

MEDCRUISE NEWS

BRINGING THE MED TOGETHER

MedCruise gathers in Alanya, Turkey for 43rd General Assembly



The 43rd MedCruise General Assembly was held in Alanya, Turkey, 13–16th November. Hosted by Port of Alanya, one of the more than 100 ports that are members of MedCruise, the event offered member ports, and associate members (tour operators, boards of tourism etc) opportunities to discuss the latest developments in the Med, with cruise lines executives, from Azamara, Disney, Holland America, Princess, Royal Caribbean, TUI and Windstar.

MedCruise members gathered in discussions on the best way to advance collectively the prospects of their ports through the work of the Association.

MedCruise presented the findings of a study of financing options and models for cruise ports and terminals. Just completed, the research highlights the different models included public and private financing alternatives, as well as various levels of joint ventures with cruise lines. So far, the trend in the Mediterranean has been for privatization of cruise terminals. Today, 41% are publicly owned, 31% are private and 27% have private-public ownership.

In a session 'Cruising the East Med', chaired by Stavros Hatzakos, MedCruise president, and with the participation of Haluk Sayman, Alanya Cruise Port (pictured below), Claudius

Docekak, Azamara Club Cruises, Erkunt Oner, Tura Turizm, Rob Roberts, Princess Cruises, Justin Poulsen, Holland America Line, and Thomas Rucht, TUI Cruises, the focus was on challenges and opportunities of cruising in the eastern stretches of the Med.

The wider Med was the subject of a session chaired by David Selby, Travelyields Consulting Ltd, with the participation of Russell Daya, Disney Cruises, Sander Groothuis, Windstar Cruises, Mark Robinson, Intercruises, and Miguel Reyna, Royal Caribbean Cruises.

MedCruise members also had the chance to discuss developments in the region face to face with cruise line executives and media, in B2B meetings on the final afternoon.

The 44th MedCruise General Assembly will be held in Castellon, Spain on 21st–25th May 2014.

MedCruise also made public the CLIA-Europe joint statement sent to the European Commission, on Coastal and Maritime Tourism for Blue Growth, aiming to promote cruise activities in Europe and beyond. The statement focused on the need to generate permanent platforms on cruise tourism, better procedures for promotion of cruise tourism and development of new destinations and destination management.



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MedCruise 43rd GA in Alanya, Turkey



View of Alanya's cruise berth and Red Tower



Board of Directors L-R: (front row) Maria Cano (Palamos), Alexandra Mendonca (Madeira), Kristijan Pavic (Dubrovnik), Livio Ungaro (Trieste), (back row) Giampiero Costagli (Portoferraio), Thanos Pallis (MedCruise secretary general), Stavros Hatzakos (MedCruise president), Lotfi El Ajmi (Tunisian Ports), Fabrizio Bugliani (La Spezia), Bojan Babic (MedCruise vp and Koper)



Sevastopol's Yanina Selina and Alanya's Haluk Sayman



L-R: Erkunt Oner (Tura Turizm), Stavros Hatzakos and Haluk Sayman



Gala Dinner with Turkish dance troupe



Windstar Cruises' Sander Groothuis and Azamara's Claudius Docekal on Alanya tour



MedCruise president Stavros Hatzakos welcomes delegates

MedCruise in Asia...

A MedCruise delegation led by president Stavros Hatzakos exhibited for the first time at Cruise Shipping Asia-Pacific event held in Singapore in October. The delegates also visited Marina Bay Cruise Centre cruise terminal for a private tour. MedCruise sponsored the travel agent training programme and, as part of its marketing strategy to reach the Chinese travel agent community, launched a Chinese language newsletter promoting the

Mediterranean as a cruise destination.

Hatzakos said, 'Our presence in Singapore is part of a strategic decision by MedCruise to explore what is happening in the Asian cruise market and to better understand



the similarities and differences that exist in Asian culture and the expectations of Asian passengers. We hope that when Asians take their second cruise or subsequent cruises in the future, they choose the Mediterranean.'

Pictures left: Carla Salvado and Hatzakos launch the first Chinese-language edition of MedCruise News; Above: Some of the CSA-P delegates: Anne Sophie Peyran (French Riviera), Ioannis Bras (Heraklion), Stavros Hatzakos (MedCruise president), Thanos Pallis (MedCruise secretary general), Caroline Valadie (French Riviera Ports) and TUI Cruises' Tine Oelmann.

...and Europe

In September, MedCruise also exhibited at Seatrade Europe in Hamburg. Pictured bottom right L-R: Anne-Marie Blum (Toulon-var-Provence), Stavros Hatzakos (Piraeus), Delphine Beudin (Toulon-var-Provence), Livio Ungaro (Trieste) and Giovanni Spadoni (Livorno).



