

## ASTAN PROJECT - ANALYTICAL SUPPORT FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAJOR TRANSNATIONALS TRANSPORT AXES CONNECTING THE EU AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

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**CLIENT:** *Ecorys for European Commission, DG Energy and Transport*

**YEAR:** 2008

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The European Commission, Directorate General Energy and Transport, charged the international consortium led by Ecorys (NL) of developing an analytic framework ensuring effective monitoring of the implementation of the major transnational transport axes connecting the EU and its neighbours.

#### *Objectives*

The enlargements of the EU in 2004 and 2007 moved the EU's borders further to the east and to the south. The Commission outlined a new framework for relations between the enlarged EU and its neighbours with the aim of ensuring a balanced and sustainable development for both. The need to improve the connections between the transport networks of the EU27 and its neighbours is recognized as being a priority in the process of integrating neighbouring countries into the EU markets and society.

The objective of the study was four-fold:

1. Development of an analytical framework ensuring effective monitoring of the implementation and steering of the transnational axes building on the methodology of the pilot study on the Northern Axis;
2. Building on the proposals of the High Level Group, to propose a series of packages of infrastructure and horizontal measures and to make a preliminary analyze of the economic, environmental and social impacts thereof;
3. Assessment of the feasibility of different coordination frameworks;
4. Administrative and logistic support for facilitating the exploratory talks.

#### *Development of the study*

The study consisted in the following four steps:

1. **Analytical framework.** The primary objective of this task was to develop an AF that can be used for monitoring and steering the implementation and development of the transnational axis.
2. **Packages of measures to remove bottlenecks.** The aim of this task was to lay the basis for the development of sustainable master plans and pro-

ject pipelines for the implementation of the transnational axes based on a bottleneck analysis covering both institutional and infrastructure bottlenecks and analysis of the likely economic, environmental etc. impacts of removing the bottlenecks.

3. **Coordination frameworks.** This task had a two-fold objective, namely to assess various alternative forms of coordination frameworks for their suitability and feasibility and to develop a proposal for utilising the expertise, knowledge, and experience of existing coordination frameworks.
4. **Administrative and logistic support for facilitating exploratory talks.** The objectives of this task was to facilitate the exploratory talks between the Commission services and the neighboring countries organizing conferences and regional meetings with sufficiently high-quality.

#### *The role of TRT*

TRT has been responsible for data collection and analysis of the South Western Axis.

The South Western axis connects the south-western EU with Switzerland and Morocco and beyond, including also a West-East connection between Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia up to Egypt.

The study required the data collection about condition and quality of infrastructure (road and rail), to identify bottlenecks and measures to remove them. More specifically data have been collected and analyzed with regards to the following categories:

- Rules and regulations;
- Infrastructure capacity and quality;
- Border crossings capacity and quality problems;
- Planned projects;
- Bottlenecks;
- Levels of investment in transport infrastructure in the period 1990-to date.

The South Western axis

