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**QUESTIONS RELATED TO TRANSPORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Report on the follow-up to the activities of the United Nations Transport Study Centre  
for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO)

Transmitted by CETMO

REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE ACTIVITIES OF CETMO  
September 1999-July 2000

1. GENERAL ACTIVITIES

1.1 Working visits to CETMO coordinators

During the last few months, CETMO has made several working visits to the ministries of transport of seven Western Mediterranean countries:

- From 20 to 22 September 1999, CETMO visited the Ministry of Transport and Shipping, Rome. During the visit, CETMO met representatives, inter alia, of AISCAT (Italian Association of Motorway and Tunnel Concession-Holders), ANAS (National Roads Authority), FS (State Railways), ENAC (National Civil Aviation Authority) and ISTAT (National Institute of Statistics).
- On 27 and 28 October 1999, CETMO met in Paris various representatives of the French Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, inter alia, of the Bureau of Economic and International Affairs, of the Air Transport Bureau and the Bureau for Shipping, Ports and the Coasts.
- On 16 and 17 November, CETMO travelled to Rabat and Casablanca for meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Transport and the Merchant Marine. The talks included: ONDA (National Airports Office), ONCF (National Railways Office), the Bureau of the Merchant Marine, the Roads and Road Traffic Bureau, ODEP (Office for Port Operation) and the Ports Bureau.
- On 14 and 15 December 1999, CETMO visited the General Directorate of Land Transport of the Ministry of Public Works, Lisbon. Meetings were held with representatives of ANA (Airports of Portugal, S.A.), the Roads Institute of Portugal, REFER, the National Rail Transport Institute and the Shipping and Ports Institute.
- With the collaboration of the Bureau of Planning Studies of the Ministry of Transport of Tunisia, CETMO met in Tunis, on 26 and 27 January 2000, representatives of OACA (Office of Civil Aviation and Airports), OMMP (Office of the Merchant Marine and Ports), the National Railway Company of Tunisia, the Roads Bureau of the Ministry of Public Works and the Habitat and the National Institute of Statistics.
- Lastly, from 10 to 12 June 2000, CETMO met various representatives in Algiers of the Bureaux of Ports, Airports, Urban Transport and Road Traffic and Planning and Cooperation of the Ministry of Transport of Algeria.

The working visits served to strengthen cooperation and to provide more detailed knowledge of the organization of information sources on transport statistics in each country preparatory to the updating of the CETMO database. The organization of the meetings was made possible as a result of collaboration by the national coordinators in each country.

## 1.2 Meeting of CETMO coordinators

The fifth meeting of CETMO coordinators took place in Barcelona on 30 November 1999.

During the meeting, a report was presented on CETMO's activities and the Centre's programme of work for 2000-2001 was adopted in accordance with the following main lines:

- Updating and improvement of the CETMO database and its user and distribution tools;
- Analysis and forecasting of international transport flows, in order to identify medium- and long-term priorities in the Western Mediterranean;
- Support for the work of GTMO and the follow-up of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in transport;
- Facilitation of transport in the region.

## 1.3 ECE Inland Transport Committee

The sixty-second meeting of the ECE Inland Transport Committee took place from 15 to 17 February 2000. During the meeting, CETMO presented a report on its activities and its programme of work for the period 2000-2001.

## 1.4 GTMO secretariat

CETMO continued to provide its services as technical secretariat of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group (of Ministers of Transport) (GTMO).

Representatives of the current and forthcoming chairmen of GTMO (Spain and Tunisia), the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport (DG TREN) of the European Commission and CETMO met in Brussels on 23 February 2000.

The purpose of the meeting was to analyse the position of the EC's new DG TREN vis-à-vis its political and financial commitment to GTMO activities.

## 1.5 CETMO database

CETMO has continued to update and improve the CETMO database on flows of goods and passengers (FLUX), infrastructures (INFRA) and transport regulation (LEX). The three sub-bases are an indispensable tool for familiarity with transport in the region.

During the period, CETMO updated the CETMO-FLUX (97.1 version) and CETMO-LEX (99.1 version) sub-bases. Since March, the CETMO Web site ([www.cetmo.org](http://www.cetmo.org))

provides the possibility of consulting the CETMO-LEX sub-base interactively. In addition, two new sub-bases (CETMO-INFRA: AIRPORTS and CETMO-INFRA: PORTS), concerning airport and port infrastructures in the Western Mediterranean, were set up.

The success of the improvement and updating of the CETMO database has only been possible as a result of the collaboration of the national coordinators and the sectoral organizations providing basic data.

#### 1.6 MED-TRANS project

The activities of the MED-TRANS project on transport statistics in Mediterranean partner countries continued in the course of the year. CETMO carried out a follow-up of the project and took part in the two seminars organized, as the secretariat for GTMO.

During one of the seminars (Madrid, from 12 to 16 July 1999), the development of statistics on aviation, airport traffic and plane travel between airports was considered, with a view to providing a methodological framework and practical tools for setting up databases in each of the other Mediterranean countries.

