



**Port Network Authority
of the Eastern Adriatic Sea
Port of Trieste**

PRESS RELEASE

**EU-CHINA MARITIME TRANSPORT AGREEMENT: THE PORT OF TRIESTE HOSTS THE 14TH
EDITION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**

D'Agostino: an honour for the Port Authority to host such a strategic meeting for the sector and a unique opportunity to illustrate the potential of Trieste for the new Silk Road

Trieste, 9 July 2017 – In the next few days at the Lloyd Tower in Trieste, the Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea, in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, will host the 14th edition of the annual meeting for the implementation of the EU-China maritime transport agreement.

The EU-China sector agreement - signed in 2002 – aims at improving the conditions currently affecting maritime transport operations of goods bound for and coming from China, to the benefit of the economic operators of the two parties involved. Thus, the agreement is based on the principles of free provision of maritime transport services and on the principle of non-discriminatory treatment as far as the use of port and auxiliary services are concerned. It also promotes cooperation between EU and China on maritime security and staff training issues.

The meeting, that takes place every year, alternating between China and the European Union, is the ideal platform for exchanging information and views on the sector and facilitating contacts between operators and maritime authorities. The two delegations attending the meeting in Trieste will comprise representatives of the Chinese Ministry of Transport, of the Directorate General for Transport and Mobility of the EU Commission and of EU Member States, including Italy, as well as the Association of Chinese Shipowners and those of the ECSA (Association of European Community Shipowners).

The two-day work schedule will be anticipated by a meeting with the top officers of the Port System Authority and a visit to the infrastructures of the Port of Trieste. Best wishes for a fruitful collaboration came from Zeno D'Agostino, President of the Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea, who underlined the strong interest that China's Institutions have developed in the Port of Trieste in the last few months. "We are honoured to host such a strategic event. The port has formidable potential, which we are finally able to relaunch and communicate to foreign investors: excellent rail connections on a European scale, making Trieste the only Italian port with international standing; an 18-metre natural seabed to accommodate large ocean ships; a free port to be value-enhanced and important alliances like the one recently signed with the port of Duisburg, strategically located in relation to the new maritime and terrestrial Silk Road "

The Port of Trieste will not only be the setting for this important meeting of the multilateral body of the maritime sector, but it will also have the opportunity of disseminating its peculiarities and the role it can play as a privileged access point to Europe for the Belt and Road Initiative.