

THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SECTOR IN THE POST-COVID-19 ERA: SEIZING NEW OPPORTUNITIES, ACCELERATING TRANSITIONS

4-5 October 2021, Online event

Co-organised by:



BIOGRAPHIES



YOUSSEF AHOUZI

Acting Director General, PORTNET Public Limited Company

Youssef Ahouzi is currently acting CEO of PORTNET S.A. "National Single Window for Foreign Trade Procedures in Morocco", which he joined in 2015 as Chief Information Officer. With his leadership and his strategic and innovative vision, he led the establishment and implementation of several strategic projects allowing the acceleration of the digitization and the simplification of port and foreign trade procedures of Morocco through the Single Window PortNet and works in close collaboration with the various actors of the public and private sectors. Youssef also has solid expertise in banking systems through his previous experience, of more than 7 years, as Team Manager, managing the portfolio of Retail and Corporate projects, within the French group BNP Paribas. Youssef is involved in several technological programs. He is Vice-President of the African Alliance for E-Commerce and he is part of several international projects and programs as an expert in E-Gov and digital transformation as well as in the establishment of single windows and community systems. In addition to graduating from the Mohammedia School of Engineers as a State Engineer, Youssef has an Executive MBA from the Ecole des Ponts Business School.



ROGER ALBINYANA

Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Roger Albinyana is Managing Director and Director of Mediterranean Regional Policies and Human Development. Currently developing his Ph.D. thesis in Economics at the University of Barcelona, where he is an Associate Professor of International Economic Policies, Roger Albinyana holds a MA in Economic History from the University of Barcelona and the Autonomous University of Barcelona, a BA in Economics from Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona) and a BA in Business Administration and Management from the Open University of Catalonia. He attended the Vicens Vives Programme on Leadership at ESADE (Barcelona) and participated in numerous courses on International Relations. From 2013 to 2016, he served as Secretary General for Foreign and EU Affairs at the Government of Catalonia. During that period, he was also a member of the EU

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Committee of the Regions. From 2010 to 2013 he served in the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean as technical advisor on private sector development. He is also a board member at CIDOB, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs and a member of the advisory council of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA).



MOHAMED AYADI

Secretary General, Trans-Saharan Road Liaison Committee (TRLC)

Ayadi Mohamed is an engineer in Civil Engineering at the Ecole Polytechnique d'Alger 1968. He has been Director of Wilaya for 7 years, a period during which he managed the studies and monitoring of multiple Transportation infrastructure projects: road, rail and port. He subsequently directed, from institutions of Technical Studies successively, the National Laboratory of Public Works then a Mixed Society (Algerian-German) of Studies of major basic infrastructure projects. Mohamed Ayadi dedicated himself to consultation on behalf of the international institutions (World Bank, AfDB & IDB) for the control and monitoring of the implementation of Transport Infrastructure Projects in Algeria and Africa.



JOSEP VICENT BOIRA

Commissioner of the Spanish Government for the development of the TEN-T Mediterranean Corridor (ADIF-Ministry of Transports)

Josep Vicent Boira I Maiques has been active in promoting the Mediterranean Euroregion and the Mediterranean Corridor. He has held the position of vice secretary of the Department of Housing, Public Works and Territory of the regional Government of the Generalitat Valenciana from July 2015 to July 2018. He belongs to the Spanish Association of Geography and the Institut d'Estudis Catalans and his latest book is La Via Augusta del segle XXI: el Corredor Mediterrani (The Via Augusta of XXIth century: the Mediterranean Corridor) about historic, cultural, economic and territorial relationship in the Mediterranean Corridor in Spain and Europe and the construction of this infrastructure (Proa, 2021). He holds PhD in Geography for the University of Valencia and Full Professor in the Department of Geography, as well as an Extraordinary Degree Award (1986) and Extraordinary Doctorate Award (1992). He has expanded his studies at Italian universities and has been visiting professor at Miami University (Ohio, 2008 and 2011) and at the Università degli Studi Roma Tre (2016).