During the second seminar (Lisbon, from 6 to 10 December 1999), EC Regulation No. 1172/98 of 25 May 1998 on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods by road and its implementation in EU countries was considered. The most effective methodologies were also discussed for obtaining similar information in Mediterranean third countries, through surveys.

#### 1.7 Round tables on traffic forecasts and airport and port infrastructure planning

On 8 and 9 June 2000, CETMO organized a round table with a view to encouraging the exchange of experiences and reflection on the traffic forecasts for the planning of airport infrastructures in the countries of the Western Mediterranean.

Representatives of national airport planning administrations and organizations from Algeria, Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia took part in the meeting.

The first day was spent on the presentation and analysis of the methodologies used by each organization for forecasting traffic and identifying the necessary airport infrastructures. The second day was devoted to reflection on the socio-economic and transport scenarios figuring in the forecasts and presentation of the results obtained.

On 10 and 11 July 2000, CETMO organized a round table with a similar content on port infrastructures.

#### 1.8 Participation of Maghreb experts in the thematic networks of the European Union's Fifth Research and Technological Development Framework Programme

At the request of CETMO, the EC's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport (DG TREN) invited several Maghreb experts to take part in the TRANS-TALK thematic network of the European Union's Fifth RDT Framework Programme.

The purpose of TRANS-TALK is to bring together scientists, professionals and politicians from different countries to analyse the framework for the integration of the various transport policy and project evaluation methodologies.

During the first TRANS-TALK meeting (Brussels, 29-31 May 2000), participants analysed the context for the evaluation of policies, principles and methods and the viewpoints of several international and professional organizations concerning evaluation.

In autumn 2000 it is planned to extend the TRANS-TALK experience to two other thematic networks, on mobility prediction and transport modelling tools.

## 1.9 ASSEMBLING

On 16 March 2000, the five pilot observatories of the ASSEMBLING project presented the contents of their respective Web sites to the EC's DG TREN. A meeting to present the final results of the project was held in Brussels on 19 June 2000.

ASSEMBLING a European Network of Monitoring Centres for Transport Infrastructures is a project of EU's Fourth RTD Framework Programme. Its main objective is to explore and apply methodologies and technologies for grouping information sources and heterogeneous transport data.

CETMO is one of the five pilot observatories taking part in the project.

## 2. CETMO PUBLICATIONS

"CETMO-FLUX database on flows of goods and passengers in the Western Mediterranean, version 97.1", CETMO (1999).

This is a new version of the CETMO-FLUX database, with the data for 1997. The flows contained in the database are unimodal and international flows of goods between the countries of the Western Mediterranean and between their regions, and flows between these countries and areas outside.

"CETMO-LEX database on the regulation of transport in the Western Mediterranean, version 99.1, reference years up to December 1999", CETMO (1999).

The CETMO-LEX database is a compilation of legislative documents, concerning the international carriage of passengers and goods, in force in the seven Western Mediterranean countries. The international agreements of the United Nations and EU transport legislation have also been taken into consideration.

"Update (period 2000-2001) and report (for 1999) of the CETMO programme of work", CETMO (1999).

These documents provide a complete overview of CETMO's activities, both those which have already taken place and those planned. During the period 2000-2001, an effort is planned

to improve and develop the data contained in the CETMO database, and the management and distribution tools. CETMO will continue to promote the efforts of GTMO and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

“CETMO-INFRA database of transport infrastructures in the Western Mediterranean: AIRPORTS section, 98.1 version”, CETMO (2000).

The CETMO-INFRA: AIRPORTS database covers airport traffic, a selection of the features of airport infrastructure and international passenger traffic with each country of the CETMO area with its over 160 commercial airports.

“CETMO-INFRA database of transport infrastructures in the Western Mediterranean: PORTS section, 98.1 version”, CETMO (2000).

The CETMO-INFRA: PORTS database comprises port traffic and total international traffic of goods with each country of the CETMO area with its over 140 commercial ports.

“Round table on traffic forecasting and the planning of airport infrastructures: Experiences in the Western Mediterranean”, CETMO (Madrid, 8-9 June 2000).

### 3. SEMINARS AND OTHERS

CETMO took part in the European Transport Research Conference which took place in Lille (France) from 8 to 9 November 1999.

The Conference provided an opportunity to obtain information on the most recent results of the “Transport” programme of the European Union’s Fourth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (1994-1998), and the prospects offered by the key action “Sustainable Mobility and Intermodality” within the Fifth Framework Programme (1998-2002).

CETMO participated in the Seminar on infrastructure concessions organized by the Ministry of Finance of Algeria, with the collaboration of the World Bank on 10 and 11 June 2000.

The following issues were discussed during the Seminar:

- The legal dimension of the concessions in Algeria;
- The efficiency of the introduction of the concessions, particularly the tendering procedure;
- The balance between State participation and the participation of the concession-holder, in order to ensure the universal nature of the service;

- The social dimension of the concession, with a view to minimizing the effect on employment in the privatization process and arriving at a balance between investment, financing and price;
- The status of the concession manager.

It may be recalled that research into forms of financing for transport infrastructures in the Western Mediterranean was one of the priority questions at the last meeting of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean.

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