

XV Business Meeting of ASECAM

"We need the commitment of all the agents involved to improve the Sagunto railway connections"

- **Ramón Gómez-Ferrer, Deputy Director of PAV's Strategic Planning, has affected the economic potential of Aragon and the entire Cantabrian Corridor for the port of Sagunto and Valencian Community.**
- **PAV has allocated 46.3 million euros in its Enterprise Plan for rail access, the development of Sagunto's inland rail network and the improvement of the railway line with Zaragoza.**

Sagunto, November 15th 2016. - Ramón Gómez-Ferrer, Deputy Director of Strategic Planning at the Port Authority of Valencia (PAV) participated today in the XV Business Meeting of ASECAM with a paper titled "Integration of the Port of Sagunto in the Trans-European Transport Network."

During the conference, Gómez-Ferrer stressed that the port of Sagunto is a basic pillar for the economy of Camp de Morvedre region and the Valencian Community. In this sense, he recalled that "provisional data accumulated up to October this year show a 3% growth in the global traffic of the port of Sagunto, discounting natural gas" and continued "work done by PAV has made possible to diversify the enclosures traffic as evidenced by the fact that in 2001 more than 80% of the traffic channeled by Sagunto was general merchandise and today, that figure, stands at around 36%. This diversification has been key during the economic crisis period in which the traditional traffics were greatest injured. "

In addition, the deputy director of PAV has also exposed the main challenges port of Sagunto is facing in medium term that focus on completing the use of the available port space, improving inspection services with the entry into service in 2018 of the new Border Inspection Center, the development of port-city integration with the opening of spaces for citizen use in the north area of the port, the enhancement of the Sagunto Parc ZAL and the improvement of road and rail accessibility, among others.

Railway connections

In this area, Ramon Gómez-Ferrer explained that the port of Sagunto is included in the global network of TEN-T network which, according to European Union designs, must be completed by 2050. Therefore, it is necessary to connect with the Mediterranean Corridor which is part of the basic network of railway corridors being developed by the TEN-T program. According to Gómez-Ferrer, "the corridor is a strategic instrument for the Valencian Community and a fundamental channel to connect traffics with origin / destination with certain European regions with ocean services or sea freeways through Valencia and Sagunto ports and the power to compete ". Therefore, he stressed that this infrastructure "is an essential goal to achieve a competitive logistics system and the fulfillment of deadlines is essential to stop the loss of competitive advantages of Valencia and Sagunto facilities."

In addition, he recalled that the railway line with Zaragoza, which is part of the Cantabrian-Mediterranean Corridor, is included in the list of sections of the basic network of the TEN-T program and is therefore eligible for receiving European aids for its development. Gómez-Ferrer

also wanted to point out that "although the Port Authority of Valencia has made a firm commitment to the development of the rail connections of port of Sagunto, we need the commitment and the support of all the agents involved to get the execution of these infrastructures that play a vital role for the development of the port area, Camp de Morvedre region and the entire Valencian economic fabric."

Ramón Gómez-Ferrer also recalled that, through the Financial Fund for Port Accessibility, PAV has allocated investments for the development of these infrastructures in its 2016 Business Plan. In particular, he stressed that PAV "plans to invest 34 Million euros for the development of rail access to Sagunto, which is expected to be put out to tender in 2017 and to be fully implemented by 2020. At the moment, both the project and the implementing agreement that we must sign ADIF and PAV ". On the other hand, PAV also plans to invest 8.3 million to improve the internal rail network of the port of Sagunto during the period of 2017-2019 and has approved a line of 4 million euros for the improvement of sidings of the Sagunto-Teruel-Zaragoza line.

The Deputy Director of PAV remembered at the XV Business Meeting of ASECAM that "the Cantabrian Corridor is fundamental because Aragon has a very important economic potential in agro-food products, steel, energy, construction, vehicles and machinery, chemicals, fertilizers and textiles, among others."

Valuation of Port of Sagunto

Likewise, Ramón Gómez-Ferrer has also highlighted the perception data of the citizens of the area and ship captains regarding the work carried out by the port of Sagunto. Specifically, according to a survey commissioned by the PAV, 65% of residents value positively the commercial port of Sagunto for its economic potential and its generation of work in the environment while ships captains show a high degree of overall satisfaction with pilotage, towing and mooring services.