

Union for the Mediterranean
Ministerial Conference on Transport
9 February 2023

Ministerial Declaration

The Ministers responsible for Transport of the Union for the Mediterranean, meeting in conference held virtually on 9 February 2023, under the Co-presidency of the European Union (EU) and of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Recalling:

1. The Conclusions of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Transport of 2013 (Brussels) affirming Ministers' commitments to achieving the main objectives of regulatory reform and convergence in all relevant different transport sectors (maritime, road, railways, civil aviation and urban transport) and the establishment of the future Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T), to be connected with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).
2. The UN 2030 Agenda and its transport-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.
3. The European Green Deal, whose objectives for the transport sector are developed in the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy adopted by the European Commission in December 2020.
4. The renewed partnership between both shores of the Mediterranean with the adoption on 9 February 2021 of the Joint Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on a "New Agenda for the Mediterranean" and related Council of the European Union's conclusions of 19 April 2021 aimed at strengthening resilience, building prosperity, and seizing the digital transition through, *inter alia*, better connected economies.
5. The strategic role of connected networks in the Mediterranean region, as confirmed in the EU Communication on the extension of the TEN-T to third countries in December 2021 together with the methodology for identifying the TEN-T indicative maps.
6. The EU's "Global Gateway" Joint Communication, which refers to the extension of the TEN-T in the Mediterranean as a way to foster the sustainable development of the region and strengthen connections with adjacent strategic corridors in Sub-Saharan Africa and also underlines the importance of advancing the regulatory environment by fostering convergence with European or international technical, social, environmental and competition standards.
7. The UfM Roadmap for Action of 2017, which acknowledges that the development of infrastructure networks acts as a multiplier effect on regional integration and has a direct impact on economic growth and trade, and reiterates the UfM's commitment to trans-Mediterranean infrastructure connectivity, as well as to continue developing structuring projects with a long-term impact, strengthening convergence between Member States.

8. The 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, as well as the other relevant UfM ministerial declarations, in particular the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declarations on Sustainable Blue Economy of 2 February 2021 and Energy of 14 June 2021.

Reaffirming:

9. Continued collective political support to developing a safe, secure, sustainable, efficient and connected transport system based on harmonized transport rules and standards, as well as an integrated multimodal Trans-Mediterranean transport network.
10. The importance of Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation founded on the two complementary pillars of regulatory reform and convergence in all relevant different transport sectors (maritime, road, railways, civil aviation and urban transport) and of the establishment of the future Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T), to be connected with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).
11. The importance of the connectivity among the Southern Mediterranean countries, between these countries and the EU and towards inner Africa and Asia.

Welcome:

12. The work carried out within Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation, notably through the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity and its thematic Working Groups in the field of air, land, maritime transport and logistics that served as an efficient framework of dialogue and exchange of expertise, as well as through the EU-funded projects in these fields.
13. The UfM conference organised in Civitavecchia (Italy) in 2014 with the aim of bringing together Euro-Mediterranean partner countries, the main European and international financial institutions, as well as donors and private companies, aiming to mobilise coordinated funding to implement the connectivity network in the Mediterranean, to connect to the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).
14. The Evaluation Report of the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) 2014-2020 at the end of 2021, confirming the positive and encouraging results at national and regional level towards harmonised standards as well as the mutual benefit of the regional dynamics.
15. The aim to address the resilience of sustainable transport systems to climate change as well as possible pandemics, also by learning from the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic.
16. The contribution of the supporting actions from relevant sub-regional organisations, including the Transport Ministers Group of Western Mediterranean GTMO 5+5.
17. The work conducted within the UfM Regional Platform in 2021 and 2022 aimed at preparing the new Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean Region (RTAP) as regards the regulatory field, endorsed by UfM Senior Official Meeting.
18. **Jointly recommend** the continuation the regional transport cooperation in:
 - Maritime transport sectors, notably the improvements in port efficiency; the work towards sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime ports; the provision and use of services and tools in the field of maritime safety and security, such as access to the Maritime Knowledge Center and the five new Maritimes lines that have been put into operation according to the concept of motorways of the sea; cooperation on environmental concerns at

IMO, full decarbonisation by 2050 and the entry into force by 2025 of a Mediterranean Emission Control Area .

- Land transport, particularly referring to development of the 'EuroMed Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Strategic Plan' and 'Preliminary ITS Architecture'; the finalisation of a roadmap to compensate for the discrepancies between national statistics on road deaths; the prioritization of the implementation and optimization of safety management systems of railway operators and railway infrastructure managers.
 - Air transport, notably the implementation of three Euro-Mediterranean aviation agreements, enhancement of security procedures, particularly in the area of passenger and baggage inspection and screening; and the development of relevant innovative solutions, through continued cooperation on GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems).
 - Connectivity Network in the Mediterranean, including the draft maps of the UfM members of the network, a regional database and a set of reliable geographical locations for the Mediterranean regions based on data from the Transport Ministries as well as continuous training in the logistics professions.
19. **Recommend** the full involvement of relevant European Agencies (EMSA, EASA, ERA) for the implementation of the RTAP 2021-2027 in accordance with their founding regulations.
20. **Stress** the importance of the mobilisation of all the available funds, including EU instruments and supports by the European Investment Bank as well as other European and international financial institutions, in a coordinated manner to support the implementation of the connectivity network in the Mediterranean. To this aim, support the launch of a reflection on how to involve all relevant IFIs in the implementation stage of RTAP 2021-2027.
21. **Jointly decide** to express in this **Ministerial Declaration** the continued collective political support to developing a safe, secure, sustainable, efficient and connected transport system based on harmonized transport rules and standards, as well as an integrated multimodal Trans-Mediterranean transport network, and therefore **endorse** the:
- **Evaluation Report** of the RTAP 2014-2020
 - **Regional Transport Action Plan for the period until 2027** for the Mediterranean Region and **jointly decide to mandate the UfM Regional Platform** to monitor its implementation.
22. **Recall the need for UfM Members** to rapidly conclude the validation process for the extension of the TEN-T in the Mediterranean region.
23. **Entrust** the **UfM Regional Platform** to enhance cooperation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partners in the relevant international fora, as well as promote the exchange of experiences and best practices amongst all participating countries, and reinforce the dialogue and exchange of views with the stakeholders.
24. **Underline** the importance of ensuring, within the Secretariat of the Union for Mediterranean, a permanent technical support to the operation of the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity.
25. **Envisage** to hold the next Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Transport Conference at the latest in 2025 to review progress of the implementation of the new RTAP.

The present instrument is not intended to create rights or obligations under international or domestic law or to result in binding financial implications.