Professional Development Course at IMO HQ in London

More than 30 MedCruise members headed to the IMO Headquarters in London in order to attend the 3rd edition of the MedCruise Professional Development Course. Covering 'Contemporary Issues in the Cruise Industry', the 3-day course was delivered by the World Maritime University from 21st-23rd October, 2013.

The sessions of the first two days of the course were delivered by the vice president of the World Maritime University, Professor Shuo Ma and Associate Academic Dean, Associate Professor Patrick Donner, respectively.

The sessions of the last day consisted of presentations delivered by senior IMO staff and focused mainly on safety and security issues.

The periodical organisation of the Professional Development Course is among the



many benefits that MedCruise regular and associate members enjoy.

Adriatic and Ionian - the focus of 2nd Corfu Cruise Conference

The 2nd Corfu Cruise Conference, 'Adriatic and Ionian: A Unique Cruise Destination' was held on 11th-12th October in Corfu, organised by the Corfu Port Authority, under the auspices of MedCruise.

The aim of the conference was to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between regional cruise ports for a common strategic promotion in the cruise market.

The conference started with interventions by the Mayor of Corfu, the Vice Governor - Region of Ionian Islands and the Rector of Ionian University.

In his welcome speech, Sotiris Vlachos,

President & CEO of Corfu Port Authority, focused on the need for a wider cooperation between ports of the region.

Stavros Hatzakos, President of MedCruise and General Director of Piraeus Port Authority, analyzed the dynamic of the Mediterranean and especially the Adriatic-Ionian Region during the last decade.

Among other presentations, Chrissie Palassiss, Development Consultant of Cruise Destinations and Nadine Palatz, Manager of the Atlantic Alliance and Marketing Manager of Hamburg Cruise Center who shared the experiences of the Atlantic Alliance.



L-R: Sotiris Vlachos, Stavros Hatzakos and Nadine Palatz

Venice view

Following the Italian government's announcement to restrict cruise ships sailing through Venice's city centre starting from next year, and discussion on alternative routes to and from the Maritime Station, MedCruise called for the need for decisions that would allow the port of Venice

and consequently the whole Adriatic, to retain its capacity and thus serve cruise activities for the benefits of the local economies. MedCruise expresses its full support to those solutions that will continue to utilize a strategic location such as the Maritime Station in the best way possible for Venice city and the greater region.

MedCruise also supported the **International Cruise Summit in Madrid 24th-25th, 2013** and the **Italian Cruise Day**, the annual event of reference for the cruise industry in Italy which took place in Livorno, October 25th-26th.

MedCruise will be participating at the following events worldwide in 2014

Cruise Shipping Miami 10-13 March, 2014, Miami



Cruise Shipping Miami attracts a broad range of industry players, with more than 1,800 cruise line owners and operators from 66 companies in attendance in 2013.

44th MedCruise General Assembly 21-25 May, 2014, Castellon



MedCruise to hold their next General Assembly in Castellon, situated on Spain's Costa del Azahar.

Seatrade Med Cruise Convention 16-18 September, 2014, Barcelona



MedCruise is a sponsor of Seatrade Med, the Mediterranean's largest gathering of cruise lines, ports and destinations and cruise community.

4th International Conference Black Sea Cruise 2014, 25-27 September, 2014, Yalta, Ukraine



The event organised by The Odessa Seaport Authority and State Enterprise Ukrainian Seaports Authority focusing on the challenges and opportunities for Black Sea cruising.



Barcelona

Barcelona Port welcomed 2,408,634 passengers and 774 cruise calls in 2013. It is expected that 2.5-2.6 million passengers will visit the port in 2014. Royal Caribbean Cruise Line has announced that Oasis of the Seas will undertake a series of five turnaround operations in Barcelona in 2014.

Carnival Group has announced the enlargement of the current terminal Palacruceros and the construction of a brand new terminal. Carnival Corp is investing more than €20m in a new 10,000sq mtr Terminal E on Adossat Pier. Subject to approvals it will be ready in 2016 or at the latest 2017. Carnival will also construct a 1,300sq mtr extension of Palacruceros (Terminal D). The Port of Barcelona will invest €3.5m to improve the surrounding area.

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Sochi

A high profile expansion at Russia's Sochi Port in anticipation of increased ship visits during the Winter Olympics 2014 and beyond, sees a new 730mtr long cruise quay capable of handling two 300mtr ships plus a 165mtr ro/ro-ferry berth coming on stream in December. Norwegian Jade, Grand Holiday, Louis Olympia and Thomson Spirit plus three ferries will be used as floating hotels during the Games taking place in Sochi, February 5th-25th, 2014. Together they will offer floating accommodation for up to 7,000

volunteers and spectators.