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IAN BORG

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Government of Malta

Dr. Borg was appointed Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects in June 2017, at the start of the 13th legislature. His current role includes overseeing the construction and maintenance of roads, the effective implementation of different programmes and major Government infrastructural projects. During the previous legislature, as the youngest member of the Cabinet, Dr. Ian Borg also served as Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds. During this time, he was responsible for the national preparations for the successful 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, together with the strengthening of the EU Funds absorption process towards a more efficient and transparent practice. He graduated as a Doctor of Laws from the University of Malta in 2012, after successfully reading a Doctoral degree in Laws, a Diploma in Public Notarial Practice and a Bachelor's Degree in Law. His political career started in 2005 with his election as Mayor of his hometown Dingli, which was reaffirmed in 2008 and 2012. In 2009, he was also elected as an Executive Member of the Local Councils Association. Dr Borg has also served in the North Regional Committee and in the Users' Committee of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. In 2010, he was a member of the Maltese delegation to the Committee of the Regions as part of the European Socialists Party.



FRANCESC CARBONELL

Head of Sector for Transport, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS)

Francesc Carbonell is currently Head of Sector at the Transport and Urban Development Division of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), where he is also Programme Manager for Migration & Development. Previously, he was Senior Consultant and Business Development Manager for Research & Development at the Indra Group, in charge of international projects in a wide range of transportation sub-sectors on topics comprising all project cycle activities. Prior to this, Mr Carbonell was Studies Coordinator at the Barcelona Institute for Regional and Metropolitan Studies (IERMB), where he was in charge of multidisciplinary work teams in the areas of mobility, economy, society and territory; Programmes' Director at the Institute for Territorial Studies (IET), where he directed urban and regional planning studies and led IET's involvement in international thematic networks; and Technical Coordinator of the ad hoc office of the Spatial Plan for the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (PTMB). Mr. Carbonell earned his Master of Science in Civil Engineering and majored in Transport and Urban Planning from the Polytechnic

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MUSTAPHA EL KHAYAT

President, Association marocaine pour la Logistique (AMLOG)

Mustapha El Khayat is currently President of the Moroccan Association for Logistics AMLOG, member and President of the commission Formation of the Maritime Union for the Mediterranean (UMM), Marseille. He is a university professor at several universities in France and Morocco (Université Aix-Marseille II, Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdallah-Fès, Université Hassan II Mohammedia). He has published several articles, coordinated the publication of several books and contributed to several national and international reports on Transport logistics. He is the initiator of the dissemination of logistics in the Moroccan university environment for research, education and training. He was previously responsible in several companies of the marine and logistic field, former member of the Mediterranean Institute of Maritime Transport (IMTM) Marseille, former member of the European Academy Paris, member of AFDM Paris, IAME, Vice-President of the African Federation of Logistician Associations; he is an expert to the WB, of the EIB, the EC, CETMO. Mustapha El Khayat holds a PhD in Economics from the Université de la Méditerranée Aix-Marseille II. He is a Doctor in Private Law from the Université Panthéon Assas, Paris II and a Graduate in Management from the IAE in Aix-en-Provence.



SENÉN FLORENSA

Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

A diplomat and ambassador, Senén Florensa is currently Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). He was previously Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain to UN and the International Organisations in Vienna (2018-2020) and Consul General of Spain in Rome from 2017 to 2018. From 2006 to 2017, he was Director General and then Executive President of European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). Author or director of a long list of books and articles on Euro-Mediterranean and international affairs, he has been President of the World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies WOCMES in 2009, Secretary for International and European Affairs of the Generalitat of Catalonia and Member of the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992. During his diplomatic career, he notably served as General Director of the Institute for Cooperation

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with the Arab World, the Mediterranean and Developing Countries (ICMAMPD) of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (1996-2000), and as Spanish Ambassador to Tunisia (2000-2004).



FREDERICO FRANCISCO

Advisor to the Minister of Infrastructure and Housing, Government of Portugal
Frederico Francisco currently works as an advisor to the Minister of Infrastructure and Housing, where he is also responsible for coordinating the preparation of the National Railway Plan. He maintains an academic activity as an Invitee Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto (FCUP). He did his training in Aerospace Engineering at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) of the University of Lisbon, where he also obtained his PhD in Physics at the end of 2014. He has a line of research in space physics and the Earth System at FCUP. He also worked on research projects related to rail transport, with IST colleagues. He has published 14 papers in international peer-reviewed journals, several publications and presentations at national and international conferences, and received the Zeldovich Medal of the Russian Academy of Sciences and COSPAR - Committee on Space Research in 2018.



