



LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT TO PROMOTE COOPERATION ON LOGISTICS PLATFORMS ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

Background

Production of goods of any type is the result of long and complex logistics chains touching different countries and regions. In this framework logistics becomes the cornerstone for country competitiveness.

Seamless and balanced trade exchanges require updated logistics infrastructure, prepared human resources and integrated procedures. Countries in Europe's Southern Neighbourhood have made substantial progress in these directions although some weaknesses have not been overcome yet. Thus, the need to bridge these gaps to foster Trans-Mediterranean transport and commerce. One of the perceived gaps is in the development of efficient logistics platforms.

The EU has developed a long-standing policy to facilitate trade across the Northern and Southern rims of the Mediterranean as a foster economic development, integration and stability in the region.

The LOGISMED Regional Initiative launched by the EIB with funding from the EU and MENA Transition Fund has become one of the key pieces in this broader policy. LOGISMED regional initiative has focused on the hard and soft aspects of logistics platforms. This initiative was launched in 2008 and envisages the reaction of a network of Knowledge about Logistics Platforms bringing together interested stakeholders such as organizations involved in the planning, development and operations of logistics platforms from both sides of the Mediterranean.

CETMO and EUROPLATFORMS started early contacts in 2015 regarding the possibility to create a frame to promote these types of interchanges under the basis of LOGISMED initiative and even beyond its expected termination date by the end of 2018.

Signatories

EUROPLATFORMS is a non-profit organization, which brings together European Logistic Centres across Europe. Currently it counts with 10 European country members: Germany, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Finland, Portugal, Hungary, Austria, Greece and Poland. EUROPLATFORMS represents more than one hundred European Logistic Platforms.



EUROPLATFORMS' main objectives are: 1) To boost the position of the Logistic Centres within the European Logistic Chains; 2) To develop Logistic Platforms services across Europe; 3) To contribute to a more environmentally friendly logistics; 4) To improve Multimodality in the frame of a more efficient European transport systems.

EUROPLATFORMS has a social benchmarking spirit. Thus, EUROPLATFORMS is diffusing its knowledge – collected over the last 25 years- in order to improve economic and logistics performance in other countries. EUROPLATFORMS members strongly believe that investing in Logistic Centres contributes to improve the social-economic environment in countries.

CETMO is a non for profit organization involved in the promotion of transport connections among European and South Mediterranean countries.

CETMO has also been charged by the European Investment Bank to implement LOGISMED Soft Component that envisages fostering knowledge interchanges among partners from beneficiary countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan) engaged in the planning, development and management of Logistics Platforms.

Under the framework of LOGISMED, **CETMO** is producing a set of knowledge materials (Guide on Logistics platforms, Website, among other) and is also organizing networking activities envisaged to enhance awareness about the challenges and technicalities involved in the conception and development of logistics platforms among South Mediterranean partners.

CETMO is willing to continue the maintenance and animation of LOGISMED knowledge and networking platforms beyond the termination of LOGISMED regional initiative expected in the end of 2018.

Both partners acknowledge

- i. That well-conceived and organized logistics platforms may contribute to reinforce the robustness and competitiveness of the logistics sector in the Southern Mediterranean Countries and augment trade flows North-South as well as South-South.
- ii. That **EUROPLATFORMS** concept of logistics platforms is particularly suitable as role model for logistics platforms projects that are currently at various stages of development in most countries in the Southern rim of the Mediterranean.
- iii. That both **EUROPLATFORMS** and **CETMO** are well placed to become vehicles for increased cooperation across the Mediterranean in the field of Logistics Platforms.



Accordingly, EUROPLATFORMS and CETMO take the following engagements

1. **CETMO and EUROPLATFORMS** will coordinate their knowledge platforms so that they provide state of the art information and guidance on logistics platforms to interested stakeholders from both rims of the Mediterranean.
2. **CETMO and EUROPLATFORMS** engage in exploring options to organize a networking event bringing together stakeholders from both rims of the Mediterranean who are active in the field of promotion and management of logistics platforms. An event every year is the target for now and could become more frequent in the future. Both partners will explore suitable formats, places and funding for these events.
3. **CETMO and EUROPLATFORMS** will jointly contact other actors involved in trans-Mediterranean cooperation (e.g. European Commission DG Near, Union for the Mediterranean and other) so as to promote this initiative so that it could be included in their action plans and programs.
4. **CETMO and EUROPLATFORMS** will explore and identify the most advanced logistics platforms projects so that they might eventually be targeted as future EUROPLATFORMS members.
5. **CETMO and EUROPLATFORMS** will set a coordination unit in order to progress in the terms of this letter of engagement and explore additional fields of cooperation. A full review of progress will be made yearly.

Date: June 6, 2018

From EUROPLATFORMS

From CETMO

Pablo Hoya
President

Òscar Oliver
General Director