

June, 23rd 2020

PRESS RELEASE

On June 23rd, the MEDports Association held its first General Assembly of the year 2020. Due to the current sanitary crisis, the meeting was held online. However, top managers from the Port Authorities Members were present, as evidence of the involvement of each member in the Association's life.

On this 5th edition, the General Assembly unanimously approved the admission of the Port Authority of Igoumenitsa, represented by Mrs. Anna Pyroti. This is the 5th membership since 2018, after the Port Authority of Taranto, the Arab Academy, Malta Marittima and the Mediterranean Institute for Training in Seafaring Professions (IMFMM). The new member is the first Greek Port to join the organization and we are working to ensure that others follow!

The MEDports Association is composed from 24 Port Authorities and 3 Associated Members. The organization's latest recruit, Sarah Samadisy, has been welcomed as Technical Coordinator of the General Secretariat.

During the meeting, the Committees presented their internal work and their roadmaps for the 2nd half of 2020. In particular, the General Assembly approved the organization and holding of a future first MEDports Innovation Challenge. Its objective is to promote the meeting between supply and demand for Training in the Mediterranean port and maritime sector. Planned events such as the SECA seminar in Algeciras has been postponed and others will have an online version, such as the MEDports Forum 2020 and the Ro-Ro webinar. The seminar will be organized by a group of "Youth Members of the Mediterranean", young port recruits who will have their own long-term network and missions within the MEDports Association.

Moreover, a presentation was made by Magali Geerts and Michael Doms from the Vrije Universiteit Brussels. The study on Port Sustainability reports was notably supported by the Sustainability Committee of the MEDports Association. In addition, MEDports is a partner in a number of recently approved European projects, such as the YEP-MED project supported by Escola Europea and the Loop Project, led by the Valenciaport Foundation. These two institutions work together within the organization.

Finally, this General Assembly has perfectly celebrated the 2nd anniversary of the Association, considering the attendance and the quality of the exchanges, discussions and debates.

Regarding the challenging times and the immobility imposed by the international pandemic, the MEDports Association network has been very dynamic and has been able to outline its presence felt on the international scene.

The General Secretary