



**GROUP OF TRANSPORT MINISTERS OF THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING**

**Madrid, 25 June 2002**

**CONCLUSIONS**

The following high-officials representing the Ministers responsible for transport in the Western Mediterranean and the European Commission Directorate General for Energy and Transport:

- Yahia Nazef, Secretary General of the Ministère des Transports of Algeria,
- Adolfo Menéndez-Menéndez, Subsecretary of the Ministerio de Fomento of Spain,
- Marie-Dominique de Veyrinas, Deputy Director of the DAEL, of the Ministère de l'Équipement, des Transports, du Logement, du Tourisme et de la Mer of France,
- Mohammed Margaoui, Secretary General of the Ministère du Transport et de la Marine Marchande of Morocco,
- Jorge Jacob, Director General for Land Transport of Ministério das Obras Públicas, Transportes e Habitação of Portugal,
- Salem Miladi, Director General for Planning and Studies of the Ministère du Transport of Tunisia,
- Fernando de Esteban, Deputy Director General of the EC Directorate General for Energy and Transport,

AT THE MEETING HELD in Madrid on 25 June 2002,

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION:**

- The minutes of the resolutions adopted at the 3rd Meeting of Transport Ministers in Madrid in January 1997,
- The GTMO work-status report presented by the expert group,
- The status of regional Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on transport promoted by the European Union,

HEREBY CONFIRM that the Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO) is an effective framework for promoting cooperation on transport in the Western Mediterranean and contributing to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

**Regarding priority areas and lines of action  
for cooperation in the Western Mediterranean**

IDENTIFY the following priority areas for cooperation in the Western Mediterranean:

- Definition and development of a multimodal transport network in the Western Mediterranean, with special emphasis on links with Trans-European networks and networks in neighbouring countries.
- Search for advantageous infrastructure-financing modes from financing partners.
- Transport facilitation, with special emphasis on the transport chain as a whole.
- Upgrading transport-related companies, from the perspective of setting up the free-trade area.

- Enhancing a database and methods allowing for regular identification of priorities in the Western Mediterranean.
- Development of research on transport in the Western Mediterranean and participation of the Maghreb countries in EU research programmes.

CONFIRM:

Regarding the proposal for a multimodal transport network:

- That the DESTIN project is an appropriate cooperation framework for continuing the GTMO work of defining and evaluating a multimodal transport network in the Western Mediterranean, involving organisations in GTMO countries and in coordination with the Euromed Transport Project.

RESOLVE:

Regarding transport-infrastructure financing:

- Within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, to look for:
  - formulas for making non-reimbursable grants available to finance the preparation of the necessary investment projects for developing the transport-infrastructure network in the Maghreb.
  - measures to facilitate the Maghreb countries' access to financing sources - in particular, those from the European Investment Bank - under advantageous conditions, such as interest subsidies.
  - possibilities of private-sector participation in financing and operating transport infrastructure within the framework of public-private partnerships.

Regarding facilitation of trade and transport:

- To support the anticipated work within the REG-MED thematic network, with the aim at identifying the regulatory obstacles existing in the Mediterranean area and proposing measures to reduce or eliminate them.
- To resume discussions on the project to harmonize air-navigation systems in the Western Mediterranean through EGNOS and promote the GALILEO satellite navigation system in the Mediterranean area.
- To support the promotion of maritime transport in the Mediterranean.

Regarding upgrading transport-related companies:

- To promote a comparative analysis of transport professions in the GTMO countries for the purpose of upgrading the private sector that forms part of the transport chain and provides logistics services in the Maghreb.

Regarding enhancing the collection of transport data:

- To continue collecting, updating and improving transport data and to establish specific methodologies for facilitating the regular identification of priorities in the Western Mediterranean, based on the work of CETMO and taking advantage of the activities carried out within the framework of the MEDSTAT programme.

Regarding transport R&D:

- To promote networking R&D activities carried out on a national or regional scale and the identification of common priorities in terms of research, as well as the participation of Maghreb countries in European Union RDT programmes.

URGE the European Commission to collaborate with the GTMO in its capacity as institutional framework for sub-regional cooperation in the Mediterranean and to participate in financing the activities proposed on the sub-regional level by the GTMO.

**Regarding the initiatives put forward by the European Commission  
within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**

GIVE their support to the Euromed Transport Project and invite the European Commission to take the necessary steps to get the project under way quickly so that tangible results can be presented as soon as possible.

EXPRESS their satisfaction with the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Investment Mechanism within the EIB and trust that the two EIB offices agreed upon under this mechanism will be set up in the region as soon as possible.

HOPE that the European Commission will enable the GTMO, through its Secretariat, to participate in the management and follow-up of the work done in the framework of the Euromed Transport Project, given that sub-regional cooperation was recognized at the EU Transport Council meeting in March 2002 as being necessary for the development of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

PROPOSE as subjects for discussion at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum:

Regarding infrastructure:

- To take steps to come to agreements with the European Commission and the EIB on:
  - making non-reimbursable grants available in the short term for financing the preparation of investment projects in Partner Countries, and
  - obtaining advantageous conditions from financing partners for financing infrastructure in the Mediterranean region.

Regarding maritime transport:

- To ensure that issues of maritime-transport safety and environmental protection are addressed within the framework of the Euromed Transport Project.

Regarding satellite navigation:

- To study more deeply the project to be presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Forum, including financing.

Regarding research & development:

- To request the European Commission to include the Mediterranean RDT priorities in the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme and facilitate the participation of Mediterranean Partner Countries.
- To modify the mandate of the Forum Research & Development working group so that it may itself undertake research activity under the ERA-NET scheme of the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.

REMIND the European Commission that the Regional Action Plan resulting from the Euromed Transport Project will only be effective if sufficient MEDA funds are available to facilitate its implementation and development.

**Regarding the organisation of GTMO**

APPROVE the following principles for the organisation and operations of the GTMO :

- The members of the GTMO are the Ministers responsible for Transport in the Western Mediterranean or their representatives, and the EC Directorate General for Energy and Transport.
- The members will take turns to hold the Presidency of the GTMO.
- An expert group, made up of representatives of all GTMO members, will be made responsible for:

- Proposing priorities for cooperation on questions of transport in the Western Mediterranean and promoting initiatives to tackle them.
- Following up work on transport developed and promoted within the framework of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and ensuring that sub-regional priorities of countries represented by the GTMO are taken into consideration.
- As a result of the above activities, presenting the GTMO members with an annual report on work status addressing the transport priorities in the Western Mediterranean.

The Presidency of the GTMO will also hold the Presidency of the expert group.

- CETMO will be responsible for the Technical Secretariat of the GTMO.
- GTMO members will meet at least once every two years in order to take their bearings with respect to cooperation in the Western Mediterranean, review their priorities and pass on the Presidency. The member holding the Presidency at the time will host the GTMO meeting.

### **Regarding the Cooperation Protocol on Transport in the Western Mediterranean**

APPROVE the provisional version of the Cooperation Protocol that was drawn up on the basis of the former conclusions and is attached hereto.

ENTRUST the Spanish Ministry with distributing this Cooperation Protocol to the GTMO members, so that it can be amended, if necessary, and subsequently signed by the Ministers and the EC Transport Commissioner.

MUTUALLY AGREE that the GTMO Presidency will pass from Spain to Tunisia as soon as the Cooperation Protocol is signed by all members.