



Issue 5 | November 2023

Featured:

HOT SEAT **Strategic Expansion of Morocco's Ports: ANP Director's Perspective**

**An interview with Ms. Nadia Laraki, General Director of the
National Ports Agency (ANP) and Vice President of the
MEDPorts Association**



This month, delve into the strategic initiatives and collaborative endeavors propelling the advancement of Mediterranean ports through an exclusive interview with Nadia Laraki, Director General of the National Ports Agency (ANP). Gain valuable insights into Morocco's port expansions, sustainability commitments, and regional economic contributions in this compelling interview. Click below to explore.

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Member and Industry News

**The first direct freight rail connection with France
comes into operation at the Port of Barcelona**



A new direct freight rail service connects the Port of Barcelona with the French cities of Toulouse and Lyon as of today. The container service, created by the companies APM Terminals Railways Spain, Synergy and Naviland Cargo, located at the BEST railway terminal, will provide four weekly connections between the Port of Barcelona and these southern French cities four times a week; three to Toulouse and one to Lyon.

The new connection is truly direct, since it will be the first rail service from Spain to France that will not have to transship or change locomotives after crossing the Perthus tunnel. This historic milestone was made possible thanks to the unique situation of the Port of Barcelona - the only port in Spain with a European UIC gauge connection from the terminal to the border with France. The service will be operated by Captrain's Stadler Euro6000 locomotives, type-approved to operate in both countries.

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The Transport Ministers of Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain call for a deferred period of application of ETS

In January 2024, the EU's Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) will be extended to cover CO₂ emissions from all large ships (of 5 000 gross tonnage and above) entering EU ports, regardless of the flag they fly. The system covers: 50% of emissions from voyages starting or ending outside of the EU (allowing the third country to decide on appropriate action for the remaining share of emissions); and 100% of emissions that occur between two EU ports and when ships are within EU ports. The EU ETS covers CO₂ (carbon dioxide), CH₄ (methane) and N₂O (nitrous oxide) emissions, but the two latter only as from 2026. In practice, shipping companies have to purchase and surrender (use) EU ETS emission allowances for each tonne of reported CO₂ (or CO₂ equivalent) emissions in the scope of the EU ETS system.

In a letter to the Commission the Transport Ministers of Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain are stressing the

carbon leakage and socio-economic risks linked to the implementation of the current EU-ETS maritime legislation entry into force on 1 January 2024. The Commission has been approached to avoid the risk of carbon and business leakage as a consequence of the current scope of the directive and it is asked to "stop the clock". Its response is uncertain yet.

Further information:

- https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/transport/reducing-emissions-shipping-sector_en;
- <https://www.espo.be/views/espo-position-on-the-proposal-for-a-maritime-eu-et>

UNDERSEA FOREST OF THE PORT OF CARTAGENA: The Blue Lung of the Mediterranean



UNDERWATER FOREST OF THE PORT OF CARTAGENA: the blue lung of the Mediterranean is a pioneering project promoted by the in port waters, which has managed to successfully reintroduce new specimens in the southeast of the Iberian Peninsula. *Posidonia oceanica* is a plant of great environmental and social value, and its recovery would bring significant benefits to both the ecosystems and the society that lives in coastal areas.

The impetus for the project originates from the Sustainability Department of the Cartagena Port Authority. The Polytechnic University of Cartagena developed the underwater robotics work to obtain the bionic cartography of the area, after which the reforestation plan was designed.

This is an assisted regeneration project, aimed in helping the repair of the ecosystem by reinforcing the recovery processes that occur naturally. For this project, the Port Authority of Cartagena relies on Laboratorios Munuera, which has successfully obtained in previous reforestation experiences with *Posidonia oceanica*.

After one year of project development, the figures are very positive and encouraging: the overall survival rate is 77%. The success achieved in the survival of the replanting raises the hope of this type

of recovery projects for such an important habitat. The methodology developed in this case has proven to have more applications in environmental restoration projects in degraded areas.

A healthy and well-maintained *Posidonia oceanica* meadow off the coast is the best guarantee to ensure effective protection of the beaches and the marine coastline. In addition to the benefits derived from CO2 capture and carbon retention, *Posidonia* is a support for hosting a wide biodiversity, which also favors the regeneration of species dedicated to fishing. The richness of the *Posidonia* meadows is incomparable.

Due to the success rate in the planting, another 100 fragments of *Posidonia* were planted in May 2023, with plans to expand the area, through an initial action planned for four years and which will be developed on about two hectares within the port of Cartagena. We want to be able to create the largest underwater port forest.

Civitavecchia records 3M passengers, a first for an Italian port



This record is a first for any Italian port and propels Lazio into Italy's leading cruise region. [Roma Cruise Terminal](#) handled 3,014,491 transit and turnaround cruise passengers in first 10 months of 2023, and to meet demand a new cruise terminal is planned.

