

EC Partner

Participating countries:
Algeria, Egypt, Israel,
Jordan, Lebanon,
Marocco, Occupied
Palestinian Territory,
Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:
€ 4.8 million (53.3%
of the total)
- Duration: 2006-2009



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Trade

Building the Mediterranean Motorways of the Sea (MoS)

The sea: no longer an obstacle but the engine of trade

"Agadir-Perpignan by the sea is a very successful pilot project. The frequency of departures doubled during the last early fruit and vegetable season."

Marc Abeille, team leader of the
Mediterranean Motorways of the Sea
project



Context

Efficient transport links between the EU and its 10 Mediterranean partners, and among the Mediterranean partners themselves, are crucial for the development of trade and economic flows.

The EU has developed a number of support activities in the transport sector. These activities include several regional projects in the field of maritime transport and statistics as well as the gradual establishment of the Euromed Transport Forum.

As a result of these developments, transport policy and infrastructure have now become key priorities for all parties involved in the economic and financial dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

Objective

- Improve the maritime transport connection in the Mediterranean through support to ministries, port authorities, customs and relevant private sector stakeholders

Impact

- Pilot projects implemented in the Western and Eastern Mediterranean
- Improved efficiency, regularity and reliability of maritime transport axes and schemes
- Increased use of maritime routes

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A great success

A “Motorway of the Sea” running from Agadir in Morocco to Perpignan in France now provides a direct trade link between the two countries, eliminating the need for a 3 000 km road trip. **Marc Abeille**, Mediterranean Motorways of the Sea project leader, is enthusiastic: *“It is a very successful pilot project, a great success. The frequency of departures doubled during the last early fruit and vegetable season. What is more, we found we were able to save several hours on a stopover that normally takes all day”*, he adds.

Another pilot project, between Tunis-Radès and the Port of Genoa in Italy, has created *“closer ties between the Italian and Tunisian customs authorities,”* says Mr Abeille. *“The results will continue to be felt after our assistance has come to an end. Customs clearance in Italy can now be completed in less than two hours and long-term undertakings have been given to this effect.”*



Mediterranean port