Sochi is expecting 54 cruise calls this year rising to 80 in 2014. Most popular shore excursions are Stalin's Dacha, Krasnaya Polyana (Winter Olympic's ski resort in the mountains above the city), Dagomys tea plantation (the northern-most tea plantation in the world), Botanical Garden, mineral springs at Matsesta and of course in the city itself, the Olympic Park.

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Palamós

The port of Palamós finished the season with 38 calls and 30,000 passengers. The port of Roses, the new port of Costa Brava Cruise Ports, received five calls and 900 passengers. Palamós has 38 calls and 40,000 passengers booked for 2014 and Roses has 19 calls and 5,500 passengers, which will be a record season with a 45% increase in passengers compared to 2013. There will be four new callers at Palamós and eight at Roses.

The most popular shore excursion from Palamos is a trip to Figueres to visit the Dalí

Museum combined with the Jewish Quarter in Girona. After spending the morning in the Dalí Theatre-Museum, which houses much of his work as well as the jewellery collection he designed, passengers continue the journey by visiting the Jewish Quarter in Girona that is among the best preserved in Europe. Some then complete their tour by having lunch at three michelin starred el Cellar de Can Roca.

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Odessa

The Port of Odessa received 148 vessels in 2013 and 91,949 passengers. So far, 129 cruise calls are booked for next year, 9 of those ships will be first time callers; MSC Orchestra, Seabourn Pride, Isabella I, Lisboa, Saga Pearl II, Thomson Celebration, Ocean Princess, Ocean Dream and Azores.

The biggest challenge facing the port is the need for Black Sea ports to consolidate their efforts in order to develop the infrastructure of the major cruise ports of the Black Sea and therefore encourage more ships to call to the region.

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Azores



The biggest challenge facing the Azores ports is how to bring ships in the summer, the traditional low cruise season. Cruise calls for 2013 so far total 75 bringing 67,822 passengers. Numbers booked for 2014 are already up, 102 calls bringing 99,000 passengers. Of those calling there will be five maiden callers, Le Boréal, Royal Princess, Fram, Thomson Dream and AIDAvida.

The most popular shore excursions are Furnas Valley and Fire Lake on São Miguel Island. Furnas Valley is one of the richest hydrological areas in Europe and has 22

thermal springs. Fire Lake is about 2km long and 1km wide and fills the ground of an extinct crater.

The majority of ships call at the Azores in the winter months with June, July and August being the low season. Nevertheless, theme cruises in the spring and autumn are increasing in numbers and represent 40% of the cruise calls to the islands. As well as Atlantic Islands cruises which also represent a new direction to the market.

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Lisbon

Creuers del Port de Barcelona; Turkey's Global Ports Holding together with Portugal's industrial conglomerate Mota-Engil; and a consortium of SETH, Somague, Grupo Sousa, Pioneiros do Rio and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd have been shortlisted to win the concession to manage Lisbon's cruise activities.

A public tender was issued earlier this year covering the construction of a new €22m terminal building designed by Portuguese architect Carrilho da Graca. The successful bidder will be granted a concession to manage and operate the terminal for a minimum of 20 years up to a maximum of 35 years.

In addition, the winner will also be given

the management of Lisbon's existing terminal buildings in the C. Santa Apolonia area where a new pier costing €54m and offering berthing of 767mtr was completed in 2011.

The winning bidder is likely to be chosen by the end of the year.

Lisbon is expecting 360 ships this year, an increase of 15% on 2012 and around 565,000 passengers, representing an 8% growth year on year.

Port of Lisbon Authority aims to double the number of cruise passengers in the next ten years. The construction of the new Cruise Terminal is expected to be completed in 2015.

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Huelva

In 2013 Huelva received one cruise ship, Saga's Quest for Adventure, carrying 450 passengers. So far there are no calls booked for 2014. As a new cruise port the biggest challenge for Huelva is to overcome the marketing stage and proceed to receiving actual cruise calls.

Among the attractions to visit in this province are the Columbus sites. These sites include the city of Huelva itself, Moguer, Palos de la Frontera, and the Rábida Monastery. La Rábida is where Columbus sought the aid of the Franciscan brothers in advancing his project of discovery. They introduced him to local rich sailors (the Pinzón brothers), and, eventually, arranged a meeting in Seville with Ferdinand and Isabella.

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Madeira

Numbers of cruise calls are rising in Madeira Ports, there are 314 booked for 2014, seven of them being maiden calls. This compares to 157 up to August 2013 (154 for Port of Funchal and three for Port of Porto Santo).

