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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 2001

I. INTRODUCTION

CETMO sets out below its report on activities in 2001. The description of the activities follows the format of CETMO's Programme of Work for the period 2001-2002 (CETMO/TRANS/R.47-12/900). The list of international meetings and travel is annexed.

Another document (CETMO/TRANS/R.451-01/02) contains the update of the Programme of Work of CETMO for the period 2002-2003.

II. REPORT ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2000

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 1998, adopted decision 169/88 which conferred United Nations status on the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO) (Barcelona). The content of this status will be the subject of subsequent negotiations between the United Nations authorities and the Government of Spain. During 2001, information meetings were held with a view to establishing the bases for the desired status.

Programme of work of CETMO

Brief description: The programme of work of CETMO for 2001 took account of the decisions of the fifth meeting (30 November 1999) of national coordinators. CETMO is further continuing to adapt its activities to the results of the Third Meeting of Ministers of Transport of Western Mediterranean countries (Madrid, January 1997) and to the results of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership led by the European Union.

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

Brief description: The sixty-third meeting of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 3 to 5 February 2001. CETMO submitted a report of its activities and the Programme of Work for the period 2001-2002 at this meeting. The seminar on the facilitation of international transport of goods in the Western Mediterranean - scheduled for May 2001 and organized jointly with the Transport Division of UN/ECE - was also presented.

Cooperation with international bodies and institutions in the Western Mediterranean

Brief description: CETMO maintained relations of cooperation with the Ministries of Transport of the seven countries of the region in 2001.

In particular, CETMO made two working visits, one to Tunisia on 21-22 February 2001 and the other to Morocco on 27-28 February 2001. The two visits not only enabled preparation to be made for the participation of experts in the seminar on the facilitation of transport in May, but also permitted a strengthening of cooperation with respect to the current updating of the CETMO-FLUX database and the adjustment of the methodology for the identification of bottlenecks in airport infrastructures in the medium and long term .

With reference to cooperation with other bodies dealing with transport problems in the Western Mediterranean, mention should be made of relations with INRETS (France). Relations with SNED (Morocco) and SECEG (Spain) in the context of work on transport flows in the Western Mediterranean also function very well. CETMO also takes part in various activities promoted by the European Commission. It has maintained its offer to collaborate with various United Nations bodies.

CETMO documentation service

Brief description: The documentation service is public and facilitates CETMO studies. 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 the CETMO Bulletin on the Centre's activities. The studies which appeared in the Bulletin in 2001 were:

- ?? Traffic forecast methodologies for the planning of port and airport infrastructures: experiences in the Western Mediterranean.
- ?? Strengthening of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in transport.
- ?? Conclusions of the seminar on "Facilitating international cargo transport between the two shores of the Western Mediterranean".
- ?? Divergences between foreign trade statistics in the countries of the Western Mediterranean.

CETMO has a web site on the Internet (<http://www.cetmo.org>) which permits consultation of the Service's documents base, 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). During 2001, CETMO continued to develop its role as secretariat, particularly with reference to the follow-up of the work of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum.

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

Brief description: The second meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum took place in Brussels on 8 and 9 November 2000. 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.

The meeting of the Forum permitted support for the submission to the MEDA programme of a regional project on transport in the Mediterranean and for the establishment of several working groups on maritime transport, satellite navigation and infrastructures in the Mediterranean.

In its capacity as technical secretariat of GTMO, CETMO took part in the meetings of the working groups organized in 2001.

The first meeting of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) was held in Seville on 10 May and was attended by senior maritime and air transport officials. Three essential points were discussed at the meeting: (i) the presentation by the European Commission and the European Space Agency of the latest European EGNOS/Galileo developments; (ii) the presentation by the Mediterranean countries of their national and regional GNSS activities; and (iii) overall guidelines for a regional satellite navigation project that could be financed with MEDA funds.

The discussions on maritime transport were sub-divided into two groups:

- ?? A first meeting (London, 16 February) was devoted to maritime safety. The situation of the maritime safety projects approved in 1997 for financing by MEDA was discussed. There was also an exchange of points of view and proposals regarding future lines of cooperation on maritime safety and their coordination with IMO activities.
- ?? A second meeting (Brussels, 19 July) on “Maritime policy, ports and short-sea shipping” provided an opportunity for presenting the regulatory framework and the main initiatives taken within the European Union, and for establishing the priorities of third-party Mediterranean countries in this regard.

The “Network and infrastructure” group met in Brussels on 24 and 25 June. The basic aim of the meeting was to discuss how infrastructure problems should be approached in terms of Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation. The meeting also enabled third-party Mediterranean countries to present their national policies and to reflect on a valid definition of the Euro-Mediterranean infrastructure network.

The European Union finally approved the first regional project on transport financed by MEDA funds in October 2001, with a budget of 20 million euros and an execution period up to 2006.

TRANS-TALK and THINK-UP

Brief description: At CETMO’s request, the European Commission invited several experts from the Maghreb to take part in TRANS-TALK and THINK-UP, two thematic networks within the European Union’s Fifth Research and Development Framework Programme in which EU member countries and candidate countries participate. The aim of TRANS-TALK is to analyse the factors involved in integrating the different methodologies for evaluating transport projects and policies, while THINK-UP focuses on analysing and understanding the modelling of transport demand and the creation of scenarios.

A TRANS-TALK network seminar was held in Brussels from 30 May to 1 June. A set of guidelines with recommendations for improving the preparation of transport policies, programmes and projects was presented and discussed.

Two seminars were also organized by THINK-UP in 2001. The Berlin seminar of 7 and 8 June provided the framework for a discussion on the segmentation of cargo and passenger transport, and future trends in the sector that might affect segmentation. The Brussels seminar of 12 and 13 November was devoted to discussion of the most representative variables in transport policies that should be included or described in the models.

