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TRANSPORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

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

Follow-up report on CETMO activities

2009

1. The activities in which CETMO took part in recent months were of three main types:
 - (a) The Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean - GTMO (5+5);
 - (b) The Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum (Euromed Transport Forum) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM);
 - (c) Other CETMO activities.

I. Activities related to GTMO (5+5)

2. Brief background information: since its launch in 1995, GTMO (5+5) has had the objective of promoting cooperation in transport in the western Mediterranean and of helping to strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The members of GTMO are the ministers responsible for transport of the 10 countries of the region (Algeria, France, Italy, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia); the European Commission Directorate-General for Energy and Transport and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) have observer status. CETMO provides the secretariat.

A. Eleventh GTMO (5+5) meeting of experts

3. The GTMO (5+5) secretariat held the eleventh GTMO (5+5) meeting of experts in Barcelona on 21 April 2009.
4. The meeting of experts was devoted to preparing the next conference of ministers and the various subjects to be taken up at that event:
 - (a) Follow-up on the programme of work and a review of the Tunisian presidency of GTMO (5+5);
 - (b) Position and future of GTMO (5+5) in transport cooperation in the Mediterranean;
 - (c) Progress report on the studies carried out in the past year and possible conclusions to be drawn by the conference from such work; and
 - (d) Preparation of the conclusions of the conference of ministers, based on the version presented by the secretariat.
5. The GTMO (5+5) secretariat also reported on the progress made in the 2007-2009 GTMO (5+5) programme of work, detailing the results achieved and expected in the short term, along with a timetable for finalizing the activities in the programme of work. Regarding the logistics sector, the Tunisian experts announced that they planned to hold a seminar during the final quarter of 2009.
6. The position of GTMO (5+5) in respect of the various Euro-Mediterranean cooperation initiatives was broached as well. In the view of the group of experts, the Group should be seen as a think tank by all initiatives affecting transport in the Mediterranean, so that it could communicate its message as best suited to its interests.
7. A study on transport training needs is still under way and was briefly described, after which the experts emphasized the need to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the sixth conference of ministers to highlight both the work of GTMO (5+5) and the cooperation brought about by it.

B. Sixth Western Mediterranean Transport Ministers Conference

8. The Sixth Western Mediterranean Transport Ministers Conference was held in Rome on 19 and 20 May 2009.
9. The ministers responsible for transport of Algeria, Italy, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Mauritania, Portugal and Tunisia, the Spanish Secretary of State and the high representatives of France and Malta took part. The Conference also included the participation, as observers, of the Vice-President of the European Commission and European Commissioner for

Transport, the Secretary-General of AMU and a Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB). As at previous meetings, CETMO took part in the event in its capacity as secretariat of the Group.

10. The Conference was held in parallel with the second European Maritime Day, which addressed the crucial role played by seas and oceans and the question of how to secure better visibility and recognition for the maritime sector. The event was organized by the European Commission, in cooperation with Italian institutions.
11. The main aims of the GTMO (5+5) conference were the handover of the presidency from Tunisia to Italy for the next two years and the renewed expression by the ministers of their interest in GTMO (5+5), as manifested in the presentation and ratification of the overview of activities of the outgoing presidency and the signing of the conclusions of the sixth conference.
12. Tunisia took stock of the cooperation ensured under its mandate, highlighting the studies concluded and the links established or strengthened with other institutions such as AMU (with which two memorandums of understanding had been signed) and the European Commission. It also pointed to the high degree of implementation of the various priorities set out by the 2007-2009 programme of work, including for example the updating of the socio-economic, infrastructure and regulatory databases, the establishment of a GIS for the GTMO (5+5) multimodal network, discussions on the facilitation of trade and transport and specific studies.
13. Italy, as the incoming president, was resolved to continuing the cooperation within GTMO (5+5) during its mandate. The event's conclusions listed some of the fields of importance, as follows:
 - (a) Constant updating of the strategic multimodal network;
 - (b) Continuing efforts to implement missing transport links on strategic routes in the Maghreb;
 - (c) Support for the establishment of a development programme for a trans-Mediterranean transport network;
 - (d) Enhancement of north-south cooperation in order to identify maritime links on the basis of an optimal network of port facilities;
 - (e) Implementation of a study to consider whether it would be appropriate to levy a "maritime navigation safety" fee;
 - (f) Further consideration of the consequences of establishing an open-skies policy between the European Union and the Maghreb, and also within the Maghreb;
 - (g) Drafting of a discussion paper on the current state of transport in the western Mediterranean, in particular in respect of motorways of the sea and on land, highlighting the list of priority projects and the progress made, their financing and the constraints hampering their development. The document would be presented to the Euro-Mediterranean and Maghreb bodies concerned so as to make them more aware of implementation of such projects.

II. Activities carried out as part of the Euromed Transport Forum

14. CETMO participated in the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum (Euromed Transport Forum) and also took part in drawing up the Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean. The Plan put forward a set of 34 steps to serve as a framework for Euro-Mediterranean transport partnership from 2007 to 2013.

15. 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 Plan's subprogramme for the western Mediterranean.

16. CETMO was also responsible for coordinating the working group on Euromed Forum infrastructures. 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.

A. Meeting of the working group on maritime safety

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

B. Meeting of the national Mediterranean coordinators

18. The meeting was held in Brussels on 24 June 2009 as part of the Euromed Transport project, with the participation of the national coordinators, the European Commission, EIB and CETMO.

C. Union for the Mediterranean and conference on sustainable development in the Mediterranean

- In July 2008, a summit of heads of State of the Euro-Mediterranean region was held in Paris and established the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM) with a declaration stating that transport was one of the sectors that was to be given priority for cooperation.
- Later, in November 2008, a meeting of the ministers for foreign affairs reaffirmed the priority given to that sector and agreed to establish the UPM secretariat in Barcelona.
- In its first half year, UPM was hampered in its development by diplomatic issues and faced a number of difficulties.
- In principle, the work of the Euromed Transport Forum should strengthen the development of UPM.
- The participation of CETMO both in GTMO (5+5) and in the Euromed Transport Forum and its presence in Barcelona should mean that it will have close cooperation with the future UPM secretariat.

- CETMO was present at the sustainable development conference held in Paris on 25 June, which marked the resumption of the work of UPM. The conference included a workshop on transport. Its conclusions reaffirmed the role of the Euromed Forum and subregional cooperation programmes such as GTMO (5+5).

III. Other activities carried out by CETMO

19. In addition to acting as the GTMO (5+5) secretariat, CETMO also carried out work in the fields of statistics and research and development.

20. 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.

21. CETMO also took part in:

- **The Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

CETMO took part in the session of the ECE Inland Transport Committee held from 24 to 26 February 2009 in Geneva. It presented its programme of work and a review of its activities.

- **COTUNAV Conference (Compagnie tunisienne de navigation)**

CETMO gave a presentation on maritime transport in the region at the COTUNAV Conference held in Tunis on 27 February 2009.

- **Mediterranean Forum**

CETMO was invited to take part in this discussion held by UNESCO in Paris on 28 and 29 March 2009.

- **Seminar: “At stake in the Mediterranean, new opportunities for Catalonia”**

CETMO participated in this seminar, held by the government of Catalonia in Barcelona on 15 June 2009.
