



XIMO PUIG: OUR AIM IS TO CONSOLIDATE VALENCIA'S STATUS AS THE MEDITERRANEAN'S NUMBER ONE PORT.

Today, the President of the Valencian Regional Government, Ximo Puig, visited the Port of Valencia and was taken on a comprehensive tour of its facilities. Puig was accompanied by the Valencian Regional Minister for Sustainable Economy, Rafael Climent. They were welcomed at the Clocktower Building by the Chairman of the Port Authority of Valencia, Aurelio Martínez, members of the institution's Board of Directors and by the organisation's management.

Ximo Puig was informed by the managers of Noatum, one of the Mediterranean's leading container terminals, of the company's plans to further strengthen its position, thus enabling it to cater for mega-vessels 400 metres long and 60 metres wide, i.e. ships which are the size of four football fields end-to-end. In this way, they will be able to handle four million containers per year and double current capacity.

According to Ximo Puig, "The size and strength of the Port of Valencia is extremely important because it reflects the fortitude of Valencian society and its capacity for growth. The latest figures are highly positive. We are the leading container port and we also aim to grow in terms of cruise traffic and all aspects related to economic activity".

The delegation subsequently visited Valencia Terminal Europa, which is used to handle Fiat and Ford vehicles. At the facility, managers from Ford and Grimaldi explained their short and medium-term investment projects to the Valencian Regional Government President, which involve tripling the loading and unloading capacity of their respective terminals. The President, Ximo Puig, and the Regional Minister for the Economy, Rafael Climent, were also shown the Port of Valencia's future Logistics Activities Area, or ZAL, and the location of the future new cruise terminal which will house a modular building that can cater for over 4,000 passengers, and can be extended if necessary.

Both Ximo Puig, and the Chairman of the Port Authority, Aurelio Martínez, agreed on the need for continued injections of funds in the port to make up for the shortfall in investment over the last few years. They also highlighted the importance of bringing the Mediterranean Corridor into service as quickly as possible to provide modern 21st century rail connections that link Valencia and Sagunto to Saragossa and the Cantabrian Corridor.

In the words of Aurelio Martínez, "The major issue is connectivity. We have to provide value-for-money services in our hinterland. This means offering the

lowest costs and the most competitive logistics. To achieve this, we need to improve all the existing logistics infrastructures”.

The President of the Valencian Region Government also stated that “When we refer to the Mediterranean Corridor, we are talking about the Port of Valencia. When we refer to connectivity with the logistics hub in Saragossa, we are talking about the Port of Valencia, and when we refer to the northern access to Valencia, we are also talking about its Port. And this is why we are looking into new funding channels”.

The visit ended at the historic Clocktower Building where Ximo Puig signed the Port of Valencia’s guest book.