New investments are planned, €17.8m over the next two years for a new quay in Funchal, of 330mtr length. It is due to be operational in the high season of 2015/16.

The biggest challenge that faces the Madeira Port Authority is how to maintain the characteristics of the Islands, preserving their quality.

The most popular shore excursions are for a full day, Porto Moniz and for a half day, Câmara de Lobos.

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Koper

Construction is due to start in late 2014 for a small terminal for homeporting and transit calls. The terminal will have a capacity for 1,800 homeport passengers and is due to cost €2m. Cruise calls for 2013 stand at 55 and approximately 65,000 passengers. All calls were transit calls. 60 calls have been booked so far for 2014, Costa Diadema and Emerald Princess will be making maiden visits. Costa Diadema will be on her inaugural cruise.

The most popular excursion is the capital city Ljubljana. Given its small size it is pleasant to stroll through Ljubljana's Baroque centre or cycle across the city, through the Tivoli Park and along the Ljubljanica River. Ljubljana is located only an hour away and is directly linked by motorway.

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Zadar

By the end of 2013, Port of Zadar will have around 70 cruise calls with around 35,000-40,000 passengers, which is almost 100% increase on last year. Further growth is expected in 2014 with 60 calls already booked including first time callers like Thomson Majesty and Celebrity Equinox.

With the present capacities, the biggest challenges facing Zadar is congestion problems mainly during July and August, however, the relocation of the domestic ferry terminal from the old city port to a new location at Gaženica port will definitely improve the traffic problems and free the city centre from congestion. The city centre will once again become a pedestrian friendly zone.

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Constantza



Cruise call numbers as well as passenger numbers are increasing in Constantza Port. This can be attributed to the rise in the Black Sea as a cruise market. Figures show that in 2012, 52 ships called bringing 34,010 passengers. For 2013, a total of 69 ships and 54,600 passengers will visit by year-end. Numbers for 2014 look promising, 71 calls are booked to date.

An important occasion occurred in Constantza on September 27th, MSC Cruises visited with MSC Musica. It was the first of three visits for the ship, and the first time Constantza has played host to a partial turnaround call with Romanian passengers joining the cruise. After a year of preparation and marketing campaigns, it paid off.

Considering the importance of the event, the Romanian Prime Minister, Victor Ponta, stopped by to visit the passenger terminal to express his admiration to the ship's master and cruise industry. At the ceremony were Decebal Serban, Deputy General Manager Port of Constantza, Mrs Corina Martin, president of local tourism board, Petrica Munteanu, head of external relations at city hall and Teodor Patrichi, administrator Passenger Terminal. As this collaboration between MSC and the Port of Constantza was successful, MSC booked another eight partial turnaround calls in 2014 with MSC Sinfonia and MSC Orchestra.

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Split

Calls are on the rise in the city of Split. Numbers for 2013 stand at 225 calls with 268 booked for 2014. Of these, Costa Magica, Le Soleal, Star Pride, Horizon, MSC Orchestra, Ryndam, Braemar, Lisboa, Marina, Costa Voyager and Azores are new callers.

Infrastructure expansion is ongoing with the recent reconstruction of the inner side of the main breakwater, creating three berths of 140mtr each. Renovation of the outer wharves is also planned providing berthing for vessels

up to 320mtr at one berth, and 265mtr at the outer berth with the minimum depth at the shoreline of 10.5mtr.

The City Tour of Split is the most popular shore excursion, a visit to this pedestrianized ancient UNESCO World Heritage Site enclosed by the heavy stone structure of the 1,700 year old Diocletian's Palace is a must.

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Toulon Var Provence

15 cruise ships will call in to Toulon/La Seyne and 270,000 passengers in 2013, and 300 calls and about 400,000 passengers to the whole Var Provence network (Bandol, Sanary sur mer, Toulon/La Seyne, Porquerolles, Le Lavandou, St Tropez and St Raphaël/Fréjus). 110 calls are booked in Toulon/La Seyne in 2014. Cunard will call for the first time in Toulon/La Seyne.

A new cruise building at La Seyne should be completed by the end of 2014 and a new dedicated pier is at the study stage for downtown Toulon, to be delivered in 2016/2017.

The most popular shore excursion is St Tropez, located just over one hour away from Toulon. Highlights are Place Garzezzio, the Portalet Tower, la Ponche, the Jarlier tower, Rue Gambetta and Place des Lices.

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Marseille

By year-end Marseille is anticipating reaching 1.15m passengers (an almost 30% growth from 2012) and bringing the French port closer to a top five ranking Mediterranean cruise port.

