

TO BE HELD FROM MAY 31st TO JUNE 1st

The 18th MedaLogistics focuses on repositioning the Mediterranean as a global logistics platform

- The Logistics and Transport Week in the Mediterranean is organized by the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME) and the Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona (CZFB), with the collaboration of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, within the framework of the 22nd edition of the International Logistics Exhibition (SIL) in Barcelona.
- This Mediterranean and international meeting will host the 18th Mediterranean Logistics and Transport Forum, the 14th Ports and Shipping Summit, the 1st Africa Logistics Meeting and the 1st Mediterranean and Africa Special Economic Zones Summit.

Barcelona, March 17th, 2022 – The 18th edition of the **Logistics and Transport Week in the Mediterranean** (MedaLogistics Week), a meeting by the **Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME)** together with the **Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona (CZFB)**, and with the collaboration of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, will take place from May 31 to June 1, 2022 within the framework of the **International Logistics Exhibition (SIL)** in Barcelona, the main meeting of the logistics sector in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, which is also organized by the CZFB.

The importance of logistics and transportation in geopolitics and crisis

The 18th edition of MedaLogistics Week comes at a key moment: COVID-19, the blockade of the Suez Canal in March 2021 or the current war in Ukraine show how essential the logistics sector is and the fundamental role that the Mediterranean can play as a major platform for world trade. Thus, this year the summit will promote the alliance between Africa, Europe and Asia and offer alternatives to those companies that want to rethink their value chain from the proximity, enhancing the regions as a commitment to energy, commercial and industrial security.

To this end, the meeting will bring together companies, governments and international experts from the main sectors of the industry, such as logistics, transportation, ports, free trade zones and infrastructure, among others.

Pere Navarro, special delegate of the State in the CZFB, has expressed that ***“we want SIL 2022 to continue to be characterized by its internationality through events such as MedaLogistics Week, which allows us to strengthen our role as a business bridge between Europe, Latin America, Africa and the Mediterranean countries.”***

On the other hand, **Anwar Zibaoui**, general coordinator of ASCAME, points out that ***“it is time to act to reposition the Mediterranean as the great logistics platform for east-west flows and as the best option to channel cargo between Asia, Africa and Europe. Logistics has never been as important as today”***.

A commitment to a Mediterranean partnership with Europe and Africa

The new edition of MedaLogistics Week comes with the novelty of addressing the post-pandemic situation, enhancing the importance of the Mediterranean region in the global economy as a whole and addressing the sustainability needs of the logistics and transport sector in the Mediterranean in accordance with the United Nations SDGs. In addition, the partnership of Africa, Europe and Asia will be fostered, with the Mediterranean at the center as a major hub for innovation, logistics and transport.

On the first day, the meeting will once again reinforce its commitment by holding the 18th Mediterranean Logistics and Transport Forum and the 14th Ports and Maritime Transport Summit.

The 18th Mediterranean Logistics and Transport Forum will discuss the transformation of the Mediterranean value chain across its constituent regions and the role of the collaborative economy in the Mediterranean logistics sector. It will raise the challenges and key trends that are putting increasing pressure on retailers and manufacturers, both in their supply chains and in the underlying economics of delivering goods to the consumer.

On the other side, the 14th Ports and Shipping Summit will reflect on the role of Mediterranean ports in a changing world, investment strategies with an impact on port platforms and measures that can be taken by port authorities across the Mediterranean to prevent a catastrophe like the one that occurred in the port of Beirut in August 2020.

The second day of MedaLogistics Week will highlight the role of the Mediterranean as a meeting point between three major continents: Africa, Europe and Asia. It will do so through the 1st Africa Logistics Meeting and the 1st Summit of Special Economic Zones of the Mediterranean and Africa.

The 1st Africa Logistics Meeting will put special focus on the role of logistics in African economic integration and will outline key measures to make the most of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. In addition, it will address the situation of the African investment market in seaports, exposing the challenges and business opportunities in the sector.

Also, the 1st Mediterranean-Africa Special Economic Zones Summit will raise the potential benefits of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for Africa and the Mediterranean region. It will also discuss how SEZs are best placed to adapt and integrate innovation 4.0, thereby facilitating ports to better meet their objectives of delivering world-class service, facilities and efficiency.

About the Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona

The Consorci is a public company that is financed entirely by its own funds, such as the industrial leases of the Barcelona Free Trade Zone Industrial Park and its asset management. Although its main field of activity is the industrial estate and its customs free zone, it also promotes buildings, urban and industrial land, acts as a driving force for business transformation towards the 4.0 economy and organizes events of economic interest for Barcelona such as the SIL logistics show or the BMP real estate show, as well as major events of reference with an innovative format such as the Barcelona New Economy Week (BNEW) or the Barcelona Woman Acceleration Week (BWA).

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Its plenary has representatives of the Spanish government, the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Barcelona City Council, and the main economic entities of the city.

About the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry

[ASCAME](#) is an international non-profit organization that represents the private sector in the Mediterranean and brings together Chambers of Commerce and Industry and similar entities from 23 countries on both shores of the region. ASCAME brings together more than 300 Chambers of Commerce and Industry and defends the interests of millions of companies. Its activities include communication, the development of international cooperation projects and the organization of major events such as MedaLogistics Week and MedaWeek Barcelona.

ASCAME is today considered the most important representative of the Mediterranean private sector.