Contextual justification

The Political Bureau of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) has been informed of the amendment drawn up within the CPMR, at the request of several member regions, concerning the restoration of the initial route of the Mediterranean Corridor to the Hungarian-Ukrainian border.

"Maintain the route of the Mediterranean Corridor between Zagreb and the border between Hungary and Ukraine in accordance with the route contained in the current TEN-T Regulation. However, the maintenance of the route should not affect the improvements in connectivity between regions and states, according to the proposal amended by the Commission (AP) in July 2022."

This amendment is aimed at re-establishing the initial route of the Mediterranean Corridor, within the framework of the TEN-T network, which is intended to be defined and consolidated as a result of the approval of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the guidelines of the Union for the development of the trans-European transport network. The proposed amendment was transmitted to the groups of the European Parliament and finally formally presented by members of various groups, now pending debate and vote within the current parliamentary procedure.

In his appearance before the TRAN Committee on 8 December, the representative of the European Commission gave an overall assessment of all the amendments tabled to the draft regulation and declared his willingness to accept, on an exceptional basis, among a small number, the amendment relating to the extension of the Mediterranean Corridor to Ukraine.

From the joint analysis of all the circumstances at hand and in view of the accompanying motivation, the Political Bureau of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission expresses the following observations and requests addressed to the Members of the European Parliament in order to fuel the reflections on the Mediterranean Corridor:

1. **To support** the amendment currently before the European Parliament, which calls for the recovery of the original route of the Mediterranean corridor up to the Hungarian-Ukrainian border. This recovery should happen without affecting the improvement of connectivity between other regions or countries that could result from the modification of the route or the extension of other European corridors, as proposed by the Commission.

2. **To share** the criteria expressed by the Commission’s representatives for supporting the amendment. The recovery of the route of the Mediterranean Corridor must not only be understood in terms of the possible benefits or territorial interests of the regions through which it runs or which it serves, but also in terms of promoting a balance between the capacities and availability of connections on the TEN-T network of all the European Union territories. This balance must be achieved independently of the geographical reality of the regions in order to reduce the differences between them that could result from the maintenance or deepening of the existing imbalances that the TEN-T regulation aims to eliminate.

Declaration presented in Palma, 22-23 February 2023
for agreement by the members of the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission