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Ministry of Public Works and  
Transport, Lebanon

## Concept Note

# **Lebanon Awareness Raising Workshop on Main UN Road Transport Agreements administered by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee**

**Gefinor Rotana Hotel Beirut  
16-17 May 2017**



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## 1. Background

The Ministers responsible for Transport of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have agreed on the importance of Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation founded on the two complementary pillars: (i) regulatory reform and convergence in all relevant different transport sectors (maritime, civil aviation, road, railway and urban transport); and (ii) establishment of the future Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T), to be connected with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). To this end, two Regional Transport Action Plans (RTAPs) have been elaborated by the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum for the Mediterranean Region, the first RTAP concerning 2007-2013 and the new one for the period 2014-2020.

In order to complement the work of the EuroMed Transport programme in the land transport sector and assist the implementation of the RTAPs, the European Union has launched two EuroMed Regional Transport Projects:

- The “Road, Rail and Urban Transport” (EuroMed RRU) that lasted 5 years (2012-2016), aimed at supporting the implementation of the Trans Mediterranean Transport Network (TMT-N) by developing appropriate regulatory framework and operational conditions to facilitate cross-border transport, to enhance land transport safety and to promote sustainable and efficient urban transport.
- The new one, “EuroMed Transport Support Project”, started in January 2017 and will last 4 years, aiming to increase the sustainability and performance of transport operations in the Mediterranean region through Increased safety in transport operations; increased efficiency / lower costs of transport; lower environmental impact of transport, thus contributing to regional economic integration, economic well-being and job creation. The project covers Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, State of Palestine and Tunisia.

Action 9 of the 2014-2020 RTAP for the Mediterranean Region calls upon the EuroMed Partner countries to adhere to and effectively implement the main United Nations road transport Agreements and Conventions. Partner countries are at different stages regarding the regulatory reform commitments set out in the RTAP. With the exception of Morocco and Tunisia, that are Contracting Parties to most of the main UNECE Road Transport Agreements, other EuroMed countries have not yet adhered to many of them and are not benefitting from their provisions. Lebanon is among them having acceded to only two of them. The below table presents the status of accession of Partner countries to these agreements. Moreover, Lebanon did not benefit from the TA efforts made by the EuroMed RRU project during the past five years through provision of TA, organization of awareness raising training events, analytical work and study tours on these Agreements.

During a formulation mission in Beirut, held from 24 to 26 January 2017, aimed at identifying the priority activities under the ETSP of interest to Lebanon which the project may develop, it was agreed, *inter alia*, that the organization of a national awareness raising workshop in Lebanon, at the earliest possible, would provide an excellent opportunity for government officials and key stakeholders to familiarize with the importance of accession to and implementation of the main UN Road Transport Agreements and Conventions.



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№	UNECE International Conventions and Agreements (EuroMed Project beneficiary countries)	Algeria	Egypt	Israel	Jordan	Lebanon	Lydia	Morocco	Syria	Tunisia
1	Convention on Road Traffic, of 1968			✓				✓		✓
2	Convention on Road Signs and Signals, of 1968							✓		✓
3	European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Traffic (AETR), of 1970									
4	Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), of 1956				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
5	The Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets, of 1975 (TIR Convention)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
6	International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, Geneva, of 1982 (Harmonization Convention)				✓			✓		✓
7	The Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, of 1954	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
8	The Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles, of 1956	✓								
9	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), of 1957							✓		✓
10	Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP), of 1970							✓		✓
11	Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform technical prescriptions for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or be used on wheeled vehicles and the conditions for reciprocal recognition of approvals granted on the basis of these prescriptions, of 1958		✓							✓
12	Agreement concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles, of 1998									✓
13	Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles and the reciprocal recognition of such inspections, of 1997									

Activity 1A.1.2 consists of the organization of a two-day national awareness raising workshop in Beirut, tentatively scheduled to take place in Beirut on 16-17 May 2017, aimed at emphasizing the importance of those UNECE legal instruments, present key provision and benefits, share experiences and identify additional TA needs. UNECE, UNESCWA and IRU will be invited to contribute. Following consultations with the National Coordinators of Lebanon and Palestine it was agreed that two Palestinian experts from the Ministry of Transport would be also invited to attend the event, with a view to be updated on the latest developments relating to these agreements and consider the next steps.

This demand driven activity, based on the priorities identified in the RTAP 2014-2020, is regarded as the natural starting point for the TA efforts of ETSP in Lebanon, for the introduction of these legal instruments. This Activity is expected to be followed by a number of dedicated national training events and activities relating to AETR, ADR, ATP, Vehicle Regulations, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that would provide the officials at the Ministries, the state companies and the private sector involved, the necessary technical backstopping and information on the accession to and practical implementation and monitoring of this Agreements.

