

## **Valenciaport will improve commercial exchanges with the Chinese port of Tianjin**

- **The Port Authority of Valencia and the port of Tianjin are working together to sign a commercial agreement between both institutions**

**Valencia, September the 19<sup>th</sup> 2017.** - Valenciaport and the Chinese port of Tianjin have laid the groundwork for the signing of an agreement between the two port areas, which will improve trade between the areas of influence of both ports and their respective countries. This agreement is the result of the visit that representatives of Tianjin made this Sunday to the port of Valencia, led by the president of the Tianjin CPPCC commission, Zang Xianfu; and Deputy Director of the Tianjin Port Service Office, Cao Jun, who were accompanied by Spanish Soccer Institute CEO Enrique Garcia.

The Chinese delegation was received by Aurelio Martínez, president of the Port Authority of Valencia (PAV); and Joan Calabuig, delegate of the Consell for the European Union and External Relations. During the meeting the foundations were established to sign a cooperation agreement on commercial, industrial, cultural and maritime and environmental safety between Valenciaport and the port of Tianjin. At the meeting, held in the Clock Building, the leaders of both ports verified the coincidence between the two facilities.

Tianjin is the eleventh port of the world for container traffic, with approximately 15 million TEUs and a nearby hinterland of 15 million inhabitants. For its part, the port of Valencia is placed in the 28<sup>th</sup> position in the world ranking with a container movement close to 5 million TEU and a regional population of more than 5 million inhabitants. Tianjin is also the most important port in northern China and acts as a natural gateway for goods to the country's capital, Beijing, while Valencia is the largest container port in the Mediterranean and is considered as the port of Madrid.

During the meeting, Zang Xianfu, president of the CPPCC commission in Tianjin, stressed that " Tianjin has access to the most important logistics and industrial enclaves of northern China, which allows us to act as a bridge between Chinese interests and Spanish businessmen who wish to establish business ties with our area of influence, especially in those aspects related to the aerospace industry, the biopharmaceutical, and the high added value in technological components".

For his part, the president of the PAV, Aurelio Martinez, celebrated the coincidence of interests between both ports and regions of influence. "Between Valencia and China there has always been a great desire for understanding and cooperation, as demonstrated by the historic Silk Route that lived with the Valencian golden age and which brought about the splendor of our city in the neighborhoods of Velluters, with more than 4,000 silk working looms. At present, such cooperation and understanding is materialized in visits such as this and in investments such as the one carried out by Cosco in the most important container terminal in the port of Valencia. "

After the signing in the book of honor of the port of Valencia by the president of the Tianjin commission, the delegation visited the facilities of the port of Valencia, the ZAL and the northern extension of the enclosure. Zang Xianfu concluded the visit by inviting the port of Valencia to participate in the Asian summit which will be held in Tianjin next December to share experiences in improving the relationship between the ports and their cities.

### **Traffic with China**

Currently, 48% of the traffic managed by Valenciaport has origin/ destination to the Far East and China is the main trading partner of the enclosure. In 2016, through the port of Valencia, 7.04 million tonnes were channeled to this country, a 13.75% more. Regarding container traffic, 2016 closed with traffic of 719,190 TEU up 18.46% compared to the one of 2015. The port of Valencia has 10 regular lines with China, being the main ports Shanghai, Ningbo, Yantian, Qingdao, Tianjin, Xiamen, Chiwan and Hong Kong.