Civitavecchia is also an important hub for the supply of cruise ships. Around 60,000 tons of supplies are expected to be handled this year.

Pino Musolino, the president of the Port System of the Central Tyrean Sea (the port authority), spoke about the results so far: "**It's an historical achievement and the result of a concerted efforts and strategy put in place by the Port Authority together with the Cruise Terminal and the major stakeholders.**"

2023 is expected to close with 3.3m passengers handled. Bookings for 2024 and 2025 are also very solid and reaffirm this year's results. In response to the increase in volumes and in order to continue to improve the service provided to cruise lines, Roma Cruise Terminal will start the construction of the new Donato Bramante Cruise Terminal in the first quarter of 2024. Completion is expected during

Visionary Leadership: Eduard Rodés Awarded Mediterranean Medal for Advancing Mediterranean Prosperity



This month the Escola Europea's director Eduard Rodés was honoured with the Mediterranean Medal by the Advisors Committee of the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME). This prestigious award recognized Mr. Rodés' invaluable contributions to the economic development of the Mediterranean region through his leadership at the Escola Europea.

The Mediterranean Medal is bestowed annually upon distinguished individuals, companies, or institutions whose exceptional contributions have played a pivotal role in transforming the Mediterranean into a hub for unity, tolerance, camaraderie, and prosperity. This honour is reserved for those who have made significant strides in **economically empowering women and youth**, those who have championed **job creation**, as well as those who have tirelessly worked to **advance cooperation** and **spur economic growth** in the **Mediterranean** region. The award also recognizes Mediterranean-based companies and institutions that have embarked on a global expansion journey, thereby contributing to the promotion of the Mediterranean economy on a global scale. This year, the award ceremony took place at the Gala Dinner of MedaWeek Barcelona, held on the 15th of November at 20:30h at Casa Llotja de Mar, Barcelona.

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Port Training Institute and Shandong Port Group Forge Groundbreaking Partnership with Launch of 'Port

Vocational Skills Training Center of Excellence



In continuation of the previous cooperation between Port Training Institute and Shandong Port Group, His Excellency Prof. Ismail Abdel Ghaffar Ismail Farag and Mr. Xu Guowang signed a memorandum of understanding between Port Training Institute, AASTMT and QHVT. The memorandum aims to launch “Port Vocational Skills Training Center of Excellence” Port Training Institute is thus considered the first center of excellence in cooperation with Shandong Port Group.

On same day, PTI hosted another high-level delegation from Qingdao Congress, to attend the ceremony of unveiling “Port Vocational Skills Training Center of Excellence”. Following the unveiling ceremony, Prof. Alaa Morsy introduced PTI’ scope of services, international partnerships and the Institute's role in enhancing the port sector through training programs that align with global trends.. The delegation expressed admiration for the PTI’s progress and recognized it as one of the distinguished entities in the port sector, which makes this visit a promising starting point for fruitful future cooperation with many Chinese partners in this field.

Participation of Port Training Institute in the 5th Smart Transport, Logistics, infrastructure & Traffic Fair & Forum for The MEA Region - TRANSMEA 2023 Fair & Forum for The MEA Region - TRANSMEA 2023



Prof. Alaa Morsy, Dean of Port Training Institute, was present at the TransMEA 2023, the Ultimate Smart Transport, Logistics, Infrastructure & Traffic Fair in the Middle East and Africa. The 5th round was held from November 5th to 8th under the patronage of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of Egypt, under the slogan "Localization of Transport Industries in Egypt".

The exhibition witnessed the participation of 350 companies from around 50 countries, in addition to wide international participation from major specialized global companies.

Port Training Institute participated in the exhibition by showcasing its various activities that focus on the development and qualification of human resources in the transport and ports sector, presenting modern training courses in the field of smart transportation in ports and the use of optimal planning technology for container yards to reduce turnover time and increase the efficiency of container terminals.

MEDports News

MEDPorts Collaborated with Agence Nationale des Ports and PORTNET in Morocco for Seminar



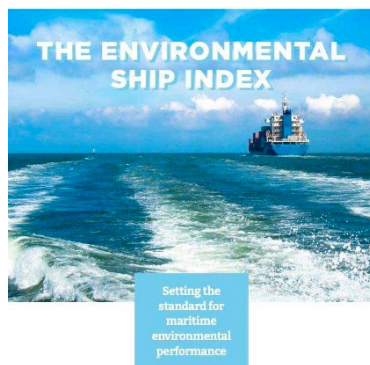
As part of their cooperation, the Agence Nationale des Ports du Maroc and the MEDPorts Association are organizing a seminar entitled "Digital Transformation, Innovation and Cooperation: What are the challenges and opportunities for Mediterranean ports?"

