

**REGIONAL TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION
(2014-2020)**

PRIORITY GUIDELINES

Ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) responsible for Transport meeting in Conference in Brussels on 14th November 2013 have identified the priority guidelines which should translate into concrete actions in the future Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean Region for the period 2014-2020.

In continuity with the partnership launched by the Marrakech Ministerial Conference in 2005 and taking into account initiatives completed or underway at the different levels (national, sub-regional, regional and international), the Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation in the transport field should focus on the following priorities:

➤ ***General guidelines***

- The main objective of the regional Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is to promote close cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean and among the Mediterranean Partners themselves in terms of regulatory framework and infrastructure in the field of transport in view of achieving tangible results.
- The future action plan (2014-2020) will be based on the principles of coherence and complementarity between national and regional transport policies as well as on a coordinated mobilisation of all partners on common strategic objectives.
- The implementation of the action plan will be coordinated and monitored by the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue structures under the auspices of the UfM, namely the Transport Forum and three thematic working groups: Maritime, Aviation, Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T)/Land Transport. Technical assistance projects will continue their support to Mediterranean Partners. The involvement of the European transport agencies and the European Investment Bank will be enhanced.

- The implementation of the action plan will take into account the results of the international conference involving all potential financial partners to be held in accordance with the 2013 Ministerial Declaration.

➤ ***Priority guidelines for maritime transport***

- i) Improve the efficiency of ports, and strengthen the links between the EDI platforms (Electronic Data Interchange) of the Mediterranean Region;
- ii) Complete the deployment of VTS/VTMIS;¹
- iii) Enhance maritime safety, including search and rescue activities, and the conditions of seafarers' training and certification, environmental protection, as well as security and the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea.

➤ ***Priority guidelines for land transport (road, rail and urban)***

- i) Pursue the process of liberalisation of land transport;
- ii) Support the harmonisation of the international road haulage;
- iii) Support strengthening actions in road safety, urban transport, as well as safety and interoperability in the railway sector.

➤ ***Priority guidelines for air transport***

- i) Promote the Euro-Mediterranean Common Aviation Area through, in particular, air transport agreements;
- ii) Implement a homogeneous regulatory framework for the operation of air transport services;
- iii) Promote the participation of Mediterranean Partners in relevant EU projects in the field of air transport.

➤ ***Priority guidelines for "the network"***

- i) Implement a mutually agreed Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMT-N) and its priority projects;
- ii) Pursue the development of methodologies, a database and a Geographical Information System for the description and the follow-up of the transport system in the Mediterranean Region;

¹ VTS: Vessel traffic services. VTMIS: Vessel traffic monitoring and information system.

- iii) Strengthen its connections with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), through actions on motorways of the sea, logistics, airports and land links.

➤ ***Priority guidelines common to all areas of transport***

- i) Facilitate South-South exchanges of experience to complement North-South exchanges, and simplify procedures aimed at mobilising relevant bilateral and regional tools;
- ii) Strengthen human resources through the development of knowledge, competence and training, and promote good governance as well as institutional and organizational capacity in all areas covered by the future action plan;
- iii) Support socio-economic assessments in the development of transport planning and strategies, including through appropriate initiatives in the field of research;
- iv) Give specific attention to passenger rights, protection of environment and inter-modality;
- v) Promote the development of relevant innovative solutions, including through continued cooperation on GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems);
- vi) Encourage ratification of international Conventions on transport and their implementation and enhance Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the relevant international fora.