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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics  
(Twelfth session, 6-8 September 1999,  
agenda item 10 (c))

QUESTIONS RELATED TO TRANSPORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Mediterranean Pan-European Transport Area (PETrA-Med)

Transmitted by the European Commission (EC)

At its eleventh session, the Working Party expressed an interest in the activities undertaken in the Mediterranean Pan-European Transport Area (TRANS/WP.5/24, para.78). To supplement the information furnished by CETMO, the draft report of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport, held in Malta on 23 and 24 March 1999, is reproduced as submitted by the European Commission.

Please note that the distribution of documentation for the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) is no longer "restricted". Accordingly, the secretariat has adopted a new numbering system whereby all working documents other than Reports and Agendas will be numbered as follows: TRANS/WP.5/year/serial number. Reports, Agendas, resolutions and major publications will retain their previous numbering system (i.e., TRANS/WP.5/24).

**EURO-Mediterranean FORUM ON TRANSPORT**

**Senior Officials Meeting**

**Malta, 23 and 24 March 1999**

**REPORT (Draft)**

The first meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport was held in Malta on 23 and 24 March 1999, at the level of Senior Transport Officials. The list of participants is attached.

At this meeting drafts were discussed of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Mediterranean Pan-European Transport Area (PETra-Med), and of a work programme for the Forum (both of which had been prepared by the secretariat of the Forum (the European Commission, Directorate-General for Transport)).

The report below is presented in the form of a summary of conclusions and does not include interventions by participants. Should a participant wish that his intervention at the time of the debates be attached to the report, he may pass it to the secretariat of the Forum which will circulate it to all members.

**A. Concerning the Memorandum of Understanding:**

The text of the Memorandum of Understanding had been amended to take account of the suggestions received before the meeting; insofar as no other amendment of the text was requested at the meeting, this same document is attached for final comments before initiating the process of signature.

The Turkish delegation did however, at the meeting, express its opposition to the inclusion in the list of signatories of the Cypriot Minister of Transport, on the basis that he did not represent the totality of the island. Consultation to resolve this issue will take place during the coming months.

The text distributed at the meeting has not therefore been subsequently amended.

**B. Concerning the work programme:**

**1. Status of the work programme:**

The work programme can be changed at any time, since it is a living document, which should represent the state of participants' reflections. In order to make concrete progress and to ensure a stable working basis, however, it is proposed that the work programme only be amended at meetings of the Forum, following discussions among all participants. A further aim is to make sure that any proposed changes reflect a consensus among members of the Forum. For this reason, the work programme has been amended in line with the discussions in Malta, and this amended document will remain the reference

document until the next meeting of the Forum. In the meanwhile, members of the Forum are encouraged to submit their suggestions for modification, which will be examined as a group at the next meeting.

2. Contents of the work programme:

A multimodal approach was followed.

Two major work topics were identified:

- Definition of a transport infrastructure network in the Mediterranean;
- Identification and implementation of measures to facilitate transport;

Six other topics should also be studied:

- GNSS
- Citizens' transport network
- Transport safety
- Maritime transport
- Research and development
- Statistics, with a view to incorporating user needs into the MED TRANS Programme.

As regards the maritime aspects of transport safety, the work could be dealt with in experts' meetings on the fringe of IMO meetings. The European Commission (DGVII) will take the initiative to organize such meetings, the results of which will be reported to the Forum. The Forum will then decide on any follow-up action. As regards air safety, a similar approach of meetings on the fringe of ICAO cannot at present be followed, because, for the member States of the Union, cooperation on air safety is undertaken in the JAA (Joint Aviation Authorities), which applies stricter safety conditions than ICAO. Transport safety for other modes will continue to be treated entirely within the framework of the Forum.

All eight topics, two priority and six other, are horizontal except for maritime transport, which is a sectoral topic. In order to avoid overlap of work, the workshop on maritime transport should at its next meeting identify the aspects of maritime transport not covered in the horizontal workshops and which it therefore needs to deal with.

3. Points for further discussion

It was proposed to incorporate two new topics:

- Training
- Areas of possible convergence between Forum members with regard to the current WTO services negotiations.

The secretariat of the Forum proposes that these two aspects be dealt with in relation to each of the eight topics, whenever relevant, rather than developing them as two additional topics.

4. Conclusion on the content:

It is proposed that the attached work programme, which was amended to take account of the above elements, be approved. It is also proposed that the work programme may be amended at any time during meetings of the Forum, after discussion of proposals for amendments.

C. On the follow-up:

1. Initially, the secretariat will carry out an assessment of what exists i.e. make, with the aid of all participants an inventory of all existing information on the subjects treated by the Forum.

2. The conclusions of each workshop are attached. They include a list of subjects on which work, either a study or a project, could usefully be launched or be supplemented, together with a list of points to be examined more closely at the next meeting. Several delegations stressed the problems which could be caused by the minimum threshold applied by the Commission for MEDA financing; they considered this to be too high for the transport sector (since infrastructures are excluded), since the diversity of modes and types of transport makes it difficult to assemble small projects in order to reach this threshold.

