



24th July 2013

## The Port of Barcelona exceeds one million cruise passengers during the first half of the year

### Cruise passengers and calls up 15% on 2102

Over one million cruise passengers (1.040.823 people) passed through in the Port of Barcelona during the first half of the year, representing an increase of 15% over the same period in 2012. The Catalan facility recorded a total of 352 cruise calls by the month of June, representing an increase of 15% on last year's figures. Some 56% of the total number of cruise passengers were *turnaround* (either beginning or ending their schedules in the Port). This category of passenger contributes the most to the local economy, by often extending their stay in the city either at the beginning or the end of their cruise schedule.

Barcelona is the leading cruise port in Europe and the Mediterranean and fourth homeport in the world. The forecast for this year is that 2.6 million passengers will arrive at the port, equalling the record set in 2011.

Over the same period, some 398.323 ferry passengers also arrived in the Port of Barcelona bringing the passenger total to 1.4 million (+9%). In the month of June ferry passenger numbers grew 9%.

### Exports on the rise

In terms of throughput, the Port of Barcelona closed the first half of the year with 12% growth in container exports, which in absolute terms represents 276.283 TEU. June has been one of the months that has most helped to push up these results, with growth standing at 14%.

Container imports grew 5% in June in spite of a slight overall decrease during the first six months of the year (2%). The total volume of containers handled in the Port of Barcelona during the first six months of the year was 828.169 TEU. This constitutes a decrease of 3% mainly due to a 42% decrease in container transshipments.

By the end of June, the terminals of the Port of Barcelona had handled over 21 million tons of cargo, a figure, which is virtually the same as last year. In terms of the different traffic segments, the figures for vehicles' traffic were particularly of note with a total of 364,217 units, an increase of 6% on the previous year. Vehicle transshipments have grown significantly by 50% in relation to 2012.

### Barcelona, oil hub

Liquid bulk has also performed well with a total of 5.2 million tons (+1%). Within this cargo sector, gasoline grew dramatically (+69%), exceeding a million tons during the first six months of the year. Fuel also shot up (+79%) with 616.293 recorded, and chemical products were also up (+9%).



The increase in oils is directly linked to the development of new, dedicated terminals, such as Meroil Lukoil (opened in May 2012) and Tradebe, which came into operation in April. Another contributing factor of significance has been the construction of berth 34B, the berthing position for liquid bulk vessels of the deepest draught operating in the Western Mediterranean. With these new facilities, the Port of Barcelona has strengthened its role as a distribution hub for petroleum products from the Mediterranean and North Africa.