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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 2000-July 2001

1. GENERAL ACTIVITIES

1.1 Relations with CETMO national coordinators

During the last few months, CETMO has continued to maintain regular contacts with CETMO national coordinators representing the ministries of transport of the seven countries of the Western Mediterranean.

CETMO made working visits to Tunisia (21-22 February 2001) and Morocco (27-28 February 2001). The two visits enabled, inter alia, cooperation to be strengthened with a view to the ongoing updating of the CETMO-FLUX database and the adjustment of the methodology for estimating airport capacities.

1.2 UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee

The sixty-third meeting of the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee took place from 3 to 5 February 2001. During the meeting, CETMO presented a report on its activities and its programme of work for the period 2001-2002.

The programme of work presented followed the main lines below, established at the sixth meeting of CETMO coordinators (Barcelona, November 2000):

- 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.

CETMO also informed members of the Inland Transport Committee that a seminar on the facilitation of international carriage of goods between countries on both sides of the Western Mediterranean was being organized in cooperation with the UN/ECE Transport Division.

1.3 GTMO secretariat

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

In its role as the GTMO secretariat, CETMO took part in the second meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport held in Brussels on 8 and 9 November 2000, with the participation of high-level transport officials from the 12 Mediterranean partner countries and members of the European Union, the European Commission and various international institutions.

The role of the Forum and its programme of work were discussed during the meeting, along with the main lines of a regional project concerning transport facilitation measures in the region.

During the meeting, the seven GTMO countries transmitted to the members of the Forum for approval a proposed second project, complementing the first, on the identification and promotion of an infrastructure network for multimodal transport in the Mediterranean. Both projects are a direct result of the first Forum and are in keeping with its recommendations. The European Commission decided that this project should be reconsidered in the context of a future working group on networks and infrastructure.

The Forum also discussed a number of specific cooperation topics (maritime transport, satellite navigation, research and development, statistics) and approved the establishment in 2001 of a further two working groups on:

- Maritime transport, in particular the areas of maritime safety and maritime policy, ports and short-range navigation.
- Satellite navigation (EGNOS/Galileo).

1.4 Follow-up to the conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport

Working group on maritime transport

CETMO attended the first meeting of the sub-working group on maritime safety, established within the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport, in London on 16 February 2001. Discussion during the meeting turned on the present and future state of maritime safety projects approved in 1997 for financing by MEDA. Points of view and proposals were also exchanged on future areas of regional cooperation in maritime safety and the possibilities of coordinating them with IMO activities.

Working group on satellite navigation

CETMO also participated in the first meeting of the working group on satellite navigation, established within the Forum, in Seville on 10 May 2001. During the meeting, the European Commission and ESA summed up the EGNOS and Galileo systems and several regional cooperation activities were reviewed. Lastly, the meeting discussed the main lines of a forthcoming project on satellite navigation systems applied to transport in the Mediterranean.

1.5 Round table on traffic forecasts and port infrastructure planning

On 10 and 11 July 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 port infrastructures in the countries of the Western Mediterranean. This complemented the similar round table on airport infrastructures organized by CETMO on 8 and 9 June 2000.

The meeting was attended by representatives of administrations and national bodies responsible for port planning in Algeria, Spain, France, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia.

The first day was given over to the presentation and analysis of the methodologies used by each organization to forecast traffic and identify the infrastructures needed. The second day was devoted to consideration of socio-economic and transport scenarios used in the forecasts made and presentation of the results obtained.

1.6 Seminar on facilitation of the carriage of goods in the Western Mediterranean

CETMO organized a seminar in Barcelona on 3 and 4 May 2001 on facilitation of the international carriage of goods between countries on both sides of the Western Mediterranean.

The purpose of the seminar, attended by some 50 experts, was to analyse the current situation regarding facilitation and fluidity in the carriage of goods between the countries of South-West Europe (Spain, France, Italy and Portugal) and the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), and to identify regional cooperation activities to diminish or eliminate the barriers and obstacles identified. In view of the actual nature of trade, the seminar was primarily aimed at maritime transport and ports issues, and problems of border-crossings.

The seminar was organized as a direct consequence of the decisions taken at the last Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean and contributes to maintaining the impetus of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, in accordance with the priorities established by the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport. The seminar is also part of the activities relating to transport in the Mediterranean scheduled in the programme of work of the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee.

