



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
LIMITED

E/1995/L.37  
20 July 1995

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

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Substantive session of 1995  
Geneva, 26 June - 28 July 1995  
Agenda item 7

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL  
AND RELATED FIELDS

Morocco\*: draft resolution

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 22 July 1991 and 1993/60 of 30 July 1993,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly declared the period 1991-2000 the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

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\* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Also referring to the conclusions of the special session on the permanent link organized by the International Tunnelling Association in Cairo on 5 April 1995 pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/60,

Taking note of the recommendations and conclusions of the evaluation report on the studies relating to the project prepared in accordance with resolution 1991/74 and the follow-up report prepared in accordance with resolution 1993/60, which recommends substantial support for the project from the European Union,

Also taking note of the conclusions of the Fourth International Colloquium on the Permanent Link, held in Seville from 16 to 18 May 1995 and attended by international experts and representatives of specialized international organizations,

Recalling the strategy adopted by the European Union at the Essen Summit in December 1994, consisting in the setting-up of a European-Mediterranean partnership through the establishment of a free-trade zone,

Recalling also the conclusions of the first meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the six western Mediterranean countries - Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia - in Paris on 20 January 1995, at which the Ministers undertook to identify priority projects, among them the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar, to be proposed to the European Union for consideration of the possibilities of financing and execution,

1. Welcomes the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar established between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Moroccan and Spanish Governments, and specialized international organizations;

2. Commends the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa on the work done in preparing the project follow-up report requested by the Council in its resolution 1993/60, even though necessary resources were not forthcoming from the General Assembly;

3. Thanks the International Tunnelling Association for organizing a special session on the project on the occasion of its General Assembly in Cairo from 3 to 7 April 1994, pursuant to the provisions of Council resolution 1993/60;

4. Repeats its invitation to the competent organizations in the United Nations system to participate in the studies and work on the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

5. Invites the European Commission to consider the possibility of participating in the development of the project both institutionally and financially;

6. Requests the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, appropriate additional resources to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa in order to enable them to carry out the above-mentioned activities.

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