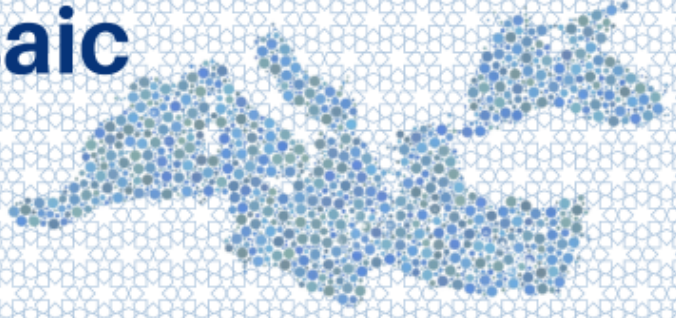


# MED Mosaic

The monthly newsletter



**Issue 11 | May 2024**

**Featured:**

## ***HOT SEAT***

### **The Future of Malta Freeport and Its Community Initiatives**

**An interview with David Magro – CEO of Malta Freeport Corporation**



"Navigating the delicate balance between operational efficiency and community well-being is a constant challenge for Malta Freeport. From noise and emissions to the ongoing development projects, we're committed to addressing local concerns while advancing our port's capabilities," shares David Magro, highlighting the complex dynamics at play in Malta Freeport's relationship with Birzebbuga.

Read the full interview to learn more about the innovative initiatives and strategic plans shaping the future of Malta Freeport.

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**Member and Industry News**

## TRAFFIC - Ports of Venice and Chioggia, First Quarter 2024 Data



On a quarterly basis, from January to March 2024, 5,551,006 tons passed through the docks of the Venetian port, a decrease of 9.8% compared to the January-March 2023 period, a figure that is however affected by the particularly positive performance recorded in March last year.

Also in the first quarter of 2024, general cargo showed a minus sign (-7.4% compared to the January-March 2023 quarter), with 2,325,312 tons handled; Ro-Ro bucked the trend, up +7.9% to 594,782 tonnes.

On the contrary, the already expected decline in the container sector continues, due to the Suez Canal crisis, which is affecting most Italian ports and the eastern Mediterranean, including the Veneto port. In Venice, in the first quarter of 2024, containers decreased by 12.9% (with 112,189 TEUs handled) compared to the first three months of the previous year while, on an annual basis, the decrease recorded is 8.6%.

For Chioggia, the first three months of this year, on the other hand, confirm good growth in all sectors, +40.7% for 166,522 tons compared to the same period in 2023. This trend is almost entirely linked to dry bulk, which grew by 24.5% with 116,684 tonnes handled.

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**On May 23rd Port of Luka Koper Celebrates the 67th  
Anniversary of the Port of Koper! 🎂**



## Tanger Med Port Authority hosted the IPCSA meeting and the 14th edition of the IHMA Congress



In partnership with the International Harbour Masters Association (IHMA), Tanger Med is organizing the 14th edition of the Harbour Masters Congress at Tanger Med Port Center on May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 2024.

This essential gathering aims to bring together harbour masters and port officers from Africa and around the world to foster exchanges, debates, and the strengthening of professional networks. Additionally, a rich and informative program spanning three days will be offered. The IHMA will also highlight the latest innovations in berth optimization, smart ports, technology, digitalization, artificial intelligence, real-time data, the future of pilotage, developments in mooring and port infrastructure, and the statutory role of harbour masters in safety and incident management.

Mr. Kamal LAKHMAS, Harbour Master of Tanger Med Port, declared, *"The selection of Tanger Med Port to host this edition under the theme "The marine adventure – Evolving and adapting to change in today's*

*ports" is a recognition of the role Tanger Med Port plays in global trade as well as the role of the Harbour Masters in the progress and innovation of the maritime and port industry. We handle over 17,000 port calls per year and more than 35,000 ship movements planned and executed under the best conditions of safety and efficiency. We work with our partners to further enhance our performance and achieve excellence with Port Call Optimization and succeed the Just-In-Time operations concept."*

This first edition in Africa was attended by over 200 people, including 30 global port authorities, and provided an unparalleled platform for exchange and knowledge sharing in the region. Discussions focused on crucial topics such as port operations optimization, environmental management, and the integration of new technologies to improve port efficiency and sustainability.