The seminar is an opportunity for companies, port community players and experts to debate, exchange and discuss the challenges and opportunities linked to the ongoing transformation of ports in the digital age.

In Casablanca, 13th December 2023, join us for this insightful seminar.

[SEMINAR PROGRAMME](#)

Mediterranean ESI seminar on 30 November



A special seminar hosted by the MEDPorts Association in conjunction with IAPH on how to incentivise shipowners to reduce emissions will be held in hybrid format at the Port of Barcelona on 30 November. This seminar will focus on how the IAPH Environmental Ship Index can positively impact Mediterranean shipping emissions reductions. The seminar coincides with the ESI Stakeholders Assembly which is being organised by the Green Award Foundation, which administers the index for IAPH. ESI was created by major ports in cooperation with the IAPH, and has been fully integrated into the IAPH's governance structure since 2020.

For more information about ESI, contact Nick Blackmore: nick.blackmore@iaphworldports.org.

[To register, click here](#)

MEDPorts Association to Participate in MARLOG-13 Conference for the Third Year in a Row



The MEDPorts Association, Co-Organizer to the MARLOG conferences for many years now, is gearing up to participate in the upcoming MARLOG-13 accompanying Exhibition (IME2024) which will be held from 03 to 05 March 2023 in Alexandria, Egypt.

In addition to the association's continued presence at the conference, MEDPorts is proud to announce the participation of Jordi Torrent, Secretary-General, as a Keynote Speaker.

The MEDPorts Association has been actively involved in promoting cooperation and knowledge exchange among Mediterranean ports. By participating in MARLOG-13, the association aims to foster fruitful discussions, share best practices, and explore potential areas of collaboration with other industry stakeholders. The conference will provide an excellent platform for MEDPorts to showcase its initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of Mediterranean ports.

[To register, click here](#)

[For more information, click here](#)

Anchor for your calendar



**30 November
2023**
Barcelona, Spain

**IAPH-MEDports Seminar on
the Environmental Ship Index
(ESI)**

This Seminar will take place at the Port of Barcelona to promote the use of the ESI within Mediterranean ports. Details to follow. You can register [here](#).

**12 December
2023**
Casablanca, Morocco

**Cooperation and Partnership
Committee**

A meeting of the Cooperation and Partnership Committee will take place in Casablanca.

**13 December
2023**
Casablanca, Morocco

**MEDports Seminar: Digital
Transformation, Innovation
and Cooperation: Challenges
and Opportunities for
Mediterranean Ports**

MEDPorts Association is collaborating with Agence Nationale des Ports (ANP) in Morocco is to jointly organize a seminar dedicated to challenges and opportunities for Mediterranean Ports in regard of digital transformation, innovation and cooperation. This seminar will be generously hosted by

ANP in Casablanca in Morocco on 13th of December 2023.

If you have any further questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to the MEDPorts Technical Coordinator at fajrwahbaa@yahoo.com.

19 December 2023

MEDCoffee

Regular Coffee Meeting.

23 January 2024 Online

MEDports General Assembly

The next MEDports General Assembly will take place online. Details to follow.

03-05 March 2024 Alexandria, Egypt

The International Maritime Transport and Logistics Conference

This conference is also known as MARLOG-13. MEDports will have a booth and its representatives will have an active participation at the conference.

Mid-March 2024 Athens, Greece

MEDports Seminar on Island Ports and Sea Shore Shipping

This seminar will be organised by the Hellenic Ports Association.

Mid-March 2024 Athens, Greece

Promotion Committee Meeting

The Promotion Committee will be organised on the sidelines of the MEDports Seminar on Island Ports and Sea Shore Shipping.

Spring 2024 Spain

Seminar on Port Operations Optimization

The Seminar will be organised by the Port Authority of Algeciras and the Cadiz University.

June 2024 Malta

MEDports Forum & General Assembly in June in Malta.

Malta will host the annual MEDports Forum and General Assembly 2024.

The MEDports Association

Created in 2018, MEDports is the Association representing the interests of Mediterranean ports. Its membership represents about 70% of freight and 90% of passenger traffic in the Mediterranean- Algeciras, Arzew, Barcelona, Bastia, Bejaia, Beirut, Cartagena, Civitavecchia, Durrës, Hellenic Ports Association, Igoumenitsa, La Spezia, Luka Koper, Malta Freeport, Marseille Fos, Moroccan Ports Agency (ANP), Office of the Merchant Navy and Ports (OMMP), Serport Group, Sète, Skikda, Tanger Med, Taranto, Toulon, Valencia and Venice. The Association has also several training institutions from the region as associate member.

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