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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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Please note that the distribution of documents for the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) is no longer "restricted". Accordingly, the secretariat has adopted a new numbering system whereby all working documents will be numbered as follows: TRANS/year/serial number. Reports, provisional agendas, resolutions and major publications will continue to follow the previous numbering system: ECE/TRANS/serial number.

Report on the

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

Period 2000

I. INTRODUCTION

CETMO sets out below its report on activities in 2000. The description of the activities follows the format of the Programme of Work of CETMO for the period 2000-2001 (CETMO/TRANS/R.44-12/99). The list of international meetings and travel is annexed.

Another document (CETMO/TRANS/R.47-12/00) gives the update of the Programme of Work of CETMO for the period 2001-2002.

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 2000, 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 2000 took account of the decisions of the fifth meeting (30 November 1999) of national coordinators. CETMO further adapted 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-second session of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Brief description: The sixty-second meeting of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva on 15 to 17 February 2000. CETMO submitted a report of its activities and the Programme of Work for the period 2000-2001 at this meeting.

- 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 addition, CETMO made a working visit to the Ministry of Transport of Tunisia in January 2000, the result of which was a better acquaintance with the organization of transport in Tunisia and the strengthening of cooperation with a view to improving the CETMO database.

CETMO further took part in the seminar organized by the Ministry of Finance of Algeria, with the collaboration of the World Bank, on concessions in infrastructures, on 10 and 11 June 2000. 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 centres.

CETMO has continued the publication of the CETMO Bulletin on the Centre's activities. The studies which appeared in the Bulletin in 2000 were:

- Main international ECE transport agreements and conventions;
- International passenger air traffic in the Western Mediterranean;
- International maritime traffic of goods in the Western Mediterranean;
- Intensity of trade in the Western Mediterranean countries.

CETMO has a Web page on 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 secretariat of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group (GTMO).

The sixth coordination meeting of GTMO was held on 7 November 2000. CETMO submitted a report to the meeting on the state of progress of the work of GTMO and regional cooperation in the Mediterranean. A joint GTMO position on the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum was also discussed and approved.

Earlier, in February 2000, a GTMO delegation met in Brussels with the new European Commission Directorate-General Energy and Transport (DGTREN). The aim of the meeting was to review the position of EC/DGTREN with regard to its institutional and financial support to GTMO's activities.

- 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 facilitation in the Mediterranean ("Euro-Mediterranean Transport Policy and Training Project") and enabled a number of working groups on infrastructures, maritime transport and research in the Mediterranean to be established. CETMO took part in the meeting as the technical secretariat of GTMO.

- Analysis of Mediterranean transport flows

Brief description: In October 2000, CETMO distributed a report on the development of external trade in the Western Mediterranean, analysing the external trade of the countries of Southern Europe and the Maghreb and trade between them, on the basis of information contained in the CETMO-FLUX 97.1 database and a varied bibliography.

- Round tables on traffic forecasts and the planning of port and airport infrastructures

Brief description: In 2000, CETMO organized two round tables the aim of which was to encourage experience-sharing and reflection on the traffic forecast made in Western Mediterranean countries in order to plan airport and port infrastructures.

Planning representatives of the national airport and port administrations and bodies of each of the seven countries of the region took part in these meetings. The first day of each round table led to the presentation and analysis of the methodologies used by each organization for traffic forecasts and the identification of the infrastructures required; the second day was devoted to reflection on the socio-economic and transport scenarios emerging from the forecasts and the presentation of the results obtained.

- THINK-UP

Brief description: At CETMO's request, the European Commission invited several experts from the Maghreb to take part in THINK-UP, the thematic network of the fifth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (RTD). The aim of THINK-UP is the joint analysis and comprehension of the modelling of transport demand and the creation of scenarios, with comparison and discussion of the methodologies currently used nationally and internationally. During the first THINK-UP Seminar (Paris, 25 and 26 September 2000), the main models for mobility forecasts, used in some European countries, were revised.

- MEDTRANS

Brief description: In 2000, CETMO continued to follow up the MEDTRANS project on transport statistics in the Mediterranean.

