



MEDCRUISE NEWS

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MEDCRUISE GENERAL ASSEMBLY No. 31 held October 18th and 19th in Almeria

Record attendance at Almeria

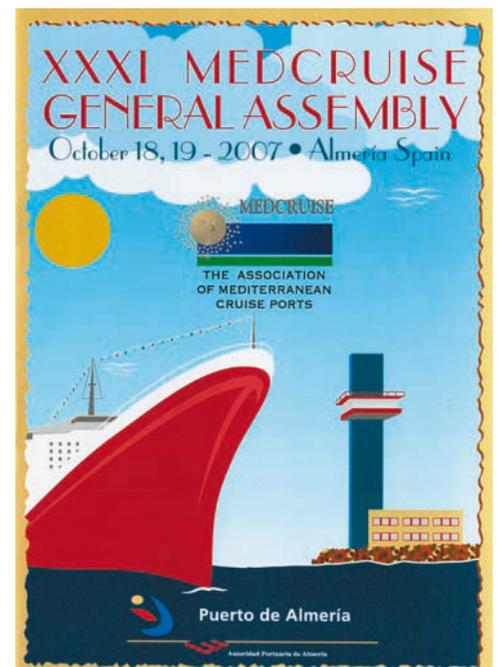


The MedCruise 31st General Assembly was held in Almeria, Spain, on October 18th and 19th, with over 90 participants, including 69 delegates representing 39 port members and five associate members, six guest speakers, and five international trade journalists.

The assembly voted in two new port members: Civitavecchia, Italy, and Constantza, Romania. This brings membership to 51 port members, representing 20 countries. Also, six associate members were voted in -- five ship and shore agents: Afrimar (Tunisian Ports), Carimar (Cagliari), Inter cruises (Barcelona), Samer Shipping Co (Trieste), and Tura Turizm (Sinop) -- plus one tourist board, a MedCruise first: Turisme de Barcelona (Barcelona). MedCruise now has 12 associate members, and a total of 63 members.

Several important matters of business were discussed at the General Assembly on Thursday, 18 October. These included an overview of the 2007 season; promotion; European Union relations (including a discussion on "shore side electricity" to reduce local air pollution); events; security (participation on the EC's Stakeholders Advisory Group on Maritime Security); professional development ("Ports and Passenger Shipping" course in November); studies (analysis of the economic impact studies done in collaboration with the European Cruise Council and consultants); member port statistics, and a follow-up report on activities in the Black Sea since the MedCruise Black Sea Roundtable in Sochi, May 07.

The assembly voted to hold its next General Assembly in May 08 in Trieste, Italy, on the Adriatic Sea.



Any company wishing to become an associate member of MedCruise please contact José Campos on email jose_campos@apb.es

MedCruise General Assembly No. 31 Almeria



Philip Naylor gets a good view of Almeria from Alcazaba Fortress; Lloyd's Cruise International's editor Susan Parker and the EU Commission's Nicolas Mariel look on



The Croatian delegation enjoy lunch in Grenada



The General Assembly gets underway



Delegates dine at Peña el Morato restaurant

West Med Round-table

Dealing with congestion in the West Med was the subject of discussion in a roundtable on the afternoon of October 19th. Member ports and cruise line executives heard MedCruise president Laurent Monsaingeon introduce the roundtable: 'we are here to talk about matters related to pressures on berthing, shoreside operations and the general frustration often felt by operators, passengers and destinations in the peak season and how we can better manage these issues.'

MedCruise director Giovanni Spadoni, also representing the Port of Livorno, graphically illustrated the situation facing his and a growing number of other West Med ports as capacity continues to swell in the region. In 2008, Livorno will have cruise ships in port on 250 days including three days when there are seven ships, 10 days with six vessels, and 14 days when there are five. Newest MedCruise member, Civitavecchia, handled 10 ships just last Friday, stated its representative Malcolm Morini.

On studying 2007 schedules, Spadoni concluded that 45% of ship arrivals at Livorno were on a clockwise rotation of the West Med whilst 32% were steering an anti-clockwise course. 'If there was a better balance between the rotations undertaken it would avoid port congestion,' said Spadoni.

Barcelona's Juan Madrid, a former president of MedCruise, confirmed if lines are not prepared to change their rotations then the Spanish port may have to refuse up to 100 calls in 2009. 'With cargo traffic in the West Med also booming there are pressures on commercial berths too,' he added. In 2010, Madrid noted, Barcelona will be able to accommodate five megaships, three medium-sized and two small ships on the same day.

Executives from Carnival Corp, Silversea and Disney all agreed more clarity was needed on the way berths are assigned. Philip Naylor, Carnival UK gm-fleet, marine and shore operations, suggested the problem could be eased by introducing an

early warning system, similar to those used by some Baltic ports, where berths are listed on the internet and lines can reserve them in advance. The possibility of MedCruise creating a centralised booking system for berths at the major West Med ports of embarkation was also aired.

In summing up Monsaingeon suggested the need for, 'more transparency on berth allocation between ports and lines; a review of the role the agent plays in notifying the port authorities in advance of calls; a study of the early warning systems already in use and to continue a dialogue between all interested parties to try and find a solution to the congestion problems.'





Hugues Lamy, Tom Wolber and Philip Naylor at Alhambra



Local tourism official Maria Isabel Requena, Almeria Port Authority president Trinidad Cabeo Rodriguez and Laurent Monsaingeon



Delphine Beudin from Port of Toulon Côte d'Azur and Teodor Patrichi from Constantza Port

Guest speakers discuss the Med cruise scene

In a conference and workshop session on October 19th delegates heard views and spoke face to face with the invited speakers (profiled below).

