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Transport in the Mediterranean Region

Follow-up report on the activities of the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean

Communication by the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean

The Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO) has been asked to report on its activities for the twenty-third session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5). Information on the recent activities of CETMO is included in the present document, which reprises the “Follow-up report on CETMO activities, 2009–2010” and is submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

Follow-up report on the activities of the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean

I. Objectives and areas of activity of the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean

1. The general objective of CETMO is to improve transport conditions between Southern European countries (France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain) and North African countries (Algeria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) by studying transport infrastructure, flows and legislation in the Western Mediterranean and by developing facilitating initiatives.

2. By its very nature,¹ CETMO is in regular contact with the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the ministries of transport and other national bodies of the 10 countries in the region.

3. A specific objective of CETMO is therefore the analysis and dissemination of information on logistical and technological trends that affect the strategic position and competitiveness of the transport sector in this region of the Mediterranean.

4. At the national level, CETMO also supports the Spanish transport sector by carrying out strategic analyses and studying from a practical standpoint the adoption of innovations useful to transport companies.

5. The programme of work of CETMO for 2009 took account of the decisions of the previous meeting (Barcelona, 2008) of national coordinators and the meetings of the Group of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO 5+5), in the course of which the following areas of activity were defined:

(a) Support for the work of GTMO (5+5) in the form of a follow-up on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the area of transport, under the guidance of the European Union and the new cooperation initiative known as the “Union for the Mediterranean”;

(b) Analyses and forecasts of transport flows for the purpose of defining a multimodal infrastructure network in the Western Mediterranean, and identifying its medium- and long-term priorities;

(c) Facilitation of transport throughout the region;

(d) Updating and improvement of the CETMO database and the tools for its use and dissemination.

II. Activities in 2009

6. The activities in which CETMO took part in recent months were of the following main types:

(a) GTMO (5+5);

(b) Euromed Transport Forum and Union for the Mediterranean;

(c) Other CETMO activities;

(d) Statistics and information on international transport;

(e) Dissemination activities;

(f) International meetings and contacts.

A. Activities related to the Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean

7. GTMO was launched in 1995 with the objectives of promoting cooperation in transport in the Western Mediterranean and of helping to strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. At the 3rd meeting of ministers of transport of the western

¹ At its second regular session in July 1988, the Economic and Social Council adopted decision 1988/169 which conferred United Nations status on CETMO.

Mediterranean, held in Madrid on 20 January 1997, it was decided that CETMO would act as the technical secretariat of GTMO.

1. 12th meeting of the Group of Experts of the Group of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean

8. On 6 November 2009, the 12th meeting of the Group of Experts was held in Barcelona and attended by experts from the GTMO (5+5) countries, with the exception of those from Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia, who apologized for their absence. Representatives of the European Commission and the Secretariat-General of the Arab Maghreb Union also attended the meeting as observers.

9. The meeting of experts was devoted to preparing the programme of work of GTMO (5+5) for 2009–2011. CETMO, as the technical secretariat of GTMO, had prepared a first proposed programme of work consistent with the conclusion paper of the most recent conference of GTMO (5+5) ministers, held in Rome in May 2009.

10. The overall programme of work for 2009–2011 was approved by the experts.

2. Participation in the conference of the Union for the Mediterranean on sustainable development

11. A ministerial conference of the Union for the Mediterranean on sustainable development was held in Paris on 25 June 2009 and attended by CETMO as the secretariat of GTMO (5+5). The conference was preceded by various workshop-style meetings of representatives of the member States from the four sectors — energy, water, transport and sustainable city development — considered fundamental by the French and Egyptian co-chairs of the Union.

12. The aim of the conference was to take stock of how projects were progressing, how they were run and how they were financed with a view to better coordination between financial institutions, arranging implementation capacity and promoting the innovative concepts or technologies that sustainable development implies.

13. One of the most important outcomes of the conference in the area of transport was an agreement to coordinate and harness synergies between the Euromed Transport Forum and the new Union for the Mediterranean initiative. The workshop on transport considered that the existence of both levels was beneficial, arguing that the Forum should provide a common vision of the strategy to be followed as part of the process of organizing Euro-Mediterranean cooperation over transport; whereas the Union for the Mediterranean, or more particularly its secretariat in Barcelona, should press forward with implementation of transport projects considered to be of high priority.

