-4 June 2004.

Documents containing papers presented during the last three workshops of the REG-MED thematic network. A selection of these papers and the pertinent main international conventions and Community directives can be found on the web site www.reg-med.net.

3. Other activities

3.1 International panel on the fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar

An international panel on the fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar, organized by the Association Bordeaux-Aquitaine-Maroc, took place in Bordeaux on 3 October 2003. CETMO took part with a paper on “Transport relations in the Mediterranean: studies and forecasts”. During the panel, various speakers highlighted the dynamic role of GTMO in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