GIORGIA GIOVANNETTI

Vice President for International Relations and Full Professor of Economics, University of Florence

Giorgia Giovannetti is vice president for International Relation (since 2015) and Professor of Economics at the University of Florence, Director of the strand Development and Member of the Board of Directors of the Global Governance Programme at the European University Institute. She has acted as Scientific Director of the European Report on Development in 2009 and 2010 and Director of the Research Centre of the Italian Trade Institute (2005-2007). She has advised the Italian Treasury and Ministry of Foreign Trade (2002-12), is fellow of FERDI and Luca D'Agliano, member of a Group for the Reform of the Rome Agencies at the Center for Global Development. She holds a PhD and an MPhil in Economics from Cambridge University, a Laurea cum laude in Statistics (Rome). She has been fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge (1990-1995) and visiting Professor in several universities. Her main research interests are development economics and international trade. Her work has been published in leading academic journals.

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MARC GUIGON

Director of Passenger Department, International Union of Railways (UIC)

Marc Guigon is the Travel Director of the UIC (International Union of Railways). He joined the UIC in June 2012 and is responsible for “Travellers” activities that include the development of high-speed rail worldwide, train stations, international ticket distribution (timetables, fares, ticketing, audits, etc.), regional and suburban services, and the development of tourism opportunities for rail. He is also Coordinator of the UIC regions of the Middle East and Latin America and involved in the railway development of these countries. Since February 2020, he has been the global coordinator of the UIC taskforce to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, a taskforce that brings together some 60 countries and many international organizations. Before joining the UIC, Marc worked for 7 years in the offices of the Prime Minister of France, responsible for the policies of all modes of transport, in the field of spatial planning.



SASSI HAMMAMI

Consultant in Transport, Logistics, Road Safety, and Urban Mobility

Sassi HAMMAMI began his career in 1980 at the Ministry of Transport where he took part in several studies and took on management functions. He also served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of two public transport companies and Central Director of the Land Transport Technical Agency. From 2012 to 2019, he was Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport. He monitored and coordinated the activities of the Ministry and public companies in the sector and chaired the steering committees of several studies. He was the national coordinator of the EuroMed Transport project and the Africa Transport Policy Programmes, SSATP. He has also participated in several international programs and activities. As a consultant, since 2020, he has been involved in the World Bank and African Development Bank study on road safety in Africa. It also participated in the evaluation of the regional transport action plan for the Mediterranean region (PART 2014-2020).



ROEL JANSSENS

Secretary to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Roel Janssens currently serves as secretary to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics. At the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division he is responsible for

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the development and implementation of projects related to Euro-Asian transport, trade, and border crossing facilitation. Mr. Janssens also manages a recently established International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO) which offers a Geographic Information System (GIS) based platform operating as a virtual marketplace for attracting financing of national, regional, and inter-regional transport infrastructure projects and he services a UNECE-led Multidisciplinary Advisory Group on Transport Responses to COVID-19. Ahead of joining the UNECE in 2018, Roel has worked for over 10 years as the principle Economic Adviser at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. In that capacity he was initially seconded by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs before becoming a contracted staff member in 2009. Roel Janssens' previous management experience includes work in the electricity, gas and automobile sectors. He has also worked as an adviser to a Member of Parliament at the Brussels Regional Parliament in Belgium covering inter alia issues related to urban mobility and socio-economic development.



LUCIENNE MEILAK

Director, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Policy Development and Programme Implementation Directorate, Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Government of Malta

Lucienne Meilak graduated in Public Administration from the University of Malta in 1988 following which she specialised in Advanced European Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges, obtaining her post graduate diploma in 1989. Upon her return, she joined the EU Affairs Directorate which was being set up within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was involved in the preparation for Malta's application to the European Union, and later in the screening process prior to accession. Since 2004 when she was appointed Director of EU Affairs, she has worked in various fields such as Data Protection, Communications, EU Funded Projects and Transport. She has been visiting lecturer at the University of Malta since 1990 and has lectured for the Faculty of Laws both at undergraduate level and master's programme. She currently holds the post of Director Policy Development and Programme Implementation in the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects.

