

The president of Puertos del Estado visits the Port of Vigo to learn about its sustainable blue economy projects

- M Rodríguez Dapena was welcomed by the head of the roadstead of Vigo, M Jesús Vázquez Almuiña, and his management team, and held various meetings with representatives of the port community.
- The president of the Port of Vigo outlined the main actions included in the EUR 149M Investment Plan for the next five years.
- Rail connectivity, shortage of space, commitment to innovation, renewable energies and port-city interaction projects were some of the topics presented.
- The president of Puertos del Estado reiterated the firm commitment and support of the organization he presides to ensure that the entire port system of general interest obtains the necessary connections with the general transport network and with the logistic areas serving them.

30-03-2022 The president of Puertos del Estado, M Álvaro Rodríguez Dapena, visited the Port of Vigo today and was welcomed by the head of the roadstead of Vigo, M Jesús Vázquez Almuiña and his management team.

After signing the Book of Honour, M Rodríguez Dapena held various meetings with representatives of the port community to assess the current situation of the Port of Vigo and visited part of its facilities.

M Vázquez Almuiña took the opportunity to congratulate his counterpart in Puertos del Estados on his appointment as head of the state body and to inform him about the Investment Plan of the Port of Vigo, which includes various actions for the next five years for a total budget of EUR149 M.

Press release

The President of the Port of Vigo also emphasized the importance of a commitment to rail connectivity and brought to the attention of the head of Puertos del Estado the need to connect the Ro-ro terminal of Bouzas by rail and to create a railway siding in the Logistics and Industrial Platform of Salvaterra-as Neves (PLISAN).

The president of Puertos del Estado reiterated the firm commitment and support of the organization he presides to ensure that the entire port system of general interest obtains the necessary connections with the general transport network and with the logistic areas serving them.

M Vázquez Almuiña highlighted the shortage of port space and, as possible solutions to alleviate it, insisted on the possibility of recovering part of the land transferred to ADIF in the Arenal area, the reorganization of the Container Terminal and the acquisition of the private part currently occupied by San Enrique Astilleros.

– ONGOING PROJECTS

With regard to the Port Authority of Vigo's commitment to innovation, Almuiña outlined several ongoing projects such as "Living Ports", financed by the European Commission and a finalist in the so-called "Environment Academy Awards", the port's bid to reduce the carbon footprint.

He further recalled that the Port of Vigo wants the Lonja to become a reference at European level and explained that they are working on the "Lonja 4.0–self-sufficient" project, whose works will be completed this year.

M Rodríguez Dapena stressed the importance of innovation in the future of ports, adding that "all port authorities' business plans already include an innovation strategy, which should comprise multidisciplinary innovation committees. Our goal by the end of this decade is for all ports to have innovative projects in place, with a real and measurable impact, promoted jointly with the Port Community."

– PROJECTS PENDING "NEXT GENERATION" FUNDING

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AVDA. PARTENÓN, 10
CAMPO DE LAS NACIONES
28042 MADRID
TEL: +34 91 524.55.17
FAX: +34 91 524.55.04

Press release

In the area of renewable energies, he mentioned several projects which are pending Next Generation funds, such as “Green Bay Vigo” and “Jules Verne”, two initiatives focusing on electrification and the use of hydrogen in port mobility, as well as projects advocating for the use of Liquefied Natural Gas as an alternative fuel.

– PORT-CITY PROJECTS

Lastly, he highlighted the Port-City interaction projects that he is working on, for an approximate EUR14 M investment. Regarding the actions foreseen in the context of this opening of the port to the city, he referred to the humanization and improvement of mobility in the port front, where a cycle-pedestrian path of more than 7 km linking the entire coastline will be created thanks to the collaboration of the Xunta de Galicia.

– BLUE GROWTH VIGO

All these actions fall within the Blue Growth Plan of the Port of Vigo, a pioneer in the European Union in the comprehensive implementation of this sustainable growth strategy, five years ago, focusing on three clear objectives: Green Deal compliance and zero emissions, full digitization of all processes and humanization of the Port.

Since its launch in 2016, 51 projects have been created, 33 of which are currently under implementation. They all are of great importance and some have received international awards such as the “Peiraos do Solpor” project, recognized by the International Association of Ports (IAPH), and finalist in the 2021 ESPO Awards, or the MarENet project for the creation of a European Training Center for Blue Growth, awarded also by the European Commission.

As M Vázquez Almuiña recalled, the continuity of this strategy for the period 2021-2027 was announced a few months ago, with the objective of building an Inclusive, Connected and Innovative Green Port. In this context, a number of new projects have been submitted, totalling EUR181 M from public-private partnerships.

Press release

Within this commitment to the sustainable economy, the president of the Port of Vigo mentioned OUR OCEAN, where the institution from Vigo will announce its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13 - Combating Climate Change and 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources until 2026, through the regeneration of 160,000 m² of the seabed, the recovery of biodiversity throughout the port area and the collection of 250 tons of marine waste.