



Working Group of Transports

Declaration on the transport policy in the Mediterranean

Genoa, 3rd June 2008

Declaration on the transport policy in the Mediterranean

The Regions of the Mediterranean through their participation in work groups have identified the topics of current stronger interest around the transport policies

1. **Criteria for the extension of Trans-European Transport Networks** to maritime transport
2. Initiatives around **highways of the sea in the Mediterranean** and their analysis
3. Policies regarding **short sea shipping** to guarantee accessibility of peripheral regions
4. **Logistical potential of the Mediterranean** as an element of regional development
5. Analysis of **current situation of air transport** in the Mediterranean Regions

1. Criteria for the revision of Trans-European Maritime Transport Networks



- The Mediterranean regions have expressed their interest in participating in the definition of **criteria for the revision of Trans-European Maritime Transport Networks**, guaranteeing the cohesion and accessibility of Mediterranean peripheral regions, and the efficiency of the transport systems as a whole
 - The criteria for the revision of TEN-T should **introduce concrete measures** to compensate the specificities of the peripheral and marine Regions in comparison with the central Regions.
 - The protagonism of the Regions in the definition of the criteria should be increased, boosting its participation in the **definition of its own development needs**, in a closed and individualized way, and not only aggregated at the level of States
 - These criteria of TEN-T revision should favor the goals of, **fully exploiting the Mediterranean potential** as freight and passenger transport network, as well as connecting efficiently the Mediterranean with inland ground transport networks within Europe

2 | 3. Motorways of the sea and Short Sea Shipping

2. Motorways of the sea

- It is considered of big interest **to extend the highways of the sea to a network of interconnected ports**, avoiding the peer-to-peer solutions. It should be considered in the design of the highways of the sea, the need of access nodes for the more peripheral regions, which are effective and viable
- These measures will insure that the design of the highways of the sea will **improve the competitive position of the peripheral regions** of the UE face to third countries
- On the other hand, it will favor the formation of a **link between the Mediterranean and other world areas** (especially Asia and the projected highways of the sea in the Atlantic arc)

3. Short Sea Shipping

- The Regions request the European Commission for specific policies regarding short sea shipping **to guarantee accessibility of peripheral regions**
- To achieve that, it will be fundamental to favor **the access of the more peripheral regions to these nodes**, developing short sea shipping lines

4. Boosting the logistical potential of the Mediterranean

- The Mediterranean is in the European context, a **distribution platform of enormous importance**. Also, the **geostrategic position** of the Mediterranean in the world context of freight traffic is also outstanding
- Thereby, the Regions manifest their interest in taking advantage of the logistical potential of the Mediterranean as a **motor of regional economic development**:
 - To procure that the development of the Mediterranean ports can reach the **level of the ports of the north of Europe**, improvements in its productivity and capacity must be boosted
 - In order to favor this development it will be necessary to **improve the accesses to the ports**, and the **development of logistic areas** near the ports for the provision of activities of added value on the load
 - Also, it has been identified the necessity to **impulse the modernization both operative and technological** of the ports and the allocation of aid and to impulse cooperation programs between ports

5. Situation of the air transport in the Mediterranean Regions

- The Regions have identified the necessity to have at their disposal a detailed **vision of the air transport sector** that will allow them to have elements of decision in order to arrange the airport development strategies:
 - This analysis should be started by identifying the **strategic framework** and the **challenges of the new regulation**, fixing the **social and economic impact** of the airports and the **dynamics of mobility** between regions, as well as their **potential for the development** of air transport
 - It will be useful as well the **survey of the expected demand**, specifically the impact of the **low cost companies**, the opportunities detected in the set up of new routes and the **mechanisms to promote new links and services**

