



## HYPOTHESIS OF RAILWAY CONNECTION (ONLY GOODS) EUROPE- AFRICA PLACED AMONG SICILY AND TUNISIA.

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### Summary

In this article it is analyzed, in the scenario of the present time engineering knowledge and of next future time transport opportunities, the possibility, more times assumed in past, to realize a railway link between Europe and Africa through the Channel of Sicily. The performances of this infrastructure are examined by a technical and economic point of view. Socio-political transformations deriving from the presence of one similar infrastructure in the context of the European and Mediterranean transports are examined.

**Keywords:** Tunnel, railway, sub aqueous, T.B.M., Channel (Strait) of Sicily.

### 1. Introduction - Linking the lands

Since the last years of the XX century, an evolution of the commercial routes on world wide level is taking place with many implications on the planning and realization of the transport infrastructures.

Up to the beginning of the XX century, in fact, the existence of great commercial (and military) fleets of the World Powerful Nations forced the construction of important facilities destined to connect the “seas” (navigable channels, cuts of isthmuses etc.) in a world concept of prevailing merchant transports in the “sense of the parallels”.

The transports development actual and future phase, introduces numerous examples, projects and constructions, of bridges and submarine tunnels that have the goal to connect the “grounds” with an increasing interest to develop the commercial streets also according to the orientation of the “meridians”.