The first day of the seminar, with the assistance of a panel of participants from each of the seven countries of the region and various European port communities, was devoted to the identification and discussion of aspects and procedures constituting an obstacle to transport between the two sides of the Mediterranean and the fluidity of the transport chain.

The seminar then went on, in collaboration with another panel of experts from various international institutions (UN/ECE, UN/ECA, EC/TREN, EC/TAXUD and IRU), to consider the main multilateral agreements and international initiatives which might have an impact on the facilitation of the carriage of goods in the region.

On the basis of presentations by various national experts, the second day was devoted to the review of reforms and measures already applied or in the process of implementation in each country to eliminate or diminish obstacles to fluidity.

The seminar ended with the proposal of activities, which could be the subject of regional cooperation, to reduce or eliminate the barriers and obstacles identified.

1.7 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 this period, CETMO updated the CETMO-LEX sub-base (00.2 version). The CETMO Web site (www.cetmo.org) makes it possible to consult the sub-base interactively.

The updating of the CETMO-INFRA: RAILWAYS 98.1 and CETMO-INFRA: ROADS 98.1 sub-bases has enabled data concerning land infrastructures to be added to the data already available on port (CETMO-INFRA: PORTS 98.1) and airports (CETMO-INFRA: AIRPORTS 98.1) infrastructures.

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.

1.8 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 continued with the project and took part in the conference in Rome on 25 and 26 September 2000 as rapporteur.

The conference enabled the results of cooperation on transport statistics achieved within the project to be presented, the possibilities of improving data production capacity nationally to be studied and the updating of the project database to be maintained. During the conference, it was pointed out that more consideration required to be given to the needs of transport statistics users.

1.9 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 THINK-UP and TRANS-TALK thematic network of the European Union's Fifth RDT Framework Programme.

THINK-UP

The purpose of THINK-UP is the joint analysis and comprehension of the modelling of transport demand and the creation of scenarios, by comparing and discussing methodologies currently used nationally and internationally.

During the first THINK-UP seminar (Paris, 25-26 September 2000), the main mobility forecasting models used in some European countries were reviewed. The presentation of the models gave a general picture of the various methodologies currently in force for forecasting transport demand, both for flows of passengers and for goods.

During the second THINK-UP seminar (Berlin, 7-8 June 2001) future trends were discussed for developing markets for the transport of goods and passengers, and their segmentation.

TRANS-TALK

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

The third TRANS-TALK seminar was held in Brussels from 30 May to 1 June 2001, to discuss how to integrate the technical and political perspectives of these evaluation practices.

2. CETMO PUBLICATIONS

- “Update and report of the CETMO programme of work”, CETMO (2000).

These two documents give a full overview of CETMO’s activities, completed or scheduled.

- “Round table on traffic forecasting and the planning of port infrastructures: Experiences in the Western Mediterranean”, CETMO (Madrid, 10-11 July 2000).

Dossier with the statements made during the round table organized by CETMO.

- “Seminar on facilitation of the international carriage of goods between countries on both sides of the Western Mediterranean”, CETMO (Barcelona, 3-4 May 2001).

Dossier with the statements made during the seminar organized by CETMO, in cooperation with the UN/ECE Transport Division.

- “Development of foreign trade in the Western Mediterranean”, CETMO (2000).

Report analysing the foreign trade of the countries of Southern Europe and the Maghreb and the trade between them, on the basis of data contained in the CETMO-FLUX: GOODS database, version 97.1 and a varied bibliography.

“CETMO-LEX database on the regulation of transport in the Western Mediterranean, version 00.2”, CETMO (2000).

On its Web site, CETMO offers the 2000.2 version of the CETMO-LEX sub-base. This sub-base 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.

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

The data contained in CETMO-INFRA: ROADS includes the identification of the main road routes in the seven countries of the region and various features of their infrastructure (length, section and existence of tolls) and their use (average daily traffic and percentage of heavy vehicles).

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

The data contained in CETMO-INFRA: RAILWAYS includes the identification of the main railway routes in the seven countries of the region and various features of their infrastructure (length, type of line, type of track and type of traction) and their use.

- “CETMO-ASE database, version 98.1”, CETMO (2000).

This sub-base comprises a compilation of parameters of socio-economic aspects of the Western Mediterranean (population, job market, economic activity, prices, currency, foreign trade and transport), with 1998 as the reference year.
