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Subject: Adoption by the European Union of the Union for the Mediterranean  
Transport Ministerial Declaration and Regional Transport Action Plan  
(RTAP 2021-27)

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT  
Directorate A- Policy Coordination/ **A.2 International Relations**

Brussels, 30.08.2022

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MASHREQ/MAGHREB (MaMa) GROUP**

**SUBJECT:** *Adoption by the European Union of the Union for the Mediterranean Transport Ministerial Declaration and Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP 2021-27)*

**ORIGIN:** **European Commission – DG Mobility and Transport**

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## **Background**

At the UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport held in Brussels in November 2013, the Ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in charge of Transport adopted a Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean Region 2014-2020 (RTAP), thus reaffirming the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation founded on two key and complementary pillars:

- **Regulatory reform and convergence** in all relevant different transport sectors (maritime, road, railways, civil aviation and urban transport);
- Secondly, the establishment of the future **Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T), to be connected with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).**

On 9 December 2021, the UfM SOM agreed in principle on the holding of the new Transport Ministerial Conference in the course of 2022. At the 7 March SOM meeting, Egypt informed the Senior Officials to host the next UfM Transport Ministerial Conference, under the Co-presidency of the European Union (EU) and of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, taking place 3 October 2022 in Cairo.

In April 2022, the Commission informed the Council about its intention to open negotiations on a Ministerial Declaration that will also provide the steering for the related technical action plan in view of the upcoming UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport. Negotiations were pursued within the **UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity (National Transport Coordinators of the UfM Members) and its thematic Working Groups.**

In particular, the draft **Ministerial Declaration** was validated at Ad-Hoc SOM level on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (currently in silent procedure at SOM level until 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022), whereas the technical action plan (**new RTAP until 2027**) was validated at the level of the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (also in silent procedure at SOM level until 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022).

The 2022 Ministerial Conference is expected to also endorse a report on the ongoing transport cooperation (**Evaluation Report of the RTAP 2014-2020**), which was validated at the level of the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021. This report confirms the positive and encouraging results at the national and regional level towards harmonised standards as well as the mutual benefit of the regional dynamic.

In light of the large convergence of views on the policy priorities between EU Member States and other Mediterranean partners under the UfM framework, on 20 July the College of Commissioners authorized Commissioner Vălean, responsible for Transport, to approve the Union for Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on transport on behalf of the European Union, after its endorsement by the Council.

The Commission hereby transmits the text of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on transport to the Council for endorsement, ahead of the Ministerial conference that will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 in Cairo, hosted by Egypt.

The Commission will present the file to the Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party in September.

The Declaration is a non-binding document that does not, nor is intended to create any legal obligations under domestic or international law.

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