2013 saw Marseille gain new turnaround business with 311 cruises departing from nine brands using it as a base port: Costa, MSC, Royal Caribbean International, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Croisières de France, Compagnie du Ponant, TAAJ Croisières, Star Clippers and Oceania Cruises.

It also welcomed 19 maiden calls. All told, 450 calls were made by 76 different ships from 38 companies. 410 docked at the MPCT

(Marseille Provence Cruise Terminal) and 45 at the reopened J4 berth in the town centre, dedicated for ships under 200mtr long.

2014 forecasts anticipate some 538 calls to be made by 57 ships from 24 companies and over 1.35m passengers. Next year will also see Zenith, Croisières de France's second ship enter the French market and offer longer cruises from Marseille.

Portuscale Cruises will start cruising from Marseille with Lisboa next February. In autumn, Costa Diadema will call in Marseille for the first time.

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Sete



Sete port received 29 calls and an estimated 10,500 passengers in 2013. 25 calls have been booked for 2014 so far, including a maiden call from Star Flyer.

Aside from Sete itself, the Languedoc-Roussillon region offers a wide range of tours including four UNESCO Heritage sites. Tours lasting from four to nine hours include trips to Pezenas and Valmagne Abbey (4hrs 30), Sete and the Thau Lagoon (4hrs), the Canal du Midi (4hrs), Montpellier and Chateau de

Flaugergues (5hrs), Exploring Roman Nîmes (5hrs) and Carcassonne (9hrs).

The port of Sete is investing in a new passenger terminal with two dedicated berths for ships up to 220mtr in length. A project for a new dedicated berth for cruise ships on berthing dolphins, of up to 300mtr in length, is currently under study.

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French Riviera

French Riviera Ports welcomed for 2013 so far 418 calls with 609,900 passengers. Booked so far for 2014 are 381 calls and 605,500 passengers. Many regular faithful cruise lines will be present next season with some new first time callers like the new Portuscale Cruises and the new ships from Windstar like Star Pride.

The French Riviera Cruise Club has launched a smartphone application and recently an iPad application to offer cruise passengers pedestrian tours. The smartphone app can be downloaded before leaving the country of origin or at arrival in a dedicated Wi-Fi zone. The most popular shore excursions are Monaco, St Paul de Vence and Nice.

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Antibes, a port on the French Riviera



Messina

The most popular shore excursions from Messina are Taormina and Mount Etna. Taormina stands 200mtr above sea level and looks down onto the Ionian Sea.

The Greek-Roman Theatre is a fantastic sight, it stands on the mountain side with views down to the sea and across to Etna.

Mount Etna is Sicily's greatest natural attraction. At approximately 3,350mtr, it is Europe's highest active volcano.

2013 saw 218 calls and 484,534 passengers visiting Messina. 128 calls have been booked for 2014 so far including maiden calls from Costa Classica, Costa neoRomantica, Regal Princess and Seabourn Seajourn. In 2014, the Port Authority will invest €1.5m on the construction of a new cruise terminal.

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Palermo

Cruise calls and passengers are on the rise in Palermo. Figures for 2013 show 191 ships called bringing in 450,000 passengers. For 2014 numbers booked to date are 200 calls and 490,000 passengers. Next focus is to attract calls year round, especially in the winter months.

The current passenger terminal is being renovated at a cost of €28m to offer better facilities and service.

Monreale is a popular place to visit for callers, it is one of the most renowned touristic spots of Sicily because of its artistic heritage, represented by the Cathedral of Santa Maria la Nuova.

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Souda-Chania



For the summer season (April-Nov), 48 cruise ships called at Souda port with 120,000 passengers. Numbers will hopefully be the same for next year.

A new interactive information system for the provision of information to passengers has recently been installed and there are plans in progress for the expansion of Adrias quay and the construction of a new bigger cruise terminal.

The distance between the port of Souda and the town of Chania is 6km, where passengers can see many places of cultural

interest such as museums and historical sites, monasteries and old forts. From Chania it is possible to visit the nearby archeological site of the ancient city Aptera or the traditional villages of Apokoronas or Akrotiri. Passengers can also swim at the famous beaches of Platanias and Agia Marina. Furthermore visitors can taste the famous Cretan cuisine based on local virgin olive oil.

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Cyprus

290,000 passengers on 255 ships are expected to visit Cyprus this year. Around 55 calls were turnarounds at Lemesos port, the rest amounting to about 250,000 passengers were transit calls at Lemesos, Larnaka and Paphos. Bookings for 2014 indicate a 5% rise in traffic.

Cyprus Ports Authority in its efforts to continuously upgrade ports services and infrastructure as well as to meet the European Union's guidelines and market needs has developed an endlessly adapted culture.