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MOHAMED MEZGHANI

Secretary General, Union internationale des Transports Publics (UITP)

Mohamed Mezghani has been working in public transport and urban mobility related fields for more than 30 years. Since January 2018, he is the Secretary General of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP). Until then, he had been Deputy Secretary General of UITP (2014-2017), Knowledge Director (2001-2006) chairing the department developing content-related services for UITP members, and Senior Manager (1999-2001). From 2006 till 2013, he worked as an independent consultant and Adviser to UITP on several technical assistance and training projects in Africa and the Middle East. Before joining UITP, M. Mezghani was a consultant in the French group, BCEOM, (from 1990 to 1999) and in the French Agency for Environment and Energy Management, ADEME, (from 1988-1990). He is a graduate in Industrial Engineering (1987) from Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Tunis, Tunisia and has a Masters in Transport (1988) from Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, Paris, France.



PERE PADROSA

President, CETMO Foundation

Pere Padrosa is the president of the CETMO Foundation. He is a long-term champion of the road transport industry and a successful Spanish entrepreneur whose company provides truck drivers more than 1'000 clean secured and safe parking areas in Southern Europe. Over the last 30 years, I have contributed to shape the road transport sector in Spain, Europe and globally for private companies but also led the Transport Minister of Catalonia in a time of change and institutional crisis. In 1988 he graduated in political sciences and Law at the UAB Autonomous University of Barcelona. In 2002, he graduated in high management of companies at the IESE Business school. Since 1989, he has held various executive positions in the Padrosa Group, a group of companies dedicated to international road transport, heavy cranes and logistics services. He was a member of the ASTIC committee (Spanish International of Road Transport Companies) in 1990. He became ASTIC Vice president in 2000. From 2002 to 2012, he was the President of the ASTIC. He was president of the IRU from 2003 to 2014. He has been President of the TIRSA SA since 2013.

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ALBERTO PALACIOS

Technical Director, Centre for Transportation Studies for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO)

Alberto Palacios is the Technical Director of CETMO. He is Civil Engineer by the UPC Schol and has a Master in Public Diplomacy. He started his career in CETMO as researcher in the field of transports and logistics. With 20 years of experience within this organisation, he has defined and implemented several GTMO 5+5 working programmes, collaborated with international organisations, networks and financial institutions. He relies on cooperation between parties as the pillar to ameliorate transports and logistics in the Mediterranean area.



ENRIC PONS

Project Manager, Coordinator of the GTMO 5+5, Centre for Transportation Studies for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO)

A Canal and Port Engineer by UPC (Polytechnic University of Catalonia) in Barcelona (Spain) since 2010, he specializes in the field of transport. He completed a course on transport and logistics also at UPC in 2012. He completed his training with a Masters in International Studies from the University of Barcelona (Spain). He has been a member of CETMO since 2009. He started working in the realization of cross-border traffic observatories between Spain and France and Spain and Portugal. Over time he became part of the team that develops the activities of the Group of Ministers of Transport of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO 5 + 5).



EDUARD RODÉS

Director, Escola Europea – Intermodal Transport

He began his career in Information Systems and international business. Having completed a bachelor's degree in business studies (Barcelona University), he went on to complete an MBA at IESE in 1985. Mr. Rodés entered the business world striving to make a change in the way businesses function with the development of the Internet and electronic data interchange. In 1999 Mr. Rodés found his way to the Port of Barcelona, and worked as a general director of Portic, the Barcelona's central Port Community System. He oversaw the creation of the company, before moving on towards the Port Authority of Barcelona as business development director. Since its foundation in 2006 he has been the director and the force behind Escola Europea, guiding it through its evolution to the reference

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institution it has become today. Mr. Rodés also dedicates his time towards teaching and advisory roles, serving as the Responsible of the working group of Employment and Training of the Advisory Board for the Promotion of the Barcelona's Port Community and as a professor in different fields related to logistics and port operations in several Universities.



