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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-eighth session

Agenda item 4

DRAFT DECISION ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Reaffirming its decision G(47) and its prior decisions adopted by the Commission on this subject,

Recognizing that the strengthening of economic cooperation among member States of the ECE also contributes to promoting stability in the Mediterranean region and underlining the importance of economic cooperation among the countries in the Mediterranean as a factor having a positive impact on the whole of the ECE region,

Conscious of the need to develop further economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Document 1992 - "The Challenges of Change", and the role that the ECE should play in implementing these provisions;

Welcoming the Helsinki Summit Declaration 1992 and particularly the Decision on the Mediterranean by which the Participating States recognized that the changes which have taken place in Europe are relevant to the Mediterranean region and that economic, social, political and security developments in that region can have a bearing on Europe,

Bearing in mind that several Commission member States in the Mediterranean are developing from an economic point of view,

1. Takes note of the Executive-Secretary's report E/ECE/1273 on Activities of the ECE to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the CSCE and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Document 1992, and particularly the relevant part of the report pertaining to the Mediterranean;

2. Stresses the need for continued efforts by ECE for the protection and amelioration of the Mediterranean ecosystem as referred to in the report of the CSCE Meeting on the Mediterranean held in Palma de Mallorca, in 1990, and calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the forty-ninth session of the ECE on such activities in this area;

3. Further calls upon the Executive Secretary to continue to undertake action-oriented studies, including specific analysis of existing economic cooperation between ECE Mediterranean countries, to identify effective means of enhancing economic cooperation in the Mediterranean, both in the priority and non-priority areas of the ECE, taking into account the limits of available resources and the independent nature of that analysis, for consideration by the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties of the Commission in their programmes of work;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to cooperate with the Executive Secretaries of the other relevant United Nations regional commissions as well as other United Nations bodies concerned and to pursue his contacts with the other Mediterranean countries not members of the Commission, with a view to increasing interregional cooperation on the subjects within the competence of the ECE and which are of common interest to the Mediterranean countries;

5. Expresses satisfaction with the activities carried out by the Transport Study Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean in Volos (Greece), the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean in Barcelona (Spain) and the Transport Training Centre in Istanbul (Turkey) which are of direct interest to the countries of the Mediterranean region and invites these centres to continue to contribute to the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee;

6. Recalls further as a follow-up to Council decision 1991/74, that the ECE and ECA continue their joint work on the evaluation of studies made for the construction of the Europe-Africa permanent link across the Strait of Gibraltar, which is of direct interest to the countries of the Mediterranean;

7. Welcomes the results and conclusions of the Seminar for the Statistical Offices of the Mediterranean Countries held in Palermo (Italy) from 13 to 15 October 1992, which addressed areas of cooperation between Mediterranean countries on environment, tourism and immigration statistics, and which recommended that they assess their experiences with a view to extending cooperation in the Mediterranean area at a seminar to be held not later than 1995;

8. Takes note of the Report of the seventeenth Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe, held in Seville (Spain) from 21 to 23 October 1992 on "Urban design and architecture with respect to

Mediterranean climate and sustainable development", and underlines the need for appropriate follow-up activities in this area;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to facilitate consultations regarding the Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) and the Mediterranean Special Programme of Action (MEDSPA) with a view to strengthening further the environmental management and development in the Mediterranean region;

10. Welcomes the decision of the CSCE to convene in Malta between 17 and 21 May 1993, a Seminar on the Mediterranean to consider the following topics: the environment (follow-up to the results of the Palma Meeting, identification of possible areas of cooperation), demographic trends and migration (social and economic background to these issues), and practical ways of cooperation between the non-participating Mediterranean States and the CSCE in the light of the Helsinki Document;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the forty-ninth session on the implementation of this decision.