Within this context, besides the Lemesos port dredging, the turning cycle's extending and the new passenger terminal - soon to be handled for use, the Authority has scheduled a series of new projects with an emphasis on ports environmental policy, information technology systems and the further satisfaction of cruise lines and cruise passengers.

The new information technology project that is currently being developed, aims at establishing a specialised application for the port community information system (Port Community System), suitable to link all actors

(stakeholders) and services engaged in the supply chain on a single submission point.

Further, the Authority together with all other engaged parties of the sector, has worked towards fully complying with European Union's Regulation 1177/2010 for passengers rights when travelling.

Emphasis is also given on the ports environmental policy. As a result Lemesos port has been already PERS certified awarded whilst at the same time needed efforts are being made for certifying the ports with ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.

At the same time the Cyprus Ports Authority is making efforts in the direction of promoting cruise traffic through Paphos port.

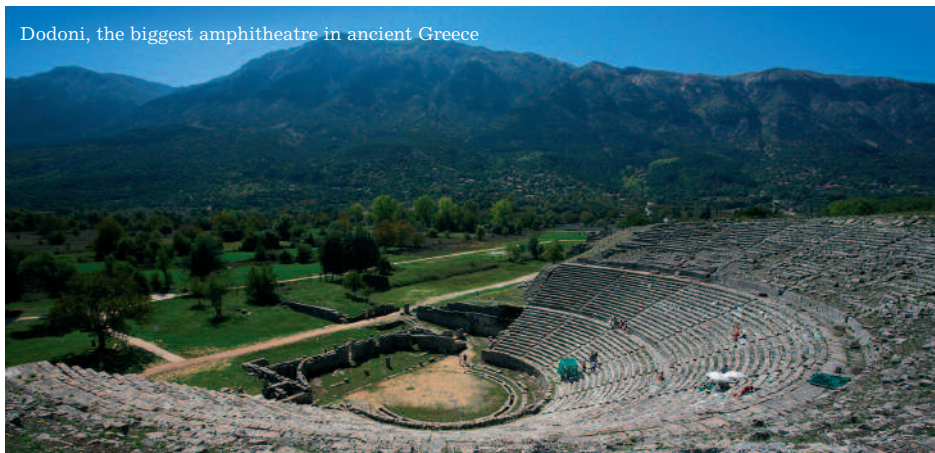
Lastly, whilst considering the effects of the global economic crisis, the Authority has decided to proceed with the adoption of certain economic incentives, aiming to benefit both cruise lines and cruise passengers visiting Cypriot cruise ports.

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Igoumenitsa

Dodoni, the biggest amphitheatre in ancient Greece



Igoumenitsa claims to be Greece's newest cruise port and has spent the last two years working to convey its attributes to the cruise lines.

14 ships called this year up from two in 2012, with Seabourn a major customer in 2013 and has confirmed seven calls for 2014.

A €66m redevelopment programme is underway 70% of which is completed including a second passenger terminal and new piers for cruise ships. A third passenger terminal close to the city centre (five minutes walk) will be ready in March 2014.

Igoumenitsa's biggest draw is the access it provides to an area previously inaccessible from the coast and therefore previously unknown by cruise lines.

The recently completed Egnatia highway that starts at the port and cuts right through the mountain ranges of Epirus has made it possible for passengers to reach this area of astounding beauty that combines virgin alpine landscapes with green plateaus, rivers and valleys.

The charming lake city of Ioannina (67 km away), the traditional market town of Metsovo and the pinnacle village cluster of Zagori offer unique travel experiences that combine history with culture and natural beauty. Also, close to Ioannina, is the fascinating archaeological site of Dodoni, the biggest amphitheatre in ancient Greece.

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Cartagena

In 2013 Cartagena Port expects to receive 118 calls and more than 125,000 passengers. For 2014, it expects between 100 and 120 calls, with first time callers: Costa Classica, Celebrity Reflection, Serenissima and Insignia among others.

The expansion and development works of the Cruise Terminal carried out last year have provided a berth 560mtr long, 12mtr deep and an area of 4,500sq mtr. The quay allows two cruise vessels to berth at the same time. It features rest and shade areas, Port Police and Civil Guard centres and an information point, as well as an already existing park area for buses and taxis. The new development was a finalist in the architecture awards: ASCER Awards 2012 and VI Porcelanosa Awards 2013.

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Valencia

The City of Arts and Sciences



Cruise traffic at the Port of Valencia has grown 201% in calls and 745% in passengers over the last 10 years. In 2013, the Port Authority of Valencia (PAV) aims to exceed 509,000 passengers and 231 calls.

