**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Ports of the North vs Ports of the South: Concentration or rebalancing**

Puertos del Estado, Organismo Público

Thursday, 07 May 2015

12:00 - 13:30

Forum 3 Hall A4

International trade is facing deep changes, leading the transport and logistics sector to develop a comprehensive strategy to progress towards a competitive supply chain capable of meeting the challenges of the market. The European Union is paving the way to improved transport connectivity, driven by a holistic approach based on European Corridors, which will span the entire length of value chains. The TransEuropean Transport Network aims to integrate all means of transport, as well as bring the Union's regions closer together by improving interoperability and eliminating bottlenecks along the Corridors. In this new scenario, the market will benefit from new and more efficient southern-based transport and logistics chains to serve part of the European Union’s external trade. A balance in terms of transport and logistics flows will be achieved more through competitiveness than infrastructure limitations.

Spanish ports are significantly increasing the quality, productivity, and reliability of their infrastructures and services to meet these challenges. They are willing to contribute to the optimisation of Europe’s transport system and to rebalancing transport traffic in Europe in order to overcome congestion-related problems. In addition, they are seeking to strengthen their role in the logistics chain and their transport connectivity with overseas markets.

***Programme (Forum 3 Hall A4)***

***12.00h-13.30h***

***Speakers / Panel Discussion Participants:***

***Moderator :***

Name: ***Mr.*** ***José Llorca Ortega***

Position: *President*

* Name: Mr. *Asier Atutxa.*

Position: *President*

Company name: *Port Authority of Bilbao*

Location: Bilbao (Spain)

* Name: *Mr. Rafael Aznar*

Position: *President*

Company name: *Port Authority of Valencia*

Location: *Valencia (Spain)*

* Name: Mr. *Juan Riva*

Position: *President*

Company name: Grupo Suardíaz

Location: Madrid (Spain)

* Name: *Mr. Inazio Fechado*

Position: *Director General*

Company name: ALGEPOSA

Location: Pasajes (Spain)

* Name: *Mr. Douglas Schultz*

Position: *President Noatum España*

Company name: NOATUM

Location: Valencia (Spain)

* Name: *Mr. Iñigo de Peñaranda Real*

Position: *Director General de División de Carga*

Company name: TRANSFESA

Location: Madrid (Spain)