

FIRST FERRMED/ CZF/ EU CORE NET CITIES TRIBUNE

FERRMED claims the Mediterranean Corridor between Turín and Almería to be fully operable in 2 or 3 years

FERRMED, CZF and EU CORE NET CITIES have organized the first Tribune about the advancement of the actions in the Mediterranean Corridor, in the *Recinte Modernista of Sant Pau* in Barcelona. This was an important event, with over 250 participants, because of the subject treated, and it was the first of a series that will be developed across EU concerning the different Corridors that constitute the “Core Network”.

In this occasion, FERRMED jointly with the EU CORE NET CITIES PLATFORM executive secretariat have issued a **detailed report on actual situation. These actions should be carried out immediately, in a short, medium and long term in the Mediterranean Corridor, between Turín and Almería**, including the branch Barcelona-Lleida-Zaragoza, in order that within 2 or 3 years it can be fully operable.

EU CORE CITIES NET is an independent association that today has already reached 42 cities, promoted by FERRMED and BCN City Council, which aims to consolidate and improve the interconnections between cities, from different points of view: transportation, logistics, energy, urban planning, data and business management. All the cities that are linked to the Trans-European Core Network can be part of this partnership. Cities such as **Alcoy, Barcelona, Castellón, Dublin, Genève, Graz, Liege, Ljubljana, Lyon, Málaga, Montpellier, Murcia, Rijeka, Strasbourg and Turín**, among others, are members of this association.

The report has identified the problems in land transport network and includes an Action Plan, emphasizing the measures to have the Mediterranean Corridor fully interoperable, and to be able to gradually rebalance the traffic between road and rail, reducing socio-economic costs and improving environmental conditions.

FERRMED requests:

- The appointment of Corridor sub-coordinators at country level for infrastructure development (immediate/short term).
- Observatories about railway saturation and demand trends in key sectors of the Corridor (immediate/short term).
- International Committee in order to promote new railway routes in the Corridor to or from any destinations within the EU. Specialization by type of commodities (immediate/short term).
- Organism in order to coordinate international train paths, particularly in the borders. Relationship with ERA (short term).
- Periodical bottom-up Tribunes organization to follow the real progress of the different official action plans (immediate/short term).
- New Strategic Logistics Plan at EU level (short/medium term).

It also proposes the organization of Periodical Tribunes across Europe to track the actual progress of the different official action plans, based on data provided by the mixed observatories formed by both public and private companies (from now / short term).

At the opening session different personalities have participated: **Xavier Trias**, Mayor of Barcelona; **Anton Ferrer**, Secretary General at Consorci de la Zona Franca de

Barcelona, on behalf of the State Special Delegate, **Jordi Cornet**; **Olivier Onidi**, Director, EC European Mobility Network; **Ricard Font**, Secretary of Infrastructures and Mobility, Generalitat de Catalunya; **Pascual Villate**, Deputy Director General of infrastructure and transport Planning, Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Spanish Government; **José A. Carbonell**, Director General, Port of Barcelona; **Karine Bussone**, Adjointe au Chef de Service Transports, Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement (DREAL), Languedoc Roussillon.

Have also participated: **Günter Ettl**, Advisor to the European Coordinator for the Mediterranean Corridor; **Liljana Jankovic**, Head of the Planning Department Office at the Department of Spatial Planning, City of Ljubljana; **Bruno Chiaverini**, General Delegate, Transalpine; **Antoni Tora**, Head of Site Marketing & Services Sales, BASF; **Santiago Garcia Mila**, President ESPO; **Xavier Corrons**, Logistics Manager ICL Iberia; **Manuel Medina**, Distribution & Logistic Manager, SEAT; **Gerhard Ablasser**, Head of the Unit for EU-Programmes and International cooperation as part of the Executive Department for Urban Planning, Development and Construction- City of Graz, and **Joan Amorós**, President of FERRMED, among others.

In addition, the Tribune had the participation of prominent representatives of the European Commission and the concerned member states, to whom the report has been delivered, urging for appropriate measures to be taken into account to have a fully manoeuvrable and interoperable Mediterranean Rail Corridor in 2 or 3 years. This will result in a highly positive impact on transport costs and environmental aspects.

Finally, the report notes **the economic impact of the Mediterranean Corridor**, which only in the Spanish State will save energy manpower, time and environmental emissions in the period **2016-2045, for an amount of 67.267 million euros**. These savings will improve the competitiveness of enterprises and citizens welfare.

FERRMED is based in Brussels, and it has 149 members distributed in 14 different European countries and supports the implementation of common standards possible but ambitious in the Trans-European Railway Core Network among other key topics related to transportation, logistics and business management.

Best regards,

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