



Translation of the speech given by the Secretary of State for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications during the GTMO 5+5 Ministerial Conference on 22 October 2014.

The original text in Portuguese and all the translations thereof are merely for information purposes. Only the speech delivered on the day in question shall be considered official.

Distinguished Ministers,

Ambassadors,

The Representative of the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union,

The Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean,

The Representative of the European Commission in Portugal,

The Representative for Neighbourhood Programmes at the European

Investment Bank,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you on the occasion of the eighth 5+5 Conference of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean.



We are gathered here today to discuss a matter of the greatest importance: extending cooperation in the transport industry between all our countries. It is an industry facing a number of unprecedented challenges, including the rapid modification of regulatory and financial frameworks, uneven economic recovery and sometimes unexpected growth.

Portugal has played an active part in the GTMO 5+5 at both a technical and political level since its creation in 1995. We have contributed to the joint effort to achieve a dynamic framework for cooperation in order to develop the transport industry in the Western Mediterranean countries, and in doing so we have contributed to strengthening Euro-Mediterranean collaboration.

The great challenges of the coming years in terms of global economic development and industrial strengthening will also involve logistics. This implies a continued commitment to infrastructure that is able to provide effective services to industry and improve the efficiency and cost of goods flows between producers, distributors and consumers.



For this reason, it is vital for us to have an organized transport network for the Mediterranean. It is important to make an effort to successfully implement a multimodal transport network for the Western Mediterranean and its priority projects, including the land, maritime and airport infrastructure that constitute a strategic axis between the Maghreb and Europe.

We feel that the work carried out by the GTMO 5+5 with regard to the Multimodal Network of Transport Infrastructure in the Western Mediterranean represents a very important contribution to defining the Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network and its connection to the Trans-European Transport Network within the context of the Regional Transport Action Plan and in accordance with the guidelines established at the Conference of Transport Ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean, which took place in Brussels on 14 November 2013.

The guidelines regarding the integrated network of motorways, roads, combined transport and internal waters have determined a series of priority



infrastructure projects, which have been selected for strategic investment designed to favour competitive growth in the region.

The Multimodal Network of Transport Infrastructure in the Western Mediterranean serves the important purpose of providing countries with a vital tool for planning and communicating with one another.

However, ahead of us still lies the difficult task of securing the sources of financing required to make these projects a reality. With this in mind, it will be necessary to mobilize and make use of different forms of financing, which naturally include funding from the national budgets of the promoting countries, but also, in particular, international financing mechanisms, the creation of public-private partnerships and contributions from users themselves.

In this respect, I would to thank the Italian presidency of the European Council for having accepted, at the Conference of Transport Ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean in November 2013, the responsibility for organizing a High



Level Conference on Financing the Future Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network, which – as you know – will take place this coming December in the Port of Civitavecchia.

The conference will not only be attended by the Euro-Mediterranean members, but also by the main international financial institutions and private companies. At that time, the GTMO 5+5 will be in a position to present a solid, convincing project for the development of the future Euro-Mediterranean Transport Network.

Portugal has demonstrated its commitment to its transport infrastructure. It was ranked 12th Best Country in the World in the Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report* in terms of the quality of its transport infrastructure, particularly with regard to its network of motorways, roads, ports, airports and railways.

Moreover, the Portuguese Government recently approved the Strategic Transport and Infrastructure Plan to be implemented during the 2014-2020



period. The plan will mobilize scarce public resources to develop transport infrastructure that will create added value for our economy, alongside the development of the Trans-European Transport Network.

Portugal's investment in transport infrastructure and technologies has enabled the country, its companies and human resources to develop a great deal of know-how in this area, including infrastructure design, planning, construction, operation and maintenance, and the different types of infrastructure systems and technologies, as well as the creation of innovative financing mechanisms through public-private partnerships and user contributions.

During its presidency, Portugal will provide all its support to help make the GTMO 5+5 Multimodal Transport Network a reality and is willing to immediately start sharing the know-how acquired by its public institutions and human resources.



To this end, Portugal will organize training activities tailored to the needs of the GTMO 5+5 countries and considered vital to the implementation of the GTMO 5+5 Multimodal Transport Network.

