NORTHERN TYRRHENIAN PORT NETWORK AUTHORITY

Position Paper

“Sea Ports as a key pillar for the future of EU cohesion policy: towards a macro-regional approach in West Med”

Florence, May the 11th, 2018

This Position Paper is given by hand on the occasion of “Che futuro per la politica di coesione dopo il 2020? - Dialogo con i cittadini” event in Firenze, the 11th of May 2018 to the President of the European Parliament, Mr Antonio Tajani, EU Commissioner for Cohesion, Ms Corinne Crețu, President of Regione Toscana, Mr Enrico Rossi, and President of the EU Committee for the Regions, Mr Karl-Heinz Lambertz.

As a result of the recent Italian port reform, the core network port of Livorno is now the pivot of a multiport system that encompasses a number of comprehensive transport and logistic nodes, within a geographic dimension that is made of mainland, coast and islands. Therefore, the main challenge of the newly established “Northern Tyrrhenian Sea Port Authority” is to integrate the core network with the general transport network, in order to ensure the accessibility and connectivity of regions and peripheral areas to the internal market without borders.

As major multiport system situated along crucial Euro-Mediterranean transport axes, the ports of Livorno, Piombino and Capraia and Elba islands are highly committed to the strengthening of passengers and freight flows, particularly agricultural productions, among mainland Europe, islands and not-EU countries.

The next multiannual financial framework of the EU is set at a vital stage of both the development of the Union as well as the growth of the Port Systems. The Cohesion of peripheral territories such as islands to the Core European regions relies much in an efficient, sustainable
transport network; in this respect, the ultimate goal of Cohesion is strictly linked to the well functioning of the transport system and to its territorial dimension, bringing even the more distant towns and cities closer to the European internal market.

The multiport System therefore calls for more focus on the transport asset of the Cohesion, especially the integrated maritime-land systems, as key pillar of the European Union and the Internal Market. We therefore deem necessary to broaden the perspective of the Territorial Cohesion beyond the pure cooperation between regional bodies towards a wider macro-regional programme, encompassing the whole of the Western Mediterranean Area. The Establishment of this West-med cooperation will undoubtedly contribute to better integrate the peripheral insular regions and nodes and will support the creation of a euro-Mediterranean community of citizens, businesses and operators through a single and connected transport network. In this perspective, an even greater focus on port, maritime and blue economy, is a powerful tool to enhance and improve the consistency of EU policy in the field of transport, cohesion and EU external dimension.

We are therefore looking forward to cooperation with you for the improvement of the transport and sea trade dimension of the European Cohesion policy.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

IL PRESIDENTE
Ing. Stefano Corsini