

**FINAL REPORT OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP FOR THE EXTENSION OF
THE MAJOR TRANS EUROPEAN TRANSPORT AXES TO THE
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND REGIONS –
PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**POSITIONS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF PORTS AND PORT
POLICY OF THE HELLENIC MINISTRY OF MERCANTILE MARINE**

Regarding the report of the High Level Group on the extension of the major Trans-European transport axes to the neighboring countries and regions, we would like to make the following remarks related to the questions to the stakeholders formulated for the purposes of the public consultation:

The five main transport axes highlighted in the report, respond to the transport necessities identified for the Pan- European transport system.

The creation and development of a Pan- European Transport Network require a sound financial basis. Therefore the budgeting should take into account the ambitious goals of the European Transport Policy. Given the limited Community funds, the financial means committed for the development of the Trans-European transport axes should stimulate the private sector to participate to investments in this field. The attraction of private capital in transport projects and the collaboration of the public and private sector are a priority and require long-term planning and policies. The Greek Ministry of Mercantile Marine regards the implementation of PPP method as the most appropriate approach to achieve the policy goals. And this because PPP provide new financial sources for investment projects, encourage innovation and spread of best practices, guarantee flexibility, while PPP projects often deliver greater value for money compared with the conventional methods, because of the reduction of operating costs through the achievement of synergies.

Memoranda of understanding or international agreements are appreciated as appropriate tools for the implementation of the recommended actions. These tools respond to the specific characteristics of the cooperation needed to achieve the objectives while they ensure a certain flexibility.