



**Autorità di Sistema Portuale
del Mare Adriatico Orientale**
Porto di Trieste

PRESS RELEASE

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PORT OF TRIESTE AND THE GERMAN PORT OF DUISPORT
Strategic agreement for the Silk Road initiative

Trieste, 9 June 2017 – The Port of Trieste and Duisburger Hafen (duisport), the public company that runs the port of Duisburg, will strengthen their future cooperation. Zeno D'Agostino, president of the Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea, and Erich Staake, president of duisport, signed a strategic collaboration agreement yesterday in Duisburg.

The port of Trieste and the port of Duisburg, located at the confluence of the Rhine and Ruhr, two of Europe's main inland shipping routes, are joining strengths: commercial rail traffic between the two main cities can be augmented and logistical hubs can be designed and established according to a common plan.

Duisburg is the largest international hub in Europe. For many years now it has been a distribution logistics platform for the international industrial sector, thanks to its nature as an intermodal transport hub with river and rail connections to the entire European continent from the Baltic to the Mediterranean as well as to China.

The agreement aims to achieve several strategic objectives for both parties. Duisburg will have a logistical and transport outlet on the Mediterranean, and will be able to position itself along the Europe-Turkey/Iran corridor.

Trieste will achieve the key goal of being able to promote the logistics system revolving around its port at the international level and to develop the intermodal and industrial logistics areas at Punto Franco with the technical and financial support of one of the world's leading experts in this sector. Thanks to their collaboration, the two ports also aim to strengthen their union within the framework of China's Silk Road initiative. There are almost 25 freight trains running between Duisburg and northern China every week, while Trieste is a part of the Maritime Silk road and is linked to southern China via the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal.

"The port of Duisburg is one of the best examples in the world of a logistics platform integrated with the ports of northern Europe, and can be considered the European terminal of the Belt and Road Initiative, as it is located on both the land and maritime routes" – stated Zeno D'Agostino.

"The agreement signed yesterday - the president of the Authority concludes – seals a winning partnership for both ports and is the culmination of a longstanding joint effort. We must not forget that the development of our port system includes the high-added-value logistical and industrial activities in Punto Franco. Duisport is renowned for its success in integrating logistics and port functions, and it will be a valuable partner and example to follow".

According to Erich Staake, president of duisport: "Duisport's flow of goods to and from Turkey and Greece will increase thanks to this collaboration, since these countries prefer to ship their freight to central and northern Europe via the port of Trieste. In addition, thanks to duisport Trieste will obtain access to the northern Silk Road, while the port of Duisburg will obtain access to the Maritime Silk Road through Trieste. This will increase freight traffic in both ports".