



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.5/1999/13  
21 June 1999

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

---

**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 Transport Study Centre  
for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO)

At the eleventh session of the Working Party, the Director of CETMO agreed to prepare a progress report on the activities to be carried out in the Mediterranean Pan-European Transport Area (TRANS/WP.5/24, para. 78).

The report transmitted to the secretariat by CETMO in March 1999 is reproduced here for consideration by the Working Party.

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).

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN  
PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT AREA

Introduction

The report on the development of the Crete Corridors, adopted during the Third Pan-European Transport Conference in Helsinki in June 1997, stated that in certain areas the corridor concept did not adequately meet transport infrastructure needs. It is thus necessary to envisage a more detailed approach which will reflect the complex structure of transport needs in these areas which are for the most part strongly influenced by the sea. The complementary notion of Pan-European Transport Areas was approved by the countries concerned.

The area of the Mediterranean basin is one of the Pan-European Transport Areas proposed. The others are: the Barents Sea Euro-Arctic area, the Black Sea basin area and the Adriatic and Ionian Seas area.

According to the report:

- It is planned that, in the Mediterranean area, the countries involved and the corresponding regional cooperation organization, if it exists, should work on preparing a plan for the development of the Area's infrastructures and its links with the Pan-European Corridors and the European Union's Trans-European Transport Networks. This work should include a study of possibilities for the completion of the Pan-European Transport Corridors so as to ensure the best possible integration with the Area.
- It is recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding should be concluded among the countries concerned, on the same bases as for the Corridors.

Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport

Purpose and scope

In accordance with the Communication concerning the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in the transport sector, it was decided in September 1998 to set up a Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport.

The Forum aims at developing regional cooperation in the transport sector in accordance with the programme of work annexed to the Barcelona Declaration. More precisely, by following the recommendations of the Communication, the Forum should concentrate on establishing a plan of action for transport, to include the measures proposed, the means of implementing them and a calendar for the purpose.

The Forum will ensure that action undertaken is consistent with current and future activities in the geographical areas adjoining the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Its work will, as necessary, be part of what is being done in the context of the Mediterranean Pan-European Transport Area and on the

Trans-European Transport Networks and the TINA initiative (Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment for the Central and Eastern European countries in the process of accession).

The Forum covers the geographical area of the European Union and its twelve Mediterranean partners: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

The Forum will concentrate on aspects of the transport networks (infrastructures, including telematics, superstructures and their use) for all transport modes, while maintaining emphasis on the air-sea multimodal system, which has been given priority and corresponds to the transport modes most naturally used in an area centred round a sea. It will also work on aspects of the operation of the transport system, taking into account the features and constraints of other policies such as those involving taxation and customs control, or the environment and consumer protection.

#### Participants

The permanent members of the Forum are the European Union - represented by the President of the Council and member States which wish to take part -, the European Commission and the 12 Mediterranean partners. The agreement of the members, which will be expressed through the ministers of transport, will be ratified by the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding.

The European Commission (DG VII) will act as secretariat of the Forum.

The Forum will enable international financial institutions (first and foremost EIB and the World Bank), the international organizations involved (in particular, ECE and ECMT) and representatives of the other two Pan-European Transport Areas concerned, the Adriatic and Ionian Seas Area and the Black Sea Area, to participate as observers.

The Forum will also make it its duty to receive as often as necessary the representatives of other institutions/organizations likely to make a useful contribution to its work, from administrative structures, regional cooperation or from the private sector, whose contribution is recognized to be essential both for the financing of activities and for defining the constraints to be covered by the measures which the Forum will propose.

#### First meeting of the Forum

The first meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport was held in Malta on 23 and 24 March.

It was attended, inter alia, by nine third party Mediterranean delegations, consisting of senior officials, and by the five Community countries of Southern Europe, Finland (which will be the next President of the European Union), the European Commission, ECE and ESCWA.

CETMO attended this meeting since it was acting as the secretariat of GTMO (Group of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean). CETMO also provided the secretariat of the Forum with technical support during the preparation and the course of the meeting.

A small number of subjects to be dealt with in the context of the plan of action for regional cooperation in transport were discussed during the Forum. A proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding was also distributed; this is to be signed by the 15+12 ministers and defines the official framework of the work of the Pan-European Transport Area and the Forum.

On the basis of the discussions, the meeting also made it possible to identify specific activities to be initiated in 1999 around eight topics covered in the workshops: infrastructures, facilitation of transport, safety, statistics, research, citizens' network, carriage by sea and GNSS. This programme of action, which the Commission is to consider in greater detail, makes provision for beginning the work of preparing an outline for infrastructure development in the region as approved at the Third Pan-European Transport Conference in Helsinki.

-----