



Port Network Authority  
of the Eastern Adriatic Sea  
Ports of Trieste and Monfalcone

## PRESS RELEASE

### THE PORT OF TRIESTE SIGNS TWO MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING FOR DEVELOPING RAIL LINKS TO EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE

**Implementing rail cargo transport is both necessary and strategic: between 2015 and the present weekly traffic to Budapest has increased 20-fold**

Trieste, 18 March 2019 – Today the President of the Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea Zeno D’Agostino signed two memorandums of understanding to implement railway links between the port of Trieste and its reference basin in east-central Europe: one with the railway companies ÖBB-INFRA and Rete Ferroviaria Italiana (RFI), and another with Rail Cargo Austria (RCA). The goal of the memorandums is to strengthen links between the port of Trieste logistics hub, which plays a key role for Friuli Venezia Giulia and all of north-east Italy, and the European rail network, promoting the development of intermodal services, particularly between the port of Trieste and maritime and land terminals in central and eastern Europe.

“The signature of these two memorandums is very important– Zeno D’Agostino, the President of the Authority, stated – because it was precisely the development of intermodal and rail activities, particularly the Austrian railway, which led to the resurgence of our port over the last few years. As if we were taking a step back into the past, the logic underlying port development centuries ago is re-emerging and is making the port of Trieste the focus of global attention. I think this is one of very few cases, if not the only one – adds D’Agostino – in which the managing body of non-transboundary port and logistics facilities reaches an agreement with the management authorities of rail networks and services in two countries, Italy and Austria, in view of future analyses and investment options. The agreements that have been signed are very concrete and will make it possible to optimally plan the future development of the port of Trieste, providing guarantees to both those who already work here and to future investors”.

The agreement signed today in Trieste requires the parties to share a common development strategy to optimize logistical processes by strengthening the rail network and thus improving the capacity of the destination terminals. In concrete terms, the memorandums will lead the parties to consider modernization efforts, new infrastructure, and the removal of any bottlenecks in order to facilitate train activity.

“Trieste is a model to be followed regarding the efficiency of its interconnections between different transport modalities. Here ships and the railway are linked in an optimal logistics chain. We are very proud that Rail Cargo Austria is an important logistical partner for the Trieste Free Port – said Andreas Matthä CEO of ÖBB – As an integrated partner, with a strong rail network we would like to further boost rail cargo transport, so as to guarantee an inexpensive and environmentally-friendly transport modality. We are confident that together with our Italian partners, we will continue on this path in the future”.

"Today’s agreement - stressed Christian Colaneri, Sales and Marketing Director for Rete Ferroviaria Italiana – is a further step towards an integration model whose goal is to develop rail cargo transport and intermodality. Collaboration with the port of Trieste and ÖBB Infrastruktur fits in with this strategy, which RFI is implementing nationwide and which aims to continue to improve connectivity between ports and the railway network, with the ultimate goal of facilitating a modal shift, with benefits for the national logistics system, the economy, and the environment”.

On the 300th anniversary of the institution of the Free Port of Trieste on the part of Emperor Charles VI, the agreements signed today take on particular significance both from an operational and strategic standpoint.

From an operational standpoint, rail cargo traffic destined for the Austrian, Hungarian, Czech, and Slovak markets has greatly intensified in recent years, as the data on traffic flows to Budapest shows. The Trieste-Budapest rail service, which began in 2015 with two trains a week, now features 20 pairs of trains a week. The need for more frequent and efficient inter-modal links with reference markets in east-central Europe has also led to more intense activities with Rail Cargo Austria, the port's main train operator, which handled nearly 3,000 trains to and from a variety of destinations in 2018. To this we must add changing geopolitical scenarios, the implementation of the port zoning plan, and increased market demand, all of which justify a desire on the part of the port of Trieste and of railway companies to implement existing services and explore the possibility of establishing new links, in light of available capacity, the revamping of the Campo Marzio station, and the upcoming re-opening of the Aquilinia station. Additionally, the signing of the two memorandums of understanding will help boost the activities and the operational role of Adriafer, a subsidiary of the Port Authority System responsible for rail shunting services within the port.

From a strategic standpoint, the memorandums will facilitate new actions to support the maritime activities of the various reference inland terminals – such as Trieste Ferneti, the Cervignano del Friuli intermodal hub, Fürnitz in Austria, and Budapest - Mahart and Bilk in Hungary – allowing shareholding groups to access these terminals and thus facilitating investment in activities of interest. Also under study are solutions for customs corridors, including as applied to railways, which will make it possible to significantly reduce the time that cargo is held in port areas.

At the conclusion of the memorandum signing ceremony, and in order to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the institution of the Free Port of Trieste, the President of the Port Authority Zeno D'Agostino and the President of the Italy-Austria-FVG Association Aldo Scagnol placed a commemorative plaque donated by the Italy-Austria Association at the historic entrance to the Lloyd Tower.