

Meeting with the Port Authority of Valencia

The European Parliament analyzes in Valencia the harmonization of regulations to prevent illegal trade

- **The International Trade Commission takes the port of Valencia as a reference in the monitoring process of entry of goods from outside the European Union.**

Valencia, October 11th 2016.-The Port Authority of Valencia held this morning a working session with the Committee on International Trade of the European Parliament. The meeting has aimed to analyze the role played by customs to promote trade in the European Union and suppress illegal trade. To the European Parliament, the port of Valencia is considered a leader in the process of monitoring the entry of goods from third countries.

The Commission, led by its president, Bernd Lange, was integrated by MEPs Santiago Fisas, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero, Marita Ulvskog and Tiziane Beghin. The meeting is part of a two-day visit of the Commission to Valencia in which addressed issues such as the protection of intellectual property, the agreements of international free trade, trade defense measures of the EU or the role of customs.

During the meeting, there has been the opportunity to know the work developed daily to inspect goods from countries outside the European Union. In the words of Bernd Lange, "the meeting has analyzed the procedures highlighting trade in Europe, especially the efficiency of ports in the control of customs procedures". Similarly, the president of the International Trade Commission stressed that "the port of Valencia is the main enclosure of the Mediterranean Sea and its trade routes with the East are especially important for the development of European trade."

For its part, Aurelio Martinez, president of the Port Authority of Valencia wanted to highlight that "the visit is especially useful for PAV because it allowed us to have an exchange of ideas on the problems of ports for monitoring the international trade and the possibilities of coordinating the control and inspection mechanisms followed in the various port facilities of Europe".

In this sense, the MEP Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero has stressed that "80% of trade in the European Union enters through the ports and there is no harmonized legislation to ensure that all imported products by the European Union follows the requirements that we demand to European producers." Therefore, she reminded that "we need an

harmonization of regulations at European level and inspection services certifying that these standards are satisfied and to ensure that our traders compete on equal terms with which come from outside the European Union”.