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## **The Port of Barcelona is Holding its First Open Days to Reach Out to the Public**



The Port of Barcelona is holding its first Open Days during the weekend of 24, 25 and 26 May, coinciding with European Maritime Day.

This event will offer members of the public the chance to learn first-hand about the working and the significance of the Catalan infrastructure, as well as its history and its future projects. Land and sea tours and various fun and educational activities will give visitors the chance to get to know the Port of Barcelona in greater depth.

[READ MORE](#)

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## **Port of Taranto Identifies Areas to Develop Wind Energy**



The Management Committee of the the Port System Authority of the Ionian Sea - Port of Taranto held an extraordinary meeting on May 3 to discuss an expression of interest for the identification of state-owned maritime areas, with associated waters outside the breakwater defences, to be allocated for the creation of industrial infrastructures.

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## **Malta Freeport Safety Day – Stop, Think, Talk, Act!**



Safer port #MaltaFreeportTerminals held a teambuilding day to raise awareness among employees about health and safety in the workplace on the safety principle of STOP, THINK, TALK, ACT.

**I STOP long enough to think about what I am about to do.**

**I THINK about the equipment, the procedures and my task, main risks, main concerns.**

**I TALK and listen respectfully to ensure a safe workplace, to prevent dangerous situations and share my concerns.**

**I ACT SAFE constantly to embody and promote exemplary behaviours. My Actions encourage others to adopt or maintain high level skills.**

Various activities were held during which staff were also encouraged to keep an eye out for potential risks or danger and to immediately inform a superior so that action can be taken immediately. The importance of reporting near misses was also highlighted as a measure to prevent more serious incidents in future. The Freeport, which stresses that safety is everyone's responsibility not just of the QHSE Department, organised the sessions to coincide with World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

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## **Port Training Institute, AASTMT and Libya Trade Net Partner to Advance the Maritime Sector Through Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration**



Port Training Institute, AASTMT and Libya Trade Net have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and expertise, paving the way for the co-development and implementation of joint workshops. Through this strategic partnership, both entities are empowered to play a more significant role in advancing the maritime sector.

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## **Showcasing Excellence: Port Training Institute, AASTMT Welcomes COSCO Maritime UK Delegation**



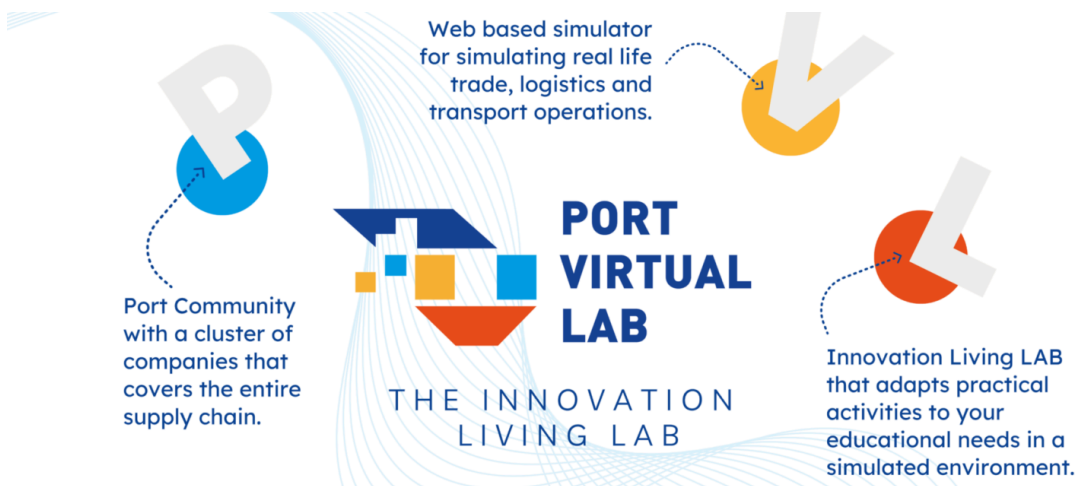
Port Training Institute (PTI) hosted a delegation from COSCO Maritime UK to explore collaborative opportunities. PTI showcased its esteemed training programs, particularly the well-regarded Basic Studies for Seafarers department.

COSCO Maritime UK expressed strong interest in leveraging PTI's highly skilled graduates to crew their vessels. Discussions centered on potential partnerships in crew placement and the development of a qualified maritime workforce. This successful meeting highlights PTI's strengths in training and COSCO's recognition of their student body's capabilities, paving the way for a mutually beneficial partnership in the future.

