

THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SECTOR IN THE POST-COVID-19 ERA: SEIZING NEW OPPORTUNITIES, ACCELERATING TRANSITIONS

4-5 October 2021, Online event

PRESENTATION

In the context of the Group of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean countries (GTMO 5+5), cooperation and dialogue among the members of the 5+5 Dialogue is more necessary than ever to advance towards a more integrated, connected and resilient Western Mediterranean transport and logistics sector in the post-COVID-19 era. On the occasion of the 10th Conference of Ministers of Transport of the 5+5 Dialogue in Malta, this thematic seminar, organised in the framework of the **Medthink 5+5** network by **the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)** and the **Centre for Transportation Studies for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO)**, aims to initiate an in-depth discussion to identify the current perspectives and key opportunities for the sector to better prepare and adapt itself to the post-COVID-19 era while promoting Western Mediterranean integration and co-development. The MedThink 5+5 network of think tanks of the Western Mediterranean provides a multidisciplinary platform of debate linked to the 5+5 Dialogue, which contributes both to strengthening the network and to the regional integration based on a bottom-up approach. Since its inception in May 2016, the MedThink 5+5 network has organised several annual fora and thematic seminars, during which experts from the whole of the region analysed the factors underpinning economic, human and sustainable development, as well as security and stability in the Western Mediterranean.

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted governments in the Western Mediterranean to take severe measures to curtail socio-economic activities over the last months which have impacted the transport and logistic sector. The impacts of the pandemic have led institutions, academia, civil society, and business representatives to reflect upon possible post-COVID-19 scenarios that could have a lasting effect on the sector. Re-inventing the transport and logistic sector by embracing the green and digital revolutions is nowadays a priority, especially in the face of the hardship generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These transitions are key factors to spur a sustainable development as emphasised by the new EU's Agenda for the Mediterranean and could help considerably the Western Mediterranean transport and logistics sector recover from the COVID-19 crisis, by improving its resilience and fostering its modernisation to boost growth, innovation, and competitiveness. In this line, the development of North-South multi-modal transport connections to foster regional integration and competitiveness remains also a key priority for the sector.

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PROGRAMME

Monday, 4 October 2021

14.45 **Connection to the online platform**

15.00 **Welcome words**

Senén Florensa, Executive President, European Institute of the
Mediterranean (IEMed)

Pere Padrosa, President, CETMO Foundation

15.15 **Opening speech**

Ian Borg, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects,
Government of Malta

15.30 **First session. Post-COVID-19 trends and scenarios: towards a more integrated
and connected Western Mediterranean transport and logistics sector?**

After presenting a comprehensive overview of the COVID effects on transport, in the short and medium terms, this forward-looking session will discuss the prospects and challenges that post-pandemic scenarios can offer to boost the Western Mediterranean connectivity and integration. Renewed approaches towards globalisation in favour of re-shoring and near-shoring, shifts within the tourism industry, new patterns in maritime transport, the decrease of traffic on certain trade routes are some of the trends that could shape the future of the Western Mediterranean transport and logistics sector. Possibilities for cooperation that allow to seize the opportunities to develop a competitive and resilient interoperable transport system, will be further explored with the overall objective to give keys to adapt to the post-Covid-19 era.

Chair

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, European Institute of the
Mediterranean (IEMed)

Panellists

Michaël Tanchum, Professor, University of Navarra

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Co-organised by:

IEMed.

 **CETMO**

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Jérôme Verny, Professor of Supply Chain Management – NEOMA
Business School

Giorgia Giovannetti, Vice President for International Relations and Full
Professor of Economics, University of Florence

Roel Janssens, Secretary to the Working Party on Transport Trends and
Economics, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

17.00

Break

17.15

**Second session. The path towards sustainability: Accelerating the
decarbonisation of the Western Mediterranean Transport and logistics sector**

Considering the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis, this session will analyse the opportunities and challenges lying ahead for the acceleration of the decarbonisation of the transport sector in the Western Mediterranean. Reducing the environmental impact of transports and logistics, especially in the aviation and maritime sectors, while developing low-carbon mode of transport through the railway and smart urban mobility, are key to achieve a green transition in line with the sustainability goals of the 2030 Agenda, the EU Green Deal, and the Paris Agreement.

Chair

Enric Pons, Project Manager, Coordinator of the GTMO 5+5, Centre for
Transportation Studies for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO)

Panellists

Marc Guigon, Director of Passenger Department, International Union of
Railways (UIC)

Eduard Rodès, Director, Escola Europea – Intermodal Transport

Frederico Francisco, Advisor to the Minister of Infrastructure and
Housing, Government of Portugal

Mustapha El Khayat, President, Association marocaine pour la
Logistique (AMLOG)

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Tuesday 5 October 2021

10.00

Third session. The digital transition in the transport and logistics sector: spurring innovation, growth and competitiveness in the Western Mediterranean

Digitalisation, new technologies and big data have the potential to change the way the transport and logistics sector is organised and managed. The digital modernisation of the sector would trigger the development of new business models fostering innovation and boosting growth and competitiveness. In this sense, this session will explore how the digital revolution can help the transport and logistics sector recover from the COVID-19 crisis in the Mediterranean, especially through enhanced connectivity, supply chain visibility, and an efficient use of infrastructures and resources. It will finally highlight the cooperation opportunities to harness the Revolution 4.0. in the Western Mediterranean transport and logistics, avoiding the creation of new divides across the countries of the region.

Chair

Lucienne Meilak, Director, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Policy Development and Programme Implementation Directorate, Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Government of Malta

Panellists

Ali Tounsi, Secretary General, ACI Afrique

Isabel Velasco, President, EUROPLATFORMS

Youssef Ahouzi, Acting Director General, PORTNET Public Limited Company

Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary General, Union Internationale des Transports Publics (UITP)

11.30

11.30 **Break**

11.45

Fourth session. Enhancing efforts towards the implementation of the GTMO 5+5 Multimodal Network

This session will highlight the opportunities for cooperation among the members of the 5+5 Dialogue to articulate a sustainable and efficient multimodal network

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in the Western Mediterranean, to spur economic recovery, boost regional integration and co-development in the post-pandemic era. Strengthening and optimising infrastructures at the core of the main cross-border corridors, enhancing effective harbours and railway's connectivity, as well as last mile distribution systems are steps that would contribute to advance firmly towards this objective. Moreover, it will reflect on the main challenges associated with the integration of maritime, air and land transport networks in the Western Mediterranean Basin, paying particular attention to multimodality and interoperability capacities, the importance of data management, as well as the current capacity, investment and management burdens hindering the implementation of the GTMO 5+5 Multimodal Network.

Chair

Younes Touitha, Infrastructure Technical Expert, Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

Special presentation by the CETMO (Jordi Selfa)

Panellists

Mohamed Ayadi, Secretary General, Trans-Saharan Road Liaison Committee (TRLIC)

Josep Vicent Boira, Commissioner of the Spanish Government for the Mediterranean Corridor

Sassi Hammami, Consultant in Transport, Logistics, Road Safety, and Urban Mobility. Former Secretary General of the Ministry in charge of Transport, Tunisia

Jordi Torrent, Head of Strategy, Port of Barcelona

Concluding remarks and closing

Francesc Carbonell, Head of Sector for Transport, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS)

Senén Florensa, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Alberto Palacios, Acting Director, Centre for Transportation Studies for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO)

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