PRESS RELEASE

MUNICH’S TRANSPORT LOGISTIC FAIR: THE PORT OF TRIESTE BROADENS ITS EUROPEAN INTERMODAL NETWORK
A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED TODAY WITH LUXEMBOURG’S RAILROADS TO STRENGTHEN INTERMODAL LINKS BETWEEN TRIESTE AND BETTEMBOURG

Trieste, 5 June 2019 – Consolidating exchanges between the Port of Trieste and the Bettembourg logistics hub in Luxembourg, one of Europe’s largest and most modern railway platforms, and reiterating the key role of intermodality for the commercial – and more importantly, sustainable – development of the two cities’ respective logistics systems: this is the goal of the Memorandum of Understanding signed today during the Transport Logistic trade fair in Munich by Zeno D’Agostino, president of the Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea, and Fraenz Benoy, director of CFL Multimodal, a subsidiary of CFL (Luxembourg Railways).

After announcing the new service to Nuremberg, which will provide a new alternative for goods entering central European markets from the south, the Port of Trieste confirms its dynamic nature and its international vocation in the intermodal sector, and chooses the Munich fair as a showcase for building new commercial relations in the railway sector.

Through this agreement, CFL aims to consolidate the system of intermodal services that form the backbone of the links between the Port of Trieste and markets in central Europe, the United Kingdom, and Scandinavia through the Bettembourg gateway managed by CFL Multimodal.

“I recently visited the Bettembourg terminal” Zeno D’Agostino said, “and I was impressed by the quality of the platform and its operational models, including from the standpoint of technological innovation. Working with partners who share these priorities means aiming to define new standards of excellence at the European level for ship-rail links”.

The strategic cooperation between the Port Authority and CFL originates with an intermodal link that was inaugurated back in 2012. It is a service for semi-trailers with three return trips per week linking Trieste with Bettembourg-Dudelange. The service, which has now been boosted to 9 weekly trips, allows for the ‘modal shift’ of over 20,000 semi-trailers from road to rail, contributing not only to
reducing traffic on one of Europe’s busiest road networks, but also to cutting emissions of greenhouse gases and other harmful substances, with significant savings of about 35,000 tonnes of CO2.

The new agreement aims to facilitate and further encourage, the growth and optimization of rail links along the Trieste-Bettembourg-Dudelange corridor in accordance with the ‘intermodal pipeline’ concept. The goal is to develop even more reliable and high-quality services by using standardized, dematerialized processes to exchange data and documentation, and the development of joint commercial actions on specific reference markets.

In addition to the commercial and IT aspects of the agreements, we must consider those related to product innovation, which will be facilitate by the shared and increasingly efficient use of technologies suitable for loading non-craneable semi-trailers. The agreement also calls for synergies regarding the “Belt and Road railway” initiative, since both partners have already established contacts with the province of Sichuan, especially the Chengdu area.

Trieste, 6 June 2019 – Today, at the Transport Logistic trade fair in Munich the Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea and the Kombiverkehr group signed a Memorandum of Understanding that defines a shared goal of promoting an intermodal corridor between the Port of Trieste and the Neuss Trimodal terminal located on the Rhine river near Düsseldorf and managed by Kombiverkehr. The agreement outlines a process to develop a structural partnership between the two hubs, by identifying pre-requisites in terms of railroad infrastructure and the organization of logistics flows within the Port of Trieste and Neuss Trimodal, and defining future operating conditions for achieving higher standards of production and greater economies of scale in the rail sector.

“Kombiverkehr was the first foreign operator to believe in the intermodal development of our port”, said Port Authority president Zeno D’Agostino. “Strengthening these links with a new partnership is a way to affirm our desire to become a port whose outlook is increasingly international. For this reason, we aim to strengthen our presence beyond the Alps, in Neuss, by collaborating with a terminal whose potential in terms of logistics is very high”.

This agreement with the German logistics operator Kombiverkehr, together with the announcement of the new rail service to Nuremberg that will be inaugurated in July, testifies to the strong links between the Port of Trieste and Germany, with 55 weekly links at present. It should be noted that this traffic has excellent margins for growth not only thanks to the transit time offered by the Adriatic maritime route, which is faster than the northern European one, but especially
thanks to the potential of the free port and to the ongoing investments in rail transport in the Port of Trieste, which is increasingly becoming the 'intermodal gateway' to Europe through the Adriatic Sea.