

ECOSOC Resolution 2007/16

Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 26 July 1991, 1993/60 of 30 July 1993, 1995/48 of 27 July 1995, 1997/48 of 22 July 1997, 1999/37 of 28 July 1999, 2001/29 of 26 July 2001, 2003/52 of 24 July 2003 and 2005/34 of 26 July 2005,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989), adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,¹ regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Referring also to the Declaration and work programme adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference, held in Barcelona, Spain, in November 1995 and aimed at connecting the Mediterranean transport networks to the trans-European network so as to ensure their interoperability,

Referring further to the plan of action adopted at the Summit marking the tenth anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, held in Barcelona in November 2005, which encouraged the adoption, at the first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 15 December 2005, of recommendations for furthering cooperation in the field of transport,

Referring to the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the Conference on Transport in the Mediterranean, held in Lisbon in January 1997, and to the conclusions of the Pan-European Transport Conference, held in Helsinki in June 1997, on corridors in the Mediterranean incorporating the fixed link,

Referring also to European Commission communication IP/07/119 of 31 January 2007 on strengthening transport cooperation with neighbouring countries, established on the basis of the conclusions of the report of November 2005 of the High Level Group on the Extension of Major trans-European Transport Axes to the Neighbouring Countries and Regions, and to the conclusions of the first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Transport, as well as to the Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean for the period 2007-2013,

Taking note of the follow-up report prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with resolution 2005/34 of 26 July 2005,²

¹ See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, fortieth ordinary session (third part), 30 January-3 February 1989, *Texts adopted by the Assembly*, Strasbourg, France, 1989.

² E/2007/21, annex.

Noting the conclusions of the meetings of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group, held in Rabat in September 1995, in Madrid in January 1997 and in Tunis in March 2007, as well as the conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum, which constitutes a framework for coordination among the countries of the Mediterranean basin, on the development of integrated transport networks,

Noting also the conclusions of the studies carried out by the European Commission (INFRAMED, MED TEN-T, GEG MED and DESTIN) for the development of an integrated transport network in the Mediterranean basin,

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and specialized international organizations;

2. *Also welcomes* the progress made in the project studies as a result, in particular, of deep-sea drilling, which has given a decisive impetus to geological and geotechnical exploration and to the technical, economic and traffic update studies, currently being finalized;

3. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa for the work done in preparing the project follow-up report requested by the Council in its resolution 2005/34;³

4. *Renews* its invitation to the competent organizations of the United Nations system and to specialized governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the studies and work on the fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2009 on the progress made on the project studies;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, the resources necessary, from within the regular budget, to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, to enable them to carry out the activities mentioned above.

*45th plenary meeting
26 July 2007*

³ Ibid.