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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics****Twenty-eighth session**

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Ports Hinterland connections****Mednet Observatory on Ports Hinterland connections\*****Submitted by the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. MEDNET is a European project, co-financed by the MED Programme, aimed at simplifying and harmonizing maritime and port procedures within the Mediterranean region. At the end of its lifetime in May 2015, the project recommended actions and measures for facilitating maritime freight exchange, speeding up logistic procedures, and reducing logistics costs. Moreover, more efficient operating maritime routes started contributing in increasing modal shift from the currently congested European road network while reducing at the same time adverse environmental impacts and enhancing social and economic cohesion of the European and Mediterranean populations.

2. The project developed 20 pilot actions, tested in partner ports and at administrative or customs institutions in participating partner countries, which enabled the identification of opportunities for simplifying and harmonizing procedures. In parallel, monitoring and data collection studies fed information into the database “Observatory of Port Operations in the Mediterranean” available to partners and all maritime sector stakeholders.

**II. The Observatory of Port Operations in the Mediterranean**

3. The Observatory of Port Operations in the Mediterranean Sea is an all-inclusive information centre and knowledge base on port administrative requirements, logistics

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\* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

procedures, port operations and customs formalities. It allows for recording and disseminating best practices, as well as for understanding the technical parameters related to port operations’ performance, through the use of a specialized database, while highlighting at the same time strengths and weaknesses of port operations. Moreover, it provides a communication platform at European, national and regional levels, relying on an open discussion group. It also allows Port Authorities representatives from the MED region to assess their own port on line.

4. A set of key services for port actors.

*A set of key services for port actors*

<i>Port Authority</i>	<i>Customs Authority</i>	<i>Shipping Company</i>	<i>Freight Forwarder</i>	<i>Public Organization</i>	<i>Research/Academia</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess my port operations</li> <li>• Learn European best practices</li> <li>• Exchange knowledge &amp; opinions</li> <li>• Discover hinterland / intermodal areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess my customs procedures</li> <li>• Get to know my port community</li> <li>• Exchange knowledge &amp; opinions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn European best practices</li> <li>• Get to know my port community</li> <li>• Exchange knowledge &amp; opinions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn European best practices</li> <li>• Get to know my port community</li> <li>• Exchange knowledge &amp; opinions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn European best practices</li> <li>• Utilize database</li> <li>• Exchange knowledge &amp; opinions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn European best practices</li> <li>• Utilize database</li> <li>• Exchange knowledge &amp; opinions</li> </ul>

5. The Port Operations Observatory has achieved the following:
  - (a) A Reporting and Monitoring based on the Performance Indicators for each port, updated through the development of an Internet agent (software carrying out information filtering and information retrieval from Internet sources);
  - (b) A Database associated to port operations, cargo flows, shipping lines, qualification, status of expansion plans, hinterland network structure and flows etc. for all participating ports;
  - (c) A Communication platform creating new interactions and cooperation between port authorities and stakeholders at regional, national and European level;
  - (d) The Reference Library containing (a) legislation, guidelines, projects/studies related to port operations, custom procedures, port formalities, safety/security issues etc., (b) recommendations and best practices, (c) trade and transport statistics, through links (like world port source, world port index etc.) and data providers (e.g. Eurostat for freight and transport mode).
  - (e) In accordance with the results obtained from the application of the statistical modeling analysis, the magnitude of the required improvements for a specific port to reach the status of best practice will be defined. Consideration will also be given to their impacts. The port that encompasses the best practices for each of the items considered will constitute the “ideal port”, which is a virtual port.

### III. Guidance by WP.5

6. The Working Party at its last year’s session took note of the ports hinterland connections observatory prepared by MedNet programme. It requested the secretariat to examine the possibilities on how the working party could further cooperate with MedNet programme and its observatory on ports hinterland connections and present at the next session for consideration. WP.5 may wish to consider the above information regarding

Observatory's structure and services and may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on further action in this field.

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