In July 2013, the first phase of a new cruise facility located on the northern extension of the port became operative. This offers two new berths, of 430mtr and 440mtr respectively. A

third berth is also planned. Together these will enable the port to handle ships of up to 362mtr in length and 14mtr of draft. The project also includes the construction of an esplanade of 4,350sq mtr with a capacity for up to 30 buses and other vehicles. These new facilities represent an investment of €21m.

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Castellon

Castellon port is working hard to attract cruise ships to its centre. On 10th November Crystal Cruises called for the first time, it will be the biggest ship in term of passengers that the port has ever received. The day before, Saga's Quest for Adventure visited for the second time this year. There is one call booked for next year although more are expected.

An interesting shore excursion is entitled Truffles and Castles. Truffle hunting (pictured) is a popular activity in Castellon and this tour gives the passengers the chance to try it for themselves.

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Cagliari



The port authority of Cagliari is working with the trio of Aloschi Bassani, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line and Venezia Terminal Passeggeri as part of the operating consortium at Cagliari Cruise Port. Boosted by Royal Caribbean's pledge to make it a homeport within three years, there are plans to build a 1,100sq mtr cruise terminal at Rinascita Quay at a cost of €60m.

For 2013 there were 149,00 passengers and 101 cruise calls and so far 52 cruises have been booked for 2014. One of the most popular shore excursions for these visitors is the ancient Roman and pre-Roman town of Nora, thought to be the first town founded in Sardinia. The ruins of Nora function as an open-air museum, and the remains of the theatre are used for concerts in the summer.

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Ravenna

Ravenna expects to finish 2013 with 75 calls and nearly 100,000 passengers. For 2014 there are 36 calls booked with another 15 or so anticipated. Of those visiting, Costa Classica, Insignia, Seven Seas Navigator and Aegean Odyssey will call at the port for the first time.

The most popular shore excursion from the Adriatic port is to Florence, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, noted for its history, culture, Renaissance art and architecture and monuments. Venice is the new not-to-be missed destination from Ravenna.

The new cruise terminal project is bound to get the final authorisations and expectations to have the terminal ready by the beginning of 2015. The port will carry out extensive dredging work during 2014 to be able to accommodate the new generation large ships.

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Livorno



Livorno inaugurated its new cruise facility on November 9th 2013. In port visiting the new berth was Plantours & Partner's Hamburg (pictured).

L-R: President of Tuscan region Enrico Rossi, President of Porto Livorno 2000 Roberto Piccini, and the Mayor of Livorno Alessandro Cosimi.

Livorno will welcome around 400 calls and 800,000 passengers next year with AIDamar and Costa neoRiviera newcomers and several calls by the recently delivered Regal Princess.

Cruise ships were give priority berthing this year at berth 46/47 at Alto Fondale quay. The concession, awarded to Porto Livorno

2000, includes a 2,500 sq mtr warehouse, which will be used for partial turnarounds and 10,000sq mtr open area, in addition to the 8,000sq mtr pier. Total investment is around €1m. The terminal provides a welcome area and location for the official tour operator of each ship to undertake last minute bookings. There is a free WiFi area for crew. Buses now park on the other side of the terminal building freeing up the quayside and there is only one entrance into and out of the facility.

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Balearic Islands

Bigger cruise ships are calling at the Balearic Islands ports. This is evident from the statistics as cruise calls are down from 2013 to 2014 but cruise passenger numbers are up. Figures for 2013 are, 701 cruise calls and 1,463,033 passengers and for 2014, 688 calls and 1,526,526 passengers.

Sightseeing around the city of Palma as well as the charming towns of Valldemossa and Deiá, which are situated about half an hour from Palma, are popular excursions in Mallorca. From Ibiza, it is Ibiza city and the

island of Formentera, and from Menorca, it is Ciudadella, one of two primary cities on the island.

A study is to be undertaken at Palma to ascertain how to optimize the use of terminals 1, 2, 3 and 4. Terminal 6 is to be enlarged from 2,385sq mtr up to 10,000sq mtr and one of the berths for the homeport will be extended up to 445mtr. A new passenger terminal is to be built at Ibiza.

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Piraeus



Greek hub port of Piraeus is anticipating exceeding 600 calls next year and with cruise traffic continuing to increase Piraeus Port Authority is expanding its infrastructure to match demand.

A new dock wall of 280mtr and working depth of 11.5mtr and additional land area of 8.4 acres is due for completion in spring of 2014. Combined with these works are the conversion of the Pentagonal warehouse at Miaouli Coast region with a surface area of 3,500sq mtr into a third cruise terminal. Completion is also set for next spring.

