

On the event of the first Members' Assembly meeting

## **Barcelona Nautical Cluster consolidates its project and now has 45 members**

**The group of companies comprising Barcelona Nautical Cluster generates a turnover of approximately € 100 million and employs 1,500 people in Barcelona**

**One of its key objectives is to re-industrialise the city's maritime neighbourhood**

Barcelona - 24 October 2014. Today, Friday 24 October, Barcelona Nautical Cluster held its first Members' Assembly marking one year since it formally began its operations October 2013. The Barcelona World Race Interpretation Centre hosted representatives and members of Barcelona Nautical Cluster, including a broad representation of companies and associations from the sector, public administrations and other promoters of R&D+i and training in the maritime and nautical sector.

During the Assembly, the president of the organisation, Toni Tió, and its General Manager, Alejo Trullas, presented information on the activity conducted in 2014, according to the four main lines of action of the organisation: Promotion & Internationalisation, Training, Business Opportunities and Legal Environment. In addition, they indicated the actions planned for the following year and the Cluster's goal of achieving a membership of 65 by 2015.

More than 350 companies, concentrated in Barcelona, dedicated to producing maritime and nautical products and services - shipyards, chartering, yacht equipment, brokers, accessories, motor or water sports - constitute an attractive hub for economic activity with a high potential for generating wealth and added value.

The members of Barcelona Boat Cluster, which include some internationally renowned brands, turn over approximately € 100 million and employ around 1,500 people. In addition to their specific activity, they generate activity for other sectors and create indirect benefits to the economy, not only in the Ciutat Vella district, but throughout the whole city and Catalonia.

### **Key actions in 2014**

Throughout 2014, Barcelona Nautical Cluster has stuck to the timetable of events according to the four tables established in its plan. In the area of promotion and internationalisation, last April Barcelona Nautical Cluster signed an agreement with the Marine Industries Association of South Florida. Also noteworthy is its participation in workshops organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime

Affairs and Fisheries and in international events such as the Palma International Fair, the Monaco Yacht Show, the 7th Annual Superyacht Finance Forum and the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, to name just a few.

In the words of Toni Tió, President of Barcelona Boat Cluster: "The organisation is committed to promoting the re-industrialisation of the sector and the surrounding area through specialised knowledge, training and R&D+i. Our intention is to build a model that will attract investment and business opportunities in Barcelona and Catalonia one that can also be exported abroad."

In this regard and in the field of education, the Cluster is working with several organisations to help students of vocational training schools to attend curricular training placements in companies of the cluster and to promote the offer of specialised training in the nautical and maritime sector. Furthermore, the organisation is working to set up a job bank to meet the needs of professionals and students as well as companies from the sector.

To generate business opportunities, Barcelona Nautical Cluster has kept up an intense schedule of meetings and events to reach out to potential members while enhancing the projection and business options of SMEs. Finally, with regard to the legal environment, the cluster has established a great many institutional contacts with major organisations, associations, port authorities and the ministries concerned in order to push for changes in the rules governing the sector and its ability to compete.

### **Forecasts for 2015**

During the Assembly held this Friday, the Cluster's General Manager, Alejo Trullas, also gave an indication of the lines of activity planned for 2015, which generally seek to advance and deepen the various initiatives launched this year.

Alejo Trullas announced that one of the targets for 2015 is to "achieve 65 members and to make progress in organising a benchmark event for the nautical sector in Barcelona, and in establishing specialised training plans for working in the recreational boating, cruise ships and long vessel sectors."

Currently Barcelona Nautical Cluster comprises almost fifty members, including Barcelona City Council and the Port of Barcelona, Barcelona Regional, Marina Barcelona 92 and Marina Port Vell, along with the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, the El Far Consortium and the Barcelona Foundation for Ocean Sailing (FNOB), which are the driving members.

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