Carnival UK's Philip Naylor spoke of cruising as a 'green' way of taking a holiday. 'The environmental demands on a destination from a calling cruise ship are low and cruising is a sustainable way of getting tourists to a location,' he remarked. Referring to an undercurrent of negativity towards cruise tourism in some quarters he said the industry is too quiet. 'We cannot afford to let disparaging comments about cruise to go unchallenged.'

MSC's Luigi Pastena (below), spoke of his company's newbuilding programme with four new ships due to enter the Med market in the next three years including two new 333mtr long post panamaxes which will be the largest ships operating year-round in the Med.

Disney Cruise Line svp Tom Wolber spoke about his company's first experience of Med cruising following Disney Magic's debut in the region this year. He stressed how important

MedCruise was, 'enabling us to develop our arrival much better and faster than if we had done it on our own.' Wolber said Disney will be back.

Hugues Lamy (below), director marine operations for Silversea Cruises, called the Med the top area of operation for his luxury brand with 40 sailings and 309



operating days in 2008. Showing slides of some unhappy experiences Silversea ships had encountered recently, Lamy told ports in the audience: 'We need good service in downtown prime location berths' and stressed how important it is to know in advance if the berth is being refurbished or if the vessel will be accommodated elsewhere.

Finally, Costa Crociere's Sandra Yunta, in charge of cruise at the company's new Palacruceros terminal in Barcelona, spoke of the operational aspects of running a terminal and shared some lessons learnt after the first season. She cited the need for a larger luggage area, which is being attended to, and the high maintenance costs related to cleaning the extensive amount of glass throughout the building.



Profiles of Guest Speakers

Philip Naylor, Carnival UK general manager fleet, marine and shore operations. Responsible for managing vessel programmes and shore ops for P&O Cruises, Ocean Village and Cunard, he trained as a navigating officer with P&O and served on a variety of ships. Philip is a master mariner and has a law degree.

Luigi Pastena, Mediterranean Shipping Company port captain, marine ops dept. He went to sea in 1974 having graduated from the Nino Bixio Nautical School. He joined MSC in 1994 as a master on cargo and passenger ships. He came ashore in 2003 and became port captain one year later.

Tom Wolber, Disney Cruise Line senior vice president. Responsible for shipboard ops, shoreside travel ops and marine and technical ops. He joined Walt Disney Co in 1989 and worked in various roles within the parks and resorts. He was instrumental in coordinating the launch of Disney Wonder in 1999.

Hugues Lamy, silversea director of marine ops. Following a career at sea until 1987 he joined Croisieres Paquet, as ops manager. He held various shore-based roles also with Ocean Cruise Line, Pearl Cruises, Costa and Dreamline Cruises until 2002. After a spell as a shipbroker and consultant he joined Silversea in 2006.

Sandra Yunta, general manager of Costa's Palacruceros in Barcelona. With a marketing and commercial background Sandra joined Port Authority of Barcelona as assistant cruise manager in 1997. She became manager of cruise operations in 2000 and in 2006 joined Costa Crociere to manage its new terminal in Barcelona.

Nicolas Mariel, EU Commission Task Force Maritime Policy national expert in charge of tourism, ports and fisheries policy. A French civil servant who spent 10 years as a Maritime Affairs officer in Paris, he is a graduate in public law and political science.



Guest speakers and media at Almeria port

Ports & Passenger Shipping course November 24-27th 2007



MedCruise and 2E3S development course departs from Barcelona

A professional development course on Ports and Passenger Shipping created by MedCruise in collaboration with the Escola Europea de Short Sea Shipping (2E3S) recently took place on board the Grimaldi Line ferry Fantastic.

More than 60 participants from MedCruise member ports took part. The ship sailed from Barcelona, bound for Genoa, and returned to Barcelona four days later.

Coursework included subjects such as the economics of the cruise line, diversifying shore excursions, port security and emergency management, itinerary planning,

terminal design and managing port congestion.

Among the instructors were senior executives from cruise and ferry lines, MedCruise, ports, a planning firm, a maritime agency and the European Commission.

Excursions were organised in both Barcelona and Genoa. Before leaving Barcelona the participants had lunch aboard Costa Serena, sponsored by Costa Crociere, and were welcomed by Barcelona port president Jordi Valls. In Genoa Edoardo Monzani, President of Stazioni Marittime, hosted a dinner at the historic passenger terminal.



Monsaingeon thanks Barcelona port President Jordi Valls



Students and instructors in classroom



Giora Israel, Bruce Krumrine and Juan Madrid aboard Costa Serena



Albert Poggio and Tim Moore on tour of Barcelona port

MedCruise Members

- Alanya
- Alicante
- Almeria
- Balearic Islands
- Barcelona
- Bari
- Batumi
- Cagliari
- Cartagena
- Castellon
- Catania
- Ceuta
- Civitavecchia
- Constantza
- Cyprus ports
- Dubrovnik, Korcula
- Egyptian ports
- French Riviera ports
- Gibraltar
- Koper
- La Spezia
- Lattakia
- Livorno
- Malaga
- Messina
- Monaco
- Moroccan ports
- Naples
- Palamos
- Palermo
- Pescara
- Piraeus
- Portoferraio
- Portuguese ports
- Ravenna
- Rijeka
- Sete
- Sevastopol
- Sibenik
- Sinop
- Sochi
- Split
- Tarragona
- Toulon, St Tropez
- Trieste
- Tunis
- Valencia
- Valletta
- Venice
- Volos
- Zadar

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