14. The list of 17 high-priority infrastructure projects drawn up by the Euromed Transport Forum was also presented during the workshop.

B. Activities associated with the Euromed Transport Forum

15. CETMO participated in the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum and in the deployment of the Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean (PART). The Plan put forward a set of 34 steps to serve as a framework for a Euro-Mediterranean transport partnership from 2007 to 2013.

16. Two of the steps cited CETMO, with its experience in cooperation in the region, as a reference for work to be done in the future. CETMO coordinated the PART subprogramme for the Western Mediterranean.

17. CETMO was also responsible for coordinating the working group on Euromed Forum infrastructure. CETMO signed an agreement with the European Commission for the management and activities of the Forum. The agreement was concluded directly with the European Commission, and covered the period 2009–2011. It clearly recognized the role played by CETMO in the field of transport cooperation in the Mediterranean.

1. Meeting of the working group on maritime safety

18. CETMO took part in the meeting of the working group on maritime safety of the Euromed Transport Forum, held in Brussels on 23 June 2009.

19. The main aim of the meeting was to analyse the outcome of the Euromed Cooperation project on maritime safety and the prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED) I, and to discuss the substance of follow-up activities under a fresh contract entitled SAFEMED II. The meeting was also intended to highlight the progress made by Mediterranean countries in maritime safety, the main focus of the project.

20. All countries in the Southern Mediterranean, the European Commission and major bodies such as the European Maritime Safety Agency and the International Maritime Organization were represented at the meeting.

21. One of the outcomes of the project was the fact that it had greatly helped the Mediterranean countries to implement international maritime conventions. However, given that much remained to be achieved in that area, the continuation of the project was welcomed.

2. 4th meeting of the working group on infrastructure

22. The 4th meeting of the working group on infrastructure was held in Brussels on 13 and 14 October 2009. The working group was set up under the guidelines of the Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean, adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum in May 2007. CETMO attended as an expert participant and as the secretariat of the western sub-group.

23. The issues addressed at the meeting included: (i) an analysis of the proposal for a trans-Mediterranean transport network for every Mediterranean country; (ii) the state of progress of projects on the shortlist; (iii) the presentation of an online tool for monitoring the progress of the action plan; and (iv) a review of the study of road and rail transport regulations in Mediterranean countries.

3. Motorways of the Sea European Union – South and East Mediterranean project

24. The team working on the Euromed Transport Forum Motorways of the Sea European Union – South and East Mediterranean (MedaMoS) project organized the 7th meeting of the Motorways of the Sea Subgroup in Brussels on 20 November 2009. The meeting led to the closure of the MedaMoS project and was chiefly concerned with a joint evaluation of the results of the project, involving all countries.

25. The participants, including CETMO, expressed satisfaction at the positive outcome of the project: the launch of a series of motorways of the sea pilot projects in the Mediterranean. They also decided to follow up the project to ensure all the recommendations were put into effect and all the lessons of the three-year project were learned.

4. Aviation project

26. A meeting of the working group on aviation of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum was held in Brussels on 24 November 2009 and attended by CETMO. That working group was also the group of experts advising on the aviation project.

27. The European Commission launched the three-year project in January 2007 with the aim of facilitating the implementation of a Euro-Mediterranean Common Aviation Area (EMCAA). The meeting was the project's last and the most important results were analysed, as were the next steps to be taken. One notable result was the adoption of a road map for the implementation of EMCAA and the related action plan for Mediterranean countries.

5. MEdiTerranean Introduction of Global Navigation Satellite System Services project

28. The final meeting of the MEdiTerranean Introduction of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Services (METIS) project was held in Tunis on 7 December 2009 and attended by CETMO. METIS is a European Commission-financed project taking place under the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum and specifically its working group on GNSS.

29. The fundamental aim of the project is to assist Mediterranean countries in progressively introducing European GNSS services in the Mediterranean region. The METIS project was launched in July 2006 and completed in December 2009. The meeting was to present the main results, impacts and future uses of the project, and the state of implementation of European GNSS policy.