A large expansion project costing €120m is also underway. This involves the reclamation of land to build new cruise berthing and international passenger terminal in the

southern area of the port. Completion is expected in winter 2016 and is 95% financed by European Structural Funds.

Piraeus/Athens has a strategy to grow its appeal for Chinese and Japanese cruise passengers based on presenting Greece as an ancient civilization vis-a-vis the ancient civilizations of the east. The Acropolis and surrounding area is by far the most popular shore excursion, which can be reached in 30 minutes from the port using the subway. Nearby are the colourful and picturesque districts such as Plaka, Monastiraki and Thission.

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Corfu

480 ships will visit Corfu Port in 2013 bringing around 740,000 passengers, 85,000 more than last year, a boost of 13%. The increase was despite having exactly the same number of calls as last year but is due to bigger ships calling. For the first time there were three consecutive months with more than 100,000 visitors each month. The port has so far 440 confirmed bookings for 2014 with inaugural calls from Costa Diadema, Disney Magic, Royal Princess, Mein Schiff 3, and

Serenade of the Seas.

A 430mtr extension of the pier is due to be completed by April 2014 providing berthing for 3 megacruise ships, 2 medium and 2 small vessels simultaneously. The cost of the works will be \$18.4m. Plans for a new terminal dedicated to home porting are in the final stages and construction should begin in 2014-15.

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Patras

Patras port received two cruise calls in 2013 bringing 1,264 passengers.

Dredging work has been completed and work is ongoing to replace the fenders to achieve greater security and uniformity for cruise vessels.

The top three excursions from Patras are Olympia, Delphi and Kalavrita. Olympia lies an hour from Patras and is the birthplace of the Olympic Games. The visitor can walk through the impressive ruins of the area where athletes trained and ran in the ancient stadium. They can also visit the museum and get the chance to see sculptures such as the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the famous Hermis of Praxiteles and the statue of Nike of Paionios.

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Tunisian Ports



Norwegian Cruise Line called at La Goulette for the first time in 2013 and Costa returned to the region with 12 stops throughout the year. In 2014, Costa group plans to strengthen its presence in Tunisia with 54 calls expected from ships including Costa Serena, Costa Mediterranea, Grand Holiday and Grand Celebration. In total, they will carry approximately 115,000 passengers.

Lotfi El Ajmi (pictured), newly promoted to director of foreign affairs, Office de la Marine Marchande et des Ports says 'We are providing good infrastructure for visiting ships at La Goulette cruise terminal and tourist village, the challenge now is related to developing and injecting creativity into attracting more cruise tourists'.

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MEDCRUISE NEWS

BRINGING THE MED TOGETHER

Gibraltar

Gibraltar is conveniently located at the entrance to the Mediterranean and is a suitable port of call for both western Mediterranean and Atlantic and Atlantic Island cruises. For 2013 total cruise calls are 181 bringing 290,105 passengers (as of October). Planned calls and passengers for 2014 stand at 182 and 282,172 (as of October). Ponant Cruises will be making its first stop at Gibraltar in April.

The most popular tour is of course The Rock, thanks to the size of the territory; guests can experience Gibraltar in the Rock Tour, and are taken around the entire peninsula, including the major tourist sites of interest.

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Motril-Granada

Motril-Granada received 30 ships in 2013, resulting in 16,500 passengers. Next year 28 calls are booked so far and Japan Grace Lines' Oceanic Grace will be calling for the first time.

Most cruise passengers head to Alhambra, just 64km from the port. The Alhambra is a palace and fortress complex of the Moorish rulers of Granada in southern Spain occupying a hilly terrace on the southeastern border of the city of Granada. Once the residence of the Muslim rulers of Granada and their court, the Alhambra is now one of Spain's major tourist attractions exhibiting the country's most famous Islamic architecture, together with Christian 16th century and later interventions in buildings and gardens that marked its image as it can be seen today.

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Ceuta

Ceuta is divided into two distinct zones adjacent to one another. To the east, around and near its main peninsula, practically all inhabitants are Spanish and everything feels Spanish, but as soon as you head west, closer to the border with Morocco, you will begin to see the minarets of mosques and the atmosphere changes to predominantly Moroccan.

The Mediterranean Maritime Park with its 56.000sq mtr grounds is located in the heart of the city and offers gardens with a solarium containing deckchairs, sunbeds and shades plus a salt water lake with waterfalls

The North African port is an excellent base for visiting neighbouring Morocco and excursions to Tangier, Tetouan and Chefchaouen are available. A visit to Tetouan

should include the medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and its unique network of shaded alleyways.

Cruise calls are up for 2014 in Ceuta, 10 are booked so far compared to 8 calls this year.

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