

Position Paper on Regulation Proposal

INTERMED GATEWAYS

Association of the ports of Barcelona, Genoa and Marseilles

On 23 May, the European Commission published a communication entitled *Ports: an engine for growth* and a regulation proposal establishing a framework on market access to port services and financial transparency of ports. On 31 May, Commissioner Sim Kallas has presented this communication and this regulation proposal during the ESPO Annual conference in Varna. Intermed Gateways (IG) was present and participated in the debate following the presentation.

IG welcomes that in the communication, the EC assumes that the European Transport Network should get a new equilibrium to avoid an increasingly negative concentration of the freight flows in few points in Europe. The consequences of this current situation are strongly negative : congestion, pollution, non-inclusive growth etc... Since more than ten years our association has defended this position in order to achieve a more sustainable and efficient European transport network. This could be done if the development of southern ports and their inland connections are clearly supported by the European Institutions.

In both Communication and regulation proposal, following the guidelines for the development of the TEN-T and the regulation proposal setting up the CEF, the European Commission and all the European institutions recognize the essential role of the ports: IG welcomes also this position.

IG supports the EC position reinforcing the role of the port authorities in several fields: Infrastructure charges, Market procedures, Requirements for port services. IG refuses the creation of national port supervisory bodies for at least two reasons: first, competition agencies already exist in the major European countries and consequently the proposal adds some new unnecessary administrative constraints. Second, these supervisory bodies limit *de facto* the role of the port authorities, which is a contradiction with the previous point.

Finally, IG keeps on supporting all the European initiatives that give more freedom to port authorities in order to steer the ports in an open, transparent, and non-discriminatory way. Moreover, IG strongly supports European and national legislation increasing the port's management and financial autonomy, and opposes measures intended to limit this autonomy and therefore limiting free competition among ports.

Due to the differences of the legislation between France, Italy and Spain, the ports of IG will, individually or via their national organisation, react to the EC Communication and regulation proposal.

The IG Secretariat