C. Other activities of the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean

30. CETMO works with the transport planning and studies division of the Spanish Ministry of Development to draw up reports for the traffic observatories covering the Pyrenees and Portugal. The observatories are run by the Ministry of Development in cooperation with the French and Portuguese ministries, respectively.

31. These activities make it possible to improve, albeit indirectly, the quality of data in the Cetmo-Flux database and thereby gain a better understanding of flows along the corridor extending from France across the Iberian peninsula and into North Africa.

32. CETMO also attended:

- (a) ECE Inland Transport Committee

CETMO took part in the session of the ECE Inland Transport Committee held from 23 to 25 February 2010 in Geneva. It presented its programme of work and a review of its activities.

- (b) TEN-T Days Conference 2009

CETMO took part in the TEN-T Days Conference 2009, "The future of Trans-European Transport Networks: building bridges between Europe and its neighbours", held in Naples on 21 and 22 October 2009. During the Conference, the workshop on the extension of trans-European networks to neighbouring countries held two sessions on connecting the Trans-European and Trans-Mediterranean networks.

- (c) Barcelona Euromed Forum/Union for the Mediterranean Conference: Projects for the Future

CETMO took part in the conference organized in Barcelona on 5 November 2009 by the European Institute of the Mediterranean, and gave a presentation on the Union for the Mediterranean and the transport sector during the round table on land and maritime infrastructure.

D. Statistics and information on international transport

33. In 2009, CETMO continued to revise its database on goods and passenger flows, socio-economic aspects of transport and transport regulations. The three sub-bases (Flux, Ase and Lex) are updated in accordance with the working agreements of the latest meeting of national coordinators and represent an indispensable source of information on transport in the region.

34. In 2009, CETMO updated the following data:

- Cetmo-Lex: Reference year 2008
- Cetmo-Flux: Reference year 2008
- Cetmo-Ase: Reference year 2008

35. The Cetmo-Lex update was the last because all the organizations that publish official bulletins now provide similar search engines, with the dual advantages of daily updates and the ability to consult selected texts online.

E. Dissemination activities

36. The aim of the CETMO website (www.cetmo.org) is to:

- (a) Provide access to CETMO holdings;
- (b) Announce the main periodicals received by CETMO;
- (c) Make a selection of the Centre's statistics available to the public.

37. The website was revamped and updated in 2006; the previous paper edition of the newsletter was similarly revamped. A newsletter and a press release in the new electronic format were published in 2009. Newsletters will no longer be issued at fixed intervals, but as and when the Centre's activities require.

F. International meetings and contacts

38. The table below shows the main international meetings at which CETMO was an official participant in 2009:

February	Geneva	71st meeting of ECE Inland Transport Committee
	Brussels	GTMO (5+5) work session with European Commission Vice-President and Transport Commissioner Tajani
April	Barcelona	11th meeting of GTMO (5+5) group of experts
May	Rome	Sixth Western Mediterranean Transport Ministers Conference
June	Brussels	6th meeting of the Euromed Transport project national coordinators team

	Paris	Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development
	Brussels	Meeting of Euromed Transport Forum SAFEMED project
September	Geneva	22nd session of ECE WP.5
October	Brussels	4th meeting of the working group on Euromed Transport Forum infrastructures
	Naples	TEN-T Days Conference 2009 on the Future of Trans-European Transport Networks
November	Tunis	CETMO working visit
	Barcelona	1st Barcelona Euromed Forum
	Rabat	CETMO working visit
	Brussels	Meeting of Euromed Transport Forum MedaMoS project
	Barcelona	12th meeting of GTMO (5+5) group of experts
	Brussels	Meeting of Euromed Transport Forum Aviation project
	Cairo	CETMO working visit to Egypt
December	Tunis	Meeting of Euromed Transport Forum METIS project
	Jerusalem and Ramallah	CETMO working visit to Israel and Palestine
	Amman, Damascus and Beirut	CETMO working visit to Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Lebanon
	Ankara	CETMO working visit to Turkey

Barcelona, June 2010