Four training areas have been identified:

- 1) Financing: mechanisms for financing infrastructure through public-private partnerships, mechanisms for the joint participation of end users and organizing applications for European funding programmes, particularly the Connecting Europe Facility.
- 2) Motorways: planning, design, technical and legal specifications, construction, maintenance and toll systems.
- 3) Railways: planning, design, technical and legal specifications, construction and maintenance, along with signals, telecommunications and power-supply systems;



- 4) Ports: making ports more efficient by developing a single ports and logistics service, along with systems for supplying LNG to ships (starting in 2025, this will be mandatory for short-sea shipping in Europe).

Over the coming weeks, the Portuguese technical team will make contact with their counterparts in the other GTMO 5+5 countries and organize these training activities and the corresponding calendar. The activities will be carried out over the course of the next two years.

We hope this simple contribution from Portugal can help meet the specific needs of the Mediterranean countries and that it is useful in the implementation of the Multimodal Network of Transport Infrastructure in the Western Mediterranean.

Portugal can also contribute to the development of transport infrastructure in the Mediterranean through the experience of its companies. Today, to accompany this conference, a business forum is being held to forge links between companies, public institutions, European bodies and speakers from



several Mediterranean countries with a view to publicizing the development projects that are scheduled for the coming years and the related Community funding mechanisms, along with ideas regarding the best way for companies to take part in these initiatives.

I must praise the great enthusiasm with which the Portuguese business community has embraced this initiative. This demonstrates our companies' desire and willingness to participate in the construction of the Maghreb Transport Network and the implementation of other infrastructure development projects in the Mediterranean.

The know-how, experience and competence of these internationally renowned companies are major assets that we should make the most of.

The declaration we are going to sign today will validate a series of appendices that, together with the declaration itself, constitute the working plan for the Portuguese presidency. As is customary, this plan will be implemented by the Group of Experts with vital support from the Technical Secretariat, the Centre



for Transportation Studies for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO), which I would like to thank for its hard work.

The Portuguese presidency must also oversee the implementation of the Action Plan for the integration of road axes, which involves a series of actions to take place in the Southern Mediterranean countries. These actions will focus particularly on facilitating trade by promoting adherence to international conventions; financing and prices; multimodality (promoting an observatory); road safety (harmonizing standards and information processing); and other cross-cutting issues (promoting training).

It will also be necessary to implement the VTMS (Vessel Traffic Management Information System) project, which is the result of joint analysis based on detailed knowledge of the different dynamics of regional cooperation. This plan provides for the creation of a group of experts from the 5+5 countries specializing in maritime safety and involves close cooperation with the plans of the European Commission. The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) will take the lead in this particular area.



At this level, it will be extremely important for CETMO to be able to participate in the meetings organized by the European Commission in relation to maritime safety in the Mediterranean, particularly with regard to SAFEMED III. In this respect, for improved communication and collaboration by the GTMO 5+5 (in terms of cooperation and discussion) with regard to execution of the EMSA project, we will need the support of the European Commission.

I would like to end by highlighting the importance of the involvement of the European Union in this dynamic of institutional cooperation at the heart of the GTMO 5+5 and the use of the resultant synergies in the comprehensive development of transport infrastructure and services on both sides of the Mediterranean.

The international organizations that are present also have a decisive role to play in the success of the work carried out by this Group, as they help create the conditions in which collaboration of a more solid, coherent nature can be possible, based on a policy of commitment at regional level and the strengthening of relations between Mediterranean partners.



I therefore call upon all of you to support the actions that are being carried out, and those that will be carried out in future under the Portuguese presidency of the GTMO 5+5, which begins today.

I hope you all enjoy your time in Portugal, where you are always welcome.

The story of our cooperation is one of countries with different histories and cultures that are nonetheless united through our shared Mediterranean values. We should not forget that our origins, at the Barcelona Conference of 1995, included an affirmation of peace, human rights, democracy and economic and social development.

It is my hope that the GTMO 5+5 will continue to play a fundamental role in this cooperation.

Thank you all very much.