



PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, 14 November 2017

EuroMed countries reaffirm interest in promoting road safety and environmental protection in the region

A Delegation of the EU-funded EuroMed Transport Support Project, consisting of high-level officials from the Governments of Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, as well as Senior Project Experts, opened on 14 November 2017 in Geneva the 173rd Session of the UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29).

The understanding, adherence to and implementation of these Regulations in the EuroMed region would lead to elevated technical standards, particularly in terms of safety, significantly contributing to improved road safety in the region, saving lives and reducing the social and economic impact of road crashes. Moreover, through circulation of cleaner vehicles the environment would be better protected and fuel efficiency would be enhanced.

Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis, Team Leader and Road Freight Transport Key Expert, EuroMed Transport Support Project, presented the framework, objectives and activities of the Project, the sustainable results produced so far, as well as the ongoing and planned activities in EuroMed Partner Countries, particularly those relating to Vehicle Regulations.

Mr. Juan Ramos, Senior Vehicle Regulations Expert, presented the objectives of the specific actions under the Project relating to the Vehicle Regulations, informed WP.29 of the status in the countries and requested Contracting Parties to the Agreements to join efforts with the EuroMed Transport Support Project in helping countries advance.

The floor was then given to all EuroMed Partner countries delegates, who expressed their country's interest on the topics addressed by the WP.29 and informed the session of the ongoing efforts, achievements, challenges and needs.

The participation of the EuroMed Partner countries to WP.29 is part of the Project's work plan, aimed at providing the opportunity to gain experience from the work being implemented under this global-scope intergovernmental body administering the related UN Agreements on Uniform Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles Equipment and Parts, of 1958, on Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipments and Parts, of 1998, and on Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles, of 1997.

The EuroMed Transport Support Project continues the work done by a similar project between 2012-2016 (EuroMed Road, Rail and Urban Transport Project) that helped terrestrial transport sectors in the region make progress in the regulatory reform and convergence, aiming at enhancing safety and efficiency of road transport operations in the region. The EuroMed Transport Support Project (2017-2020), aims at providing technical assistance to Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries in support of the implementation of the Southern Mediterranean Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) 2014-2020 for the creation of a harmonized, integrated and sustainable transport network in the region.