

EUROMED WORKING GROUP ON SATELLITE NAVIGATION (GNSS)

First meeting

Sevilla, 10 May 2001

OFFICIAL REPORT

The first meeting of the Euromed Working Group on satellite navigation was held in Sevilla on 10 May 2001 at the level of Senior maritime and air transport officials. The list of participants is attached. The meeting was organised in parallel with the “GNSS 2001” Conference hosted by the Spanish Authorities.

Three essential points were dealt with at this meeting:

- 1) the presentation by the European Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA) of the latest developments regarding EGNOS/Galileo at EU level;
- 2) the presentation by the countries concerned of their GNSS activities at national/sub-regional level;
- 3) the main guidelines of a new MEDA regional macro-project on satellite navigation, to be possibly submitted for the approval of the next Euromed Transport Forum.

This official report appears as a statement of the conclusions of the meeting and does not show the interventions of the participants.

A. The presentation by the European Commission and ESA of the latest EGNOS/Galileo developments at EU level

The presentation aimed at harmonizing the level of information of all Mediterranean Partners on the topic. The related powerpoint presentations are attached.

B. The presentation by the countries concerned of their GNSS activities at national/sub-regional level

Presentations were made by Italy, Spain, France and Tunisia. Italy presented its EGNOS test-bed activities in the Middle-East while Spain presented the AEFMP (Algérie, Espagne, France, Maroc, Portugal) project of extending EGNOS activities in Western Mediterranean. In both cases, these are air transport applications. The related powerpoint presentations are attached.

C. The main guidelines of a new MEDA regional macro-project on satellite navigation to be submitted for approval by the next Euromed Transport Forum

The Commission specified that such a project should contain a number of determinant features. These are: comprehensive, structuring, from 3 up to 4 years duration. The principal aim of the project is to involve the Mediterranean Partners in the EGNOS/Galileo activities which are being developed at EU level. The discussion was organised around a discussion paper prepared by the Commission (“Draft Guidelines” document). Several suggestions were made by the participants to amend the “Draft Guidelines” document. It was agreed that this document would be amended to take

account of the discussions and transmitted to the participants in annex to the minutes of the meeting, with a deadline to forward additional comments/proposals. **It was agreed to fix this deadline at 15 June 2001.**

Within the same deadline (15 June 2001), it was agreed that Mediterranean Partners will transmit to the Commission the coordinates of their national focal points for the purpose of participation to the user forums already established at EU level. From its side, the Commission will make available the list of existing working groups on standardisation.

On a more general level, the risk of overlapping between the GNSS group, on the one hand, and the Maritime Transport group (in particular the maritime safety aspect) activities, on the other, was highlighted. Coordination mechanisms will have to be set up in order to avoid redundancies.

D. Next meeting of the GNSS group

The Commission informed the participants that a second meeting of the group would be organised at the end of September 2001 in Brussels. The related agenda will be transmitted before the end of July.

E. Details of the Secretariat of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum

The Secretary of the Forum and of the Working Groups is provided by the European Commission (Directorate-General for Energy and for Transport).

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Annexes : List of participants
 Revised version of the "Draft Guidelines" document
 Powerpoint presentations made during the meeting