

## Chairman of Puertos del Estado interested in strategic projects at Port of A Coruña

- **Álvaro Rodríguez Dapena and Martín Fernández Prado met with the board of directors and management team of the Port Authority, as well as representatives of trade unions and of the local port community**
- **The Langosteira railway connection, the Green Port project, the development of port areas and the Port Authority's debt were at the centre of the discussions**
- **They visited the Bateria and Calvo Sotelo docks and were joined at the Outer Port by the government delegate in Galicia**

10/03/2022 — The chairman of Puertos del Estado, Álvaro Rodríguez Dapena, has today visited the Port of A Coruña to learn first-hand about the state of the harbour and the strategic projects being developed by the Port Authority.

Mr Rodríguez Dapena – accompanied by the chairman of the Port Authority, Martín Fernández Prado – met with the board of directors and with the management committee, as well as with representatives of the trade unions and of the local port community. They also visited the Bateria and Calvo Sotelo docks and the Outer Port at Punta Langosteira.

During these meetings, Martín Fernández Prado thanked Álvaro Rodríguez Dapena for his interest in Port of A Coruña, acknowledging the work and support shown during his tenure as director of planning and development at Puertos del Estado. The chairman of the Port Authority congratulated Mr Rodríguez Dapena on his recent appointment and explained the key issues at the heart of the Port Authority's activity. Some of the topics addressed included the recent tender for the Outer Port railway connection, the 'A Coruña Green Port' project, and the ongoing development of the inner harbour areas.



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With regard to the railway connection, Mr Fernández Prado emphasised the project's importance to the future of the Port. The infrastructure developed by the Port Authority will be financed in its entirety by Next Generation EU funds, in a total of 171 million euros. The project is a long-standing demand of the Galician institutions and of the local port community and citizens of A Coruña. The railway connection will increase the operability and competitiveness of the Punta Langosteira facilities, in addition to enabling the full transfer of bulk freight from the inner harbour to the Outer Port.

It was during his visit to the Bateria and Calvo Sotelo docks that Álvaro Rodríguez Dapena was able to appreciate the location and size of those areas located in the centre of A Coruña, which have already started to open up to the public. Examples of this are the currently open Peter Lindbergh photography exhibition, promoted by Marta Ortega after the conversion of two of the port's facilities.

The chairmen of Puertos del Estado and of the Port Authority agreed on the importance of implementing the agreements signed by both institutions, alongside Xunta de Galicia and the City Council of A Coruña, regarding the development of the two docks while ensuring they remain under public ownership. These agreements are also intended to reduce the Port Authority's debt to the state-owned enterprise, as well as to facilitate the renegotiation of the terms of the loan that financed the Outer Port.

Later, during their visit to Punta Langosteira – in which they were joined by the government delegate in Galicia, José Miñones – Martín Fernández Prado talked about the progress made in the management of the dock. In addition to the facilities that have been opened by concessionary companies, with private and/or contracted investments of more than 250 million euros, the Port Authority is firmly committed to the 'A Coruña Green Port' project. The main goal is to harness Langosteira's full potential in the area of new energy solutions.

The Green Port project seeks to position the Outer Port as a driving force for industry associated with the energy transition, especially in the off-shore export sector. Its draughts and surface area make it a suitable site

# Press release

for this type of industrial development, a fact which is confirmed by the interest expressed by major multinational companies in setting up in the seaport.

Some projects are already known, like Inditex's plan to create a wind farm and Enerfin's hydrogen supply project. These – and others to come – will also contribute to the energy transition of the port companies and neighbouring industries, as well as making Port of A Coruña the first carbon neutral seaport in Spain by 2023.

Álvaro Rodríguez Dapena indicated that Puertos del Estado will continue to support the projects that Port of A Coruña needs and aims for to become an economic, social and environmental leader. Mr Rodríguez Dapena further reiterated the solidarity and support of the entire port system in the difficult moments we are experiencing due to the war in Ukraine.