INCO-MED

On 11 June in Brussels the European Commission presented the call for proposals for transport research and technological development activities of the INCO-MED programme for Mediterranean partner countries.

CETMO coordinated the submission of two proposals. The first was aimed at the identification in greater detail of regulatory obstacles and practices influencing the facilitation of transport between the Maghreb countries and the European Union and an analysis of how the implementation of international agreements and a closer approach to the European regulatory framework can contribute to diminishing these obstacles. The second proposal was aimed at the design and application of tools and methods to identify and evaluate a strategic transport infrastructure network in the Western Mediterranean.

MEDTRANS

Brief description: In 2001, CETMO continued to follow up the MEDTRANS project on transport statistics in the Mediterranean.

From 27 to 29 June CETMO participated in a seminar on aviation statistics organized in Frankfurt. The main objectives of the seminar were to present to third-party Mediterranean countries the policy adopted by the European Union on aviation statistics, to exchange data on information systems used in EU and Mediterranean countries and to consider the current status of the MEDTRANS database. A preliminary assessment was also made of the availability of common indicators of airport infrastructure and air transport services.

CETMO also took part in the seminar on shipping statistics in Barcelona, from 15 to 17 October. The aim of the seminar was to contribute to the exchange of experiences and practices in connection with key problems of shipping statistics and the improvement of the coverage and harmonization of the data sets for the main ports of the third-party Mediterranean countries, in accordance with the draft European Regulation and the corresponding Council Directive.

Fourteenth session of UN/ECE Working Party WP.5

Brief description: The fourteenth session of the WP.5 Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics of the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee was held from 17 to 19 September.

CETMO participated in the meeting and presented the follow-up of its activities for the Mediterranean. It also presented a report on its 15 years of activity and the document on the seminar on "Facilitating international cargo transport between the two shores of the Western Mediterranean". CETMO also offered to collaborate with UN/ECE in the context of its scheduled activities with other regional commissions, particularly the Economic Commission for Africa.

REPORT ON SUBPROGRAMME 3: Transport operations and facilitation

Facilitation and harmonization of customs and commercial procedures

CETMO organized a seminar in Barcelona on 3 and 4 May 2001 on "Facilitating international cargo transport between the shores of the Western Mediterranean".

The organization of the seminar is a direct consequence of the decisions taken during the last meeting of Ministers of Transport of Western Mediterranean countries and is helping to give impetus to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, in accordance with the priorities set by the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum. The seminar is also part of the transport-related activities in the Mediterranean scheduled in the Programme of Work of UN/ECE's Inland Transport Committee.

The seminar brought together some 50 experts with the aim of analysing the current situation of facilitating smooth cargo transport between the countries of south-west Europe (Spain, France, Italy and Portugal) and the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), and proposing areas of regional cooperation in order to diminish the barriers and obstacles identified. In the course of the seminar, international agreements and multilateral conventions prepared under the auspices of the United Nations with the purpose of facilitating international transport were revised.

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 the differences linked to the creation of a databank.

CETMO database

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

During the year, with the help of the various national delegations, CETMO updated the Sub-base on flows of goods and passengers (CETMO-FLUX 99.1) and the Sub-base on regulation (CETMO-LEX 01.1) . Work on the updating of the database on infrastructures (CETMO-INFRA 00.1) has already begun.

All 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.

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

ANNEX

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND TRAVEL IN 2001

FEBRUARY	Geneva London Tunis Rabat	Sixty-third meeting of the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum - Meeting of the working group on Maritime safety Working visit to the Ministry of Transport of Tunisia Working visit to the Ministry of Transport and the Merchant Navy of Morocco
MARCH	Lisbon	Working visit to the Ministry of Social Infrastructure of Portugal
MAY	Barcelona Seville Brussels	Seminar on "Facilitating international cargo transport between the two shores of the Western Mediterranean", organized by CETMO Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum - Meeting of the working group on "Satellite navigation" TRANS-TALK - Seminar on methodologies for evaluating transport policies and projects
JUNE	Berlin Brussels Brussels Frankfurt	THINK-UP - Seminar on the segmentation of cargo and passenger transport Meeting organized by the European Commission to present the call for proposals of the INCO-MED research programme for transport in the Mediterranean Euro-Mediterranean Forum - meeting of the working group on "Network and infrastructure" MEDTRANS - Seminar on aviation statistics
JULY	Brussels Paris	Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum - Meeting of the working group on "Maritime policy, ports and short-sea shipping" INRETS - CETMO meeting
SEPTEMBER	Geneva Barcelona Santander	UN/ECE/WP.5 annual meeting International conference on the advantages of the Community packet of measures on railway infrastructures Ninth International Congress on maritime traffic and port handling

OCTOBER	Madrid Barcelona Barcelona Barcelona Sorrente	Seminar on the infrastructure policy of the Ministry of Development and the Infrastructure Plan 2000-2007 MEDTRANS - Seminar on maritime statistics First annual European Energy and Transport Summit Conference, organized by the European Commission ROROMED 2001 - A new exhibition and conference focusing on the growth of ro-ro trade in the Mediterranean “EIB Forum on cooperation across the Mediterranean”, organized by the European Investment Bank
NOVEMBER	Brussels Brussels	THINK-UP - Seminar on the definition of variables for mobility scenarios EC/EUROPEAID Meeting - GTMO secretariat
DECEMBER	Barcelona Zaragoza	Euro-Mediterranean seminar - Ideas for relaunching the Barcelona process, organized by ICM Interconnection needs in the regions of south-west Europe and optimization of infrastructure networks from a multimodal standpoint
