

Paper traffic increases by 16.27% in the first ten months of the year at the Port of Gandia

Gandia, 24th November 2016. - The Port of Gandia ended the month of October with a 16.27% increase in paper and pulp traffic. Total traffic for the first ten months of the year rose to 153,000 tonnes, strengthening the upward trend and consolidating the port as the reference enclave for this type of cargo.

In terms of **total traffic**, according to the latest statistical data from the Port Authority of Valencia, the facility handled 309,778 tonnes in the ten-month period to October, down 8.34% compared to the same period in the previous year. Foreign trade fell by 8.12% due to poor export traffic, which went down by 35.51%. Conversely, imports increased by 14.81%.

Conventional general cargo decreased by 4.80% to a total of 302,752 tonnes. This decrease was mainly due to slower throughput of chemical products, which fell by 33.7% to 63,000 tonnes; and of wood and cork, which went down by 16.29% to 60,000 tonnes.

Containerised general cargo decreased by 71.35% to a total of 4,860 tonnes due to the decrease in the throughput of fruit, vegetables and pulses, which fell by 68.75% to 4,020 tonnes.

Port Authority of Valencia data

Valenciaport ended the month of October with an increase of 1.31% in total goods traffic. According to the latest Port Authority of Valencia statistics, the three ports managed by the Port Authority of Valencia (Valencia, Sagunto and Gandia) handled 59,453,294 tonnes of traffic in the first ten months of the year. Foreign trade increased with **imports and exports** rising by 1.12% to a total of 17,821,525 tonnes. **Imports** went up by 4.58%, to 6,496,873 tonnes, thanks to brisk trade with countries such as the United States (+8.39%) and India (+28.63%), whilst trade flows with China (-1.01%), Italy (-3.88%) and France (-5.25%) fell. On the other hand, the negative trend in **exports** continued with a decrease of 0.75% to 11,324,652 tonnes due to slower trade with countries such as Italy (-5.23%), Saudi Arabia (-18.57%) and Morocco (-1.62%). On a positive note, Valenciaport's exports to China and the United States increased by 7.26% and 10.10%, respectively. In terms of **overall traffic**, figures increased by 1.32% during this period.

In the cumulative period until October, **container traffic** continued to grow and increased by 1.65%. In total, 3,946,155 TEUs were handled during the first ten months of the year. These positive figures were due to an increase in foreign container traffic, which rose by 4.44%. Specifically, **containerised exports** rose by 4.30% to 920,267 TEUs while **imports** increased by 4.58% to 926,200 TEUs. In turn, the latest statistics revealed that the downward trend in **transit** traffic has slowed, down just 0.68% to October.

Containerised general cargo recorded a rise of 2.74, with total traffic standing at 44,887,889 tonnes. This included goods such as construction materials which rose by 0.83% to 4.41 million tonnes; other goods which went up by 5.49% to 1.78 million tonnes, and chemical products which increased by 11.38% to 1.52 million tonnes.

Conventional general cargo, on the other hand, fell by 0.46% to 9,127,594 tonnes. This decrease was mainly due to the lower volumes of goods such as steel products, which fell by 9.92% to 1.52 million tonnes. Conversely, cars and their parts registered an increase of 11.55%, rising to 1.27 million tonnes. A breakdown of this traffic revealed that the ports of Sagunto and Valencia handled 640,492 **vehicles** to October, up 13.94% on the same period last year. Similarly, **Ro-ro traffic** grew by 6.80% to 7,630,261 tonnes.

Liquid bulk went down by 8.65% in the first ten months of the year to 2,948,777 tonnes. This drop came from reduced volumes of natural gas traffic, which fell by 9.37% to 1.71 million tonnes; of gas oil, which went down by 7.38% to 385,000 tonnes, and of chemicals which decreased by 1.13% to 282,000 tonnes.

Solid bulk traffic also fell in the first ten months of the year by 3.92% to 2,100,948 tonnes. Cereal and flours (-7.25%) stood at 714,000 tonnes, cement and clinker (-31.25%) fell to 442,000 tonnes, and natural and artificial fertilizers (-7.42%) dropped to 386,000 tonnes.

Passenger traffic

During the first ten months of the year, a total of 761,081 people used the Port of Valencia, representing a 15.04% increase over the same period in 2015. Of these passengers, 423,915 people used ferry services (+31.21%) while 337,166 passengers were cruise passengers on one of the 146 cruise calls, a figure which was down 0.40% on the previous year.

Traffic by countries and geographical areas

The five countries shipping the largest volume of goods through Valenciaport in the first ten months of the year were Spain, with 7.30 million tonnes (+7.24%), China, with 5.69 million tonnes (+16.38%), Algeria, with 4.79 million tonnes (-0.62%); Italy, with 4.07 million tonnes (-4.10%) and the United States, with 3.59 million tonnes (-2.27%). In terms of **geographical areas**, the largest traffic volumes were with the Mediterranean and Black Sea with 16.26 million tonnes, down 3.79%, and with the Far East, with 8.22 million tonnes, up 14.25%.