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# Port Virtual Lab Transforms South African Students into Logistics Experts through a pilot course



Port Virtual Lab (PVL), in its ongoing mission to bridge theoretical knowledge with real-world applications, proudly announces the successful conclusion of another pilot course aimed at training future logistics experts, this time for 18 students from Global Maritime Legal Solutions (GMLS), South Africa, thanks to the generous economic support of the international company Savino del Bene.

[READ MORE](#)

## MEDports News

### The MEDPorts Forum 2024 is Around the Corner!

**MEDPORTS FORUM 2024**  
31 May 2024 ~ Malta

**MEDPorts Resilience**  
in Today's Agitated Waters

Logos at the bottom include: MALTA FREEPORT CORPORATION, MED ports ASSOCIATION, MALTA FREEPORT, SHINING STAR, YILDIRIM ENERGY, and YILTEKNIK.

MEDPorts Forum 2024, organized together by MEDPorts and Malta Freeport Corporation, will kick off in 2 days under the title MEDPorts Resilience in Today's Agitated Waters: Threats and Opportunities, bringing together a line-up of maritime industry leaders, port authorities, and experts to discuss the pressing challenges and promising opportunities shaping the future of ports across and around the Mediterranean.

Taking place on 31st of May, MEDPorts Forum 24' promises a dynamic exchange of insights, strategies, and future plans aimed at navigating the evolving environment of maritime trade and logistics. With resilience at the forefront of discussions, participants can expect a comprehensive exploration of the strategies required to propel Mediterranean ports into the next era of growth and efficiency.

Visit our website for for detailed information on the agenda and speakers, MEDPorts Forum 2024 - MEDPorts Resilience

[READ MORE](#)

## GUEST ANNOUNCEMENT!

MEDPORTS FORUM 2024  
31 May 2024 ~ Malta

MEDPORTS RESILIENCE  
IN TODAY'S AGITATED WATERS:  
THREATS & OPPORTUNITIES

Malta Freeport

**HON CHRIS BONETT**  
Minister for Transport,  
Infrastructure and Public Works

**HON SILVIO SCHEMBRI**  
Minister for Economy,  
Enterprise and Strategic Projects

MALTA FREEPORT CORPORATION MED ports association malta freeport YILDIRIM ENERGY YILTEKNIK SHINING STAR

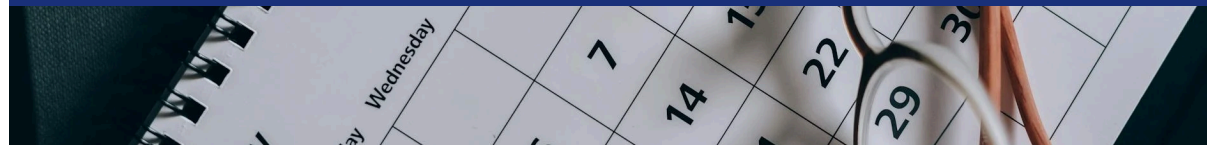
We are delighted to announce the presence of two esteemed ministers in the MEDPorts Forum 24' Opening Session,

- Hon Chris Bonett, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works
- Hon Silvio Schembri, Minister for Economy, Enterprise and Strategic Projects.

Their prestigious presence is an added value to the significance of this MED gathering as they deliver their valuable remarks and provide invaluable insights into the future of Mediterranean ports.

***WE ARE READY TO WELCOME ALL OUR DEAR PARTICIPANTS AND ATTENDEES TO OUR ANNUAL MEDPORTS FORUM FOR THE YEAR OF 2024!***

**Anchor for your calendar**



**30 May**  
**2024**  
Malta

**MEDports General Assembly**

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

**31 May**  
**2024**  
Malta

**MEDports Forum**

Malta FreePort Corporation will host the MEDports Forum titled "MEDports Resilience in Today's Agitated Waters: Threats and Opportunities."

**11-13 June**  
**2024**  
Rotterdam, the Netherlands

**MEDports will be present at TOC Europe**

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**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, Durrès, 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.

[Contact us](#) | [www.medports.org](http://www.medports.org)



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Address: Siège du Grand Port Maritime de Marseille  
23 Place de la Joliette  
CS 81965  
13226 MARSEILLE CEDEX 02

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