

TRANSPORT IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN FACING THE CLIMATE CRISIS:
THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSITIONING TOWARDS
A CLIMATE-RESILIENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM

23 June 2026, Rabat (Morocco)
14:30h – 19:00h
Hotel La Tour Hassan

PRESENTATION

In the context of the Group of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO 5+5), strengthened cooperation and sustained dialogue among the countries of the 5+5 Dialogue are even more urgent in the face of the climate crisis. On the occasion of the 11th Conference of Ministers of Transport of the 5+5 Dialogue in Rabat, Morocco, this side-event, organised within 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), and in collaboration with IMAL Initiative for Climate and Development, aims to foster a forward-looking discussion on how the 5+5 countries can advance the transition towards a climate-resilient, integrated transport system in the face of a changing climate and growing geopolitical instability.

Climate change is progressively transforming the dynamics of the transport system in the Western Mediterranean by increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that affect transport infrastructures, logistics platforms and supply chains. In this context, the cost of inaction is rising, as delays in adaptation increase exposure to disruptions, accumulated damage and economic losses, potentially affecting trade flows and the stability of transport systems. Responding to the climate crisis through resilient transport systems, particularly in times of increasing geopolitical instability, requires moving beyond isolated national interventions toward corridor-based approaches that integrate multimodal planning, cross-border cooperation, and coordinated investment strategies. Multilevel governance involving states, regional authorities, infrastructure operators, and international organizations will play an essential role in defining common priorities and strengthening resilience across the regional transport system.

Co-organised by:

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In addition, the planning and financing of climate resilience in transport in the Western Mediterranean must be focused so that adaptation does not reproduce or expand inequalities but rather contributes to territorial cohesion. It is also essential to highlight the value of resilient financing through mechanisms that allow quantifying the medium- and long-term return on resilience investments, including damages avoided, service continuity, future maintenance savings, and social and environmental co-benefits. Private capital and public-private partnerships are especially important for closing the investment gap in resilience, while multilateral development banks can play a catalytic role through blended and hybrid financing and to help structure complex projects in contexts of greater climate vulnerability.

PROGRAMME

14:30 **Registration and accreditations**

15:00 **Welcome**

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, IEMed

Sergi Saurí, Deputy President, CETMO Foundation

Nisreen Tamimi, Deputy Secretary General for Sustainable Development,
Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

15:15 **Opening speech**

Zine El Abidine Britel, Secretary General, Ministry of Transport and
Logistics, Government of Morocco

15:30 **First session. Towards a Climate-Resilient and Integrated Transport System in the 5+5 Region: Barriers and Opportunities.** First, the session will explore how climate change and extreme weather events are transforming trade routes and transport corridors in the Western Mediterranean, particularly maritime routes and ports. Second, the session will address the role of emerging energy sources, infrastructures, and technologies in strengthening cooperation within the 5+5 region to support the transition of the transport sector toward a climate-resilient, interconnected, and just transport system. Finally, the session will focus on the governance landscape currently shaping the transport sector in the 5+5 region, as

well as the institutional arrangements and regulatory frameworks that can influence the development of a more climate-resilient, interconnected and just transport system. The session will conclude with an open discussion, allowing for contributions from other experts in attendance and questions from the audience directed to the panelists.

Moderator

Enric Pons, Coordinator, CETMO Foundation

Panellists

Rachid Tahiri, Director of Climate and Biodiversity, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Government of Morocco

Nora Aboushady, Associate Professor of Economics, Cairo University and Associate Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Imed Zammit, Consultant, Transport & Logistics at SRDB Consulting

Othmane Fathallah, Programme Lead, Imal Initiative for Climate and Development

17:00 **Break**

17:30 **Second session. Territorial Cohesion and Finance for a Climate-Resilient Transport System.** Building on the previous session, this discussion will focus on identifying concrete pathways forward. It will first examine how territorial cohesion can support the development of a climate resilient and just transport system across the 5+5 countries, and how adaptation planning can help reduce territorial disparities to ensure that no region is left behind. The session will then turn to the long-term value of investing in resilience and adaptation in the Western Mediterranean, including the economic returns of such investments and the range of financial instruments available. Finally, it will assess existing gaps in access to finance and explore potential solutions to help bridge the investment gap. The session will conclude with an open

discussion, allowing for contributions from other experts in attendance and questions from the audience directed to the panelists.

Moderator

Andrea Tinagli, Senior Associate Fellow, IEMed

Panellists

Pedro Duarte Silva, Head of Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Mobility,
Government of Portugal

Ouail Oulmakki, President, Ethica Chain Association

Juan Alario, Former Associate Director, European Investment Bank (EIB) /
GNE Finance

Mahmoud Arbouch, Senior Economist, Policy Centre for the New South

19:00 **Concluding remarks and closing**

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, IEMed

Sergi Saurí, Deputy President, CETMO Foundation

Othmane Fathallah, Programme Lead, Imal Initiative for Climate and
Development