MICHAËL TANCHUM

Professor, University of Navarra

Prof. Michaël Tanchum teaches international relations and political economy of the Middle East and North Africa at Universidad de Navarra, Spain. He is also senior fellow at the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES), a visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), and a non-resident fellow at the Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington, D.C. Prof. Tanchum researches newly emerging patterns in Middle East and North African commercial connectivity. With a special emphasis on the 'gatekeeper' nations of Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt, he analyzes the nexus of energy, strategic resources, and manufacturing value chains that connect the Middle East with Africa and Europe. His recent publications include: "Turkey's Maghreb-West Africa Economic Architecture: Opportunities And Challenges" (Berlin - *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik*, 2021); "Europe-Africa Connectivity Outlook 2021: Post-Covid-19 Challenges and Strategic Opportunities" (Rome - *Istituto Affari Internazionali*, 2021); "Greece's Rise as a Trans-Mediterranean Power: Greece's Eastern Mediterranean strategic shift to Europe-to-Africa and Europe-to-Middle East connectivity" (Athens - *ELIAMEP*, 2021). Prof. Tanchum holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and was a Fellow at Harvard's Olin Institute for Strategic Studies and its Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.



JORDI TORRENT

Head of Strategy, Port of Barcelona

Jordi Torrent is currently the Head of Strategy of the Port of Barcelona. In this position he has developed the Port's IV Strategic Plan which has adapted the Port's strategy and objectives to the latest global and regional trade and logistics trends. He is particularly involved in the intermodal sector, and has designed and implemented initiatives in this field, such as the development of PPP projects of inland terminals and rail services in Spain and France. He has been involved in the Port, logistics and rail sectors for more than 10 years.

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YOUNES TOUITHA

Infrastructure Technical Expert, Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

Younes Touitha is a Technical Expert Infrastructure of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) based in the Arab Maghreb Union. He has more than 13 years in Large Infrastructure Management, including Highways and Expressways, his training most relate to Civil Engineering Engineer; IPMA Certificate of Project Management; and Quality Auditor and CE Certification ISO9001 V 2015.



ALI TOUNSI

Secretary General, ACI Afrique

Mr. Ali Tounsi is an Engineer holder of a Master in avionic and telecommunication and a Master in airports management. He began his career in aviation in 1992 as an engineer in the field of airport operations at Office de l'Aviation Civile et des Aéroports (OACA) in Tunisia. He was involved in studies and projects related to quality of service, airport resources management, infrastructure development projects and IT projects. He also gave courses for 14 years in many aviation schools and supervised several research projects. Mr. Tounsi held positions as Director of international airports of Tozeur Nefta and Djerba Zarzis and holds the position of Operating Director of Tunisian Airports. He was Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Certification and SMS Implementation program for Tunisian Airports. Since 2009, Mr. Tounsi is the Secretary General of ACI Africa and is also member at the ACI World Technique and Safety Standing Committee representing the African region.



ISABEL VELASCO

President, EUROPLATFORMS

Isabel Velasco is the President of Europlatforms since 2019. From 1995 to 2001, she was the Deputy Director of Human Resources and Training at the Confederación de Empresarios de Aragón (CEOE Aragón). Since 2001, she has been working as Sales Director at the Aragón Plataforma Logística S.L.U, with clients from more than 350 companies, including DHL, Decathlon, and many others. Since 2001, she has been a member of the ACTE Executive Committee (Spanish Logistics Platform Association). She has been a Member of the Commission for the Evaluation of Quality Control of Marketing and Investigation of the markets (University of Zaragoza), since 2010. From 1998 to 1994, she

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studied at the University of Zaragoza, and she achieved a degree in Economic Science with a Specialty in Applied Economics. In 1995, she completed a master's in business management and Administration at "Universidad Pontificia de Comillas". From 2009 to 2010, she obtained an Executive MBA at the ESADE Business school in Barcelona.



JEROME VERNY

Professor of Supply Chain Management – NEOMA Business School

Dr Jérôme Verny is founder and Scientific Director of the MOBIS Institute for Innovative Transport and Logistics Research at NEOMA BS. Internationally recognized expert in Transport and Logistics, he has been supporting both companies and public institutions (OECD, European Union, ministries of the economy, sustainable development and research) for the past fifteen years. He is the author of seventy national and international publications in academic journals and in collective works as well as over a hundred communications and popular science articles. He was also administrative and scientific manager for around fifteen research projects. The projects currently underway with his team deal with the logistics performance of companies and transport and regional planning policies. He holds various responsibilities within public and private organizations. He has a Doctorate in Transport and Logistics (University of Lille Nord de France), transport engineer graduated from the Ecole Nationale des Ponts and Chaussées, the School of Urbanism in Paris and the Superior School of Transport (Paris).