List of actions put forward on a preliminary basis:

- Definition of a transport infrastructure network in the Mediterranean (MATIMED);
- GNSS: project aiming at developing awareness of the value of GNSS in the region, with the objective of connecting the eastern and western parts of the region; Turkey and Egypt have already indicated their desire to take part in this project;
- AEFMP: project aimed at harmonizing the air transport systems of Algeria, Spain, France, Morocco and Portugal, by using the first generation of satellite navigation systems (EGNOS); the project would be managed jointly by Spain and Morocco;

- Transport facilitation: launch of a study for the whole Mediterranean; Organization of a seminar on the application in the Mediterranean of the international rules and conventions on facilitation of transport;
- Work on the problems of and possible solutions for the implementation of a citizens' transport network;
- Inventory of current transport safety rules and their application in the Partners, based on the contributions of the delegates;
- Establishment (on request) of training in transport sector reforms for transport policy decision-makers.

Points to be examined by the delegations for the next meeting:

- Definition of an overall Plan for GNSS in the Mediterranean, including the actions envisaged above; Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Spain, Morocco and Turkey indicated their intention to participate;
- Reevaluation of the projects mentioned in RETRAMED;
- Determination of the priority areas for training and of the necessary levels of training;
- Examination of the need for, and the possibility of, pilot project type measures, other than studies (but excluding direct financing of transport infrastructures);
- Study of the technical feasibility of a cross-border cooperation programme, similar to what already exists for the Central and Eastern European countries.

The above projects would need to be prioritized in the light of the interest expressed by the Partners and their possibilities of implementation.

**D. Documents to be provided:**

**1. By the Forum secretariat:**

The secretariat undertook to provide a note giving clarification on the eligibility criteria for, and the procedures of, the Regional MEDA Programme, in order to enable Partners to consider their possible recourse to MEDA in full knowledge of the facts.

The secretariat will also provide the delegates with a proposal for core indicators which would be useful with a view to incorporating user needs in the work being run by Eurostat on transport statistics in the Mediterranean.

2. By Partners and other participating countries:

For the Memorandum of Understanding:

- Possible requests for modification: before 25 June
- Exact title of the signatory for each country: before 25 June

3. By participating countries and international observer organizations:

On the operation of the Forum:

- Verify if details of contact persons for each delegation are correct and provide, as far as possible, an electronic mail address;
- If delegations wish, they may comment on the type of meeting to be envisaged in future.

On the work programme:

- Comments on the text: as mentioned above, requests for modification and/or other comments will be discussed at the next meeting, so that a fairly distant deadline can be fixed, on 30 September.

On the follow-up work:

- Contributions on existing information and/or what may be relevant for the work of the Forum: the secretariat suggests that at least the following information be provided, which it will then disseminate to all members of the Forum: the title of the study/project, its author, details of where one can obtain it, a short summary of the conclusions or the conclusions themselves;
- An initial indication on the reevaluation of the RETRAMED projects;
- Contributions on the topics discussed, and in particular on:
  - the transport infrastructures network to be defined with Partners,
  - the issue of transport facilitation (in particular so as to aid in the definition of the proposed study),
  - safety,
  - the citizens' transport network;
- A confirmation of the position taken by numerous delegations at the meeting, according to which the Mediterranean Partners should, in the immediate future, be able to participate in the transport

research and development actions of the 5th Framework programme, on the basis of a contribution by the EU towards such participation.

4. Addresses:

The secretariat has set up an electronic letter box, the details of which are on Internet:

[Forum-euro-med-transport@dg7.cec.be](mailto:Forum-euro-med-transport@dg7.cec.be)

All messages may from now on be sent to this address. Alternatively, the persons to be contacted are:

Mrs. CHRAYE (telephone: 322 - 296 82 42)  
Mrs. EDLAND (telephone: 322 - 295 34 79)  
Fax: 322-296 96 32

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Annexes:

Organizational arrangements  
List of participants  
Draft Memorandum of Understanding  
Draft work programme  
Draft conclusions of the workshops

ANNEX

ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Programming of the future meetings:

Delegations agreed to the principle of a high level meeting at least once a year. For next meetings, it would be useful to envisage four working sessions for the workshops, with two workshops running in parallel during each session, and to ask delegations if they agree to envisage appropriate participation. The Forum can nevertheless decide to reduce the number of workshops if necessary, in the light of delegations' views on the issue.

Two options are possible as regards when the meetings of the workshops take place :

- either at the same time as the meeting at a high level, which requires the participation of several experts, and raises the question of whether or not, in this case, the additional experts' travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by MEDA, over and above the normal limit of two persons per delegation;
- or, at another time, which would require MEDA to cover several meetings a year, or the delegations participating at their own expense. The Commission (DGVII) remains of course ready to make available as necessary a meeting room in Brussels.

Pending delegates' reactions, the text of the work programme was not amended on this point.

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