## 2. The main UN Road Transport Agreements and Conventions

Out of the 58 United Nations transport agreements and conventions administered by the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 13 are of particular relevance to road transport. These are:



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### ***Road transport and road traffic safety***

- Convention on Road Traffic, of 1968;
- Convention on Road Signs and Signals, of 1968;
- Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), of 1956 and its protocols, in particular the eCMR Protocol;
- European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), of 1970;

### ***Border crossing facilitation***

- The Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets, of 1975 (TIR Convention);
- International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, of 1982 (Harmonization Convention);
- The Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, of 1954;
- The Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles, of 1956.

### ***Transport of dangerous goods and perishable foodstuffs***

- European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), of 1957 and its protocols;
- Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP), of 1970;

### ***Vehicle regulations***

- Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of These Prescriptions, of 1958;
- Agreement concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles, of 1998;
- Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of such Inspections, of 1997.

**The accession to and implementation of these agreements is of vital importance for EuroMed Partner countries**

These agreements:

- Set the basic regulatory framework as well as internationally harmonized standards facilitating international road transport;
- Are models for developing related national regulations;
- Reflect the accumulated experience of government cooperation and international transport facilitation efforts in the course of the past 70 years.

Convinced of the vital importance of these agreements for EuroMed Partner countries, the European Union funded EuroMed STP, and previously EuroMed RRU Transport Project, UNECE and the International Road



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Transport Union (IRU) are engaged in jointly promoting the acceptance of these agreements in the EuroMed region.

### 3. The UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC)

The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) is the highest policy-making body of the UNECE in the field of transport. In the course of the last 70 years, together with its subsidiary bodies, the ITC has provided a pan-European intergovernmental forum, where UNECE member countries come together to forge tools for economic cooperation and negotiate and adopt international legal instruments on inland transport. These legal instruments are considered indispensable for developing efficient, harmonized and integrated, safe and sustainable pan-European transport systems. Considered as the international best practices, these legal instruments are accepted by many countries worldwide. High transport officials from all UNECE member countries and countries from other parts of the world, together with high representatives from European and International Organizations and transport related institutions are usually attending the annual sessions of the ITC.

### 4. Objectives

The general objective of the proposed activity is to assist Lebanon adhere to and effectively implement the main United Nations road transport Agreements and Conventions.

The specific objectives are to:

- Highlight the importance of adherence to and implement of UN agreements and conventions for upgrading the level of Lebanese Transport Systems and for the harmonization of international road transport;
- Identify the status of accession to and implementation of main UN road transport legal instruments and possible obstacles facing Lebanon in this regard;
- Promote related regulatory and legislative measures in Lebanon;
- Discuss on the way forward, including follow up actions for building institutional capacity and mobilize national, regional authorities and international organizations;
- Share information and experience with Palestine authorities;
- Discuss planned activities under ETSP and identify additional technical assistance needed;
- Further strengthen the cooperation and coordination of the TA activities developed under the Project with UNECE, UNESCWA and IRU and ensure project's sustainability.

### 5. Time and Venue

**Time:** 16-17 May 2017

**Venue:** Gefinor Rotana Hotel Beirut

### 6. Target Groups

Targeted group of participants would include:

- National EuroMed Transport Coordinator
- Representative(s) of the EU Delegation



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- Invited experts from the MOT of Palestine
- Officials from the MOT and other Ministries/Agencies dealing with the subject matters
- National organizations involved in the field of Road Transport
- Road transport professionals and operators (such as road freight transport companies, public transport companies)
- Any other organizations relevant to Road Transport
- EuroMed Road Transport Key Expert
- Invited international speakers UNECE, UNESWA, IRU, others

## 7. Organization and funding

The two-day national workshop on UN legal instruments, is scheduled to take place in Gefinor Rotana Hotel Beirut, on 16-17 May 2017. The Ministry of Public Works & Transport will provide some conference facilities (secretariat and material printing, and will send invitations for a targeted participation of about 25-30 maximum persons.

ETSP will cover catering and other conference facilities. The event will be held in English and no simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

In view of the importance of women engagement with the project, participation of women will be encouraged.

## 8. Indicators

OVI (Objectively Verifiable Indicator)	Source of verification
By the end of the project, Lebanon has acceded to at least to 3 main UN Road Transport legal instruments or have made progress in the accession to 3 such main legal instruments	Communications from countries and from UNECE secretariat
The participation of national experts was appreciated by them and the event was considered useful	Communications to ETSP by Lebanese authorities and international invitees
Women engagement	Percentage of women experts' participation
RTAP support	Action 9: Adhere to and effectively implement the main United Nations road transport Agreements and Conventions.