In the context of MEDTRANS, a Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Transport Statistics was held in Rome on 25 and 26 September. The Conference provided an opportunity to present the results of cooperation in transport statistics obtained in the course of the project, to study possibilities of improving national data production capacity and to maintain the updating of the database obtained. CETMO took part in the Conference as rapporteur.

- ASSEMBLING

On 16 March 2000, the five pilot Observatories of the ASSEMBLING project submitted the content of their respective Webs to EC/DGTREN. CETMO is one of the five pilot Observatories taking part in the project.

Assembling a European Network of Monitoring Centres for Transport Infrastructures is a project of the fourth RTD framework programme of the European Commission. The main purpose of ASSEMBLING is to explore and apply methodologies and technologies for grouping transport information sources and heterogeneous data.

- Eurostat - DG XVI study on transport infrastructure statistics

On behalf of EC/DG XVI Eurostat is heading a study on the identification of statistical sources which can furnish data on transport infrastructures broken down regionally. Another of the aims of the study is to make a start on compiling available data in an unharmonized database.

CETMO has collaborated in implementing this study with responsibility for statistics concerning Community Mediterranean countries.

- Thirteenth session of UN/ECE Working Party WP.5

Brief description: The thirteenth session of the WP.5 Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics of the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee was held from 18 to 20 September.

CETMO took part in the meeting and presented the follow-up of its activities; it reported on the organization of a seminar on facilitation of international freight transport in the Mediterranean, to be held in Barcelona in the spring of 2001. The seminar will be organized in cooperation with the Transport Division of UN/ECE.

REPORT ON SUBPROGRAMME 3: Transport operations and facilitation

- Promotion of the use of information technologies in transport

Brief description: CETMO is continuing its specific task of publicizing and promoting information technologies (IT) among transport companies through its activities. Fresh emphasis is being placed on all questions relating to electronic trade and Internet possibilities.

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 dealing with the differences linked to the creation of a databank.

These activities have benefited from the participation of CETMO in the MEDTRANS and ASSEMBLING projects and the Eurostat-DG XVI study on regionalized statistics for transport infrastructures (see Subprogramme 2: Transport prospects).

- 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 various national delegations, CETMO updated the Sub-base on regulation (CETMO-LEX 99.1) and the sub-base on infrastructures (CETMO-FLUX 98.1), which was expanded to include port and airport infrastructures. A new sub-base with a selection of socio-economic data (CETMO-BASE 98.1) was established. A new Windows version of search software for the CETMO-FLUX: GOODS database was developed.

Work has begun on the updating of the CETMO-FLUX database on flows of goods and passengers. It is planned to improve information at the regional level.

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 2000

JANUARY	Tunis	Working visit to the Ministry of Transport of Tunisia
FEBRUARY	Paris	ASSEMBLING - Coordination meeting
	Geneva	Meeting of the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee
	Brussels	EC/DGTREN meeting - GTMO delegation
MARCH	Brussels	ASSEMBLING - Meeting to introduce the five pilot Observatories to EC/DGTREN
	Brussels	EC/DGTREN meeting - GTMO secretariat
MAY	Brussels	EC/DGTREN meeting - GTMO secretariat
	Brussels	TRANS-TALK - Seminar on "Methodologies for the evaluation of transport policies and projects"
JUNE	Madrid	Round table on "Traffic forecasts and planning of airport infrastructures", organized by CETMO
	Algiers	Seminar on infrastructure concession, organized by the Ministry of Finance of Algeria and the World Bank
JULY	Madrid	Round table on "Traffic forecasts and planning of port infrastructures", organized by CETMO
SEPTEMBER	Rome	MEDTRANS - Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Transport Statistics
	Paris	THINK-UP - Seminar on national and European mobility forecasting models
	Geneva	UN/ECE WP.5 Annual meeting
	Brussels	EC/DGTREN Meeting - GTMO secretariat
OCTOBER	Brussels	EC/DGTREN Meeting - GTMO secretariat
	Madrid	Seminar on "Community transport statistics on the threshold of the third millennium", organized by CEIES and Eurostat
NOVEMBER	Brussels	GTMO Sixth coordination meeting
	Brussels	Second meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum
