



Membership milestone: Ports of Genoa welcomed as the 40th member of the International Port Community Systems Association

The International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA) has reached a membership milestone, welcoming Ports of Genoa as its 40th member.

Ports of Genoa incorporates Genoa, Italy’s largest container port, and nearby Savona-Vado Ligure, following a recent merger under one port authority. A key challenge is the integration of the Port Community Systems of the ports of Savona and Genoa – as well as enhancing and developing new functions and modules – and membership of IPCSA will be an important support in this, said Paolo Emilio Signorini, Ports of Genoa chairman.



Photo: Paolo Emilio Signorini, Ports of Genoa chairman

The two Port Community Systems have a long history, dating back to 2005 (Savona) and 2007 (Genoa). Between them, the two PCSs process more than 15 million electronic import/export documents a year and manage about 20,000 users, 1,500 companies and six container terminals.

“The two Port Community Systems will merge, under the umbrella of the Italian Logistics Platform, which is an unusual feature compared with other countries,” said Mr Signorini.

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Genoa was the first Italian maritime port to be integrated into the national platform, which was created and managed by the Italian Government to connect maritime ports and inland freight villages, and promote the further development of the entire national logistics system.

“That is another reason why we decided to become a member of IPCSA – because we and our port operators community want to share this experience and learn what has been done in other national and international contexts.”

Cargo volumes through Genoa have increased by 61% in the past ten years, while import cycle times have decreased by 47%. “As port infrastructure and transport connections have remained nearly the same, this result has been achieved thanks to the contribution of Information Technology and the development of E-port,” he said.

“In our case, it is very clear that organisation and technology have been crucial in the development of our traffic in recent years. Our Port Community System will also be key for the future, when container throughput is expected to grow further, and in handling peak volumes when mega container vessels call at the port.”

Genoa is strongly established as a port of entry into southern and central Europe and is poised for volume expansion despite being constrained in terms of space by mountains to the north and the sea to the south. “Achieving this will depend on organisation, technology and innovation,” said Mr Signorini.

The opening of the Gotthard Tunnel, as well as other strategic Alpine tunnels, are smoothing the links between Italy and central Europe. “Rail interoperability will be increasingly important when it comes to shipping cargo to northern Italy and central Europe, so we are focusing strongly on the rail components and modules of our Port Community System,” he said. “We are also very interested in the issue of vehicle booking systems to spread demand and traffic flows and improve the level of service and efficiency at the port, and in the creation of a Quality Certification System to help



streamline processes and improve the efficiency, safety and security of port operations.”

Richard Morton, secretary general of IPCSEA, said: “We are delighted to welcome Ports of Genoa as our latest member. Reaching a membership of 40 is a real milestone for IPCSEA, which was only founded in 2011 by six European-based Port Community System operators, and has since expanded into an international association with an unrivalled level of expertise and experience and a strong relationship with a number of international bodies, including the IMO, WCO and UN/CEFACT.”

Paolo E. Signorini praised IPCSEA as “friendly, reactive and positive from the start”. He said: “We are really pleased to be part of IPCSEA, especially as we are the leading port in Italy and the one with the most experience of operating a Port Community



The Ports of Genoa represented by Rossella Burrmano and Simone Arecco receive their IPCSEA Membership Plaque from Hans Rook, Chairman, IPCSEA at the IPCSEA meeting on the 12th February 2019, Bilbao, Spain.

System. To improve further, the Genoa port cluster needs an appropriate environment and group in which to discuss innovation in Port Community Systems and logistics. IPCSEA gives us the opportunity to share experience and ideas with some very important players in this sector, and to gain inspiration from their work.”

He concluded: “Ports of Genoa is keen to play a proactive part in some of IPCSEA’s working groups, including those focusing on standards and technologies, Single Window/trade facilitation, Customs and other government agencies, and community system development.”

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Note to Editors

The International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA) was originally founded in 2011 as the European Port Community Systems Association, by six European-based PCS operators. It was relaunched in 2014 as an international association, reflecting its growing membership outside Europe. Membership includes Sea and Air Port Community System Operators, Sea and Air Port Authorities and Single Window Operators.

Today, IPCSA's members operate across the world, exchanging electronic information at more than 200 sea and air ports, rail and inland waterways, and border crossing points. This equates to more than 500 million TEU and 10 billion tonnes of world trade a year, a reach of over 1 million users, and the exchange of more than 30 million messages per day in support of efficient Sea and Air Ports.

IPCSA's membership provides representation in each of the five regions across the world which match those of UN Regional Commission regions. This geographical reach enables it to address the needs of members on a regional as well as international basis.

IPCSA has consultative status at the International Maritime Organization and Special Consultative Status at UN ECOSOC, both providing an important platform for representing the needs of its members and its members' users at the highest level. IPCSA also takes part in international standards meetings including WCO, ISO, UN/CEFACT and IATA.

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