

## **The Barcelona Cluster Nautic rejects the Catalan luxury goods law**

The Barcelona Cluster Nautic, an association with more than 90 members, has worked hard since its creation to convince the administration that the nautical industry is an economic engine force for the Catalan capital. In fact, according to a study conducted by the Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona, the 305 companies in Barcelona related to the nautical sector generate a total of 836 million euros of direct, indirect and induced economic impact and up to 8,300 jobs. It is also a sector with a lot of prospecting, as demonstrated by the fact that between 2016 and 2017 the marinas and shipyards will have invested 92 million euros in expansion and renovation of their facilities, to be able to accommodate more and larger yachts: more moorings, more revenues.

Recently, the MYBA Charter Show has been held in Barcelona. The charter has an annual turnover of more than 2,250 million euros worldwide.

The concession of this event to Barcelona -OneOcean Port Vell won it ahead of Genoa and Nice- has been a great step forward to consolidate the Catalan capital as an international nautical destination for these boats. This has been possible also thanks to some administrative changes, mainly customs matters, in which the Barcelona Cluster Nautic has worked. Fateful circumstances such as the immigration crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean and some Islamic attacks on the French Riviera have also contributed to strengthening the position of Barcelona in this market.

This step forward, however, now runs a serious risk by the approval in the Parliament of Catalonia, last April 26, of the proposal for a law on the application of the tax on nonproductive assets of legal persons, which affects the nautical sector, since pleasure boats are included among these non-productive assets.

The nautical sector already suffers a very difficult fiscal treatment, since the boats purchase is double engraved, with 21% of the VAT and with the 12% of the tax of registration for boats of more than eight-meter length. The Barcelona Cluster Nautic, as well as other associations and employers in the sector -such as ACPET and ANEN- have long worked to get the registration tax eliminated.

From the Cluster we reject this new tax, for several reasons. First, it is applied only in Catalonia, therefore it is discriminatory. Secondly, it re-labels the boats as a luxury good, when the nautical sector is an economic engine force for Barcelona and Catalonia; the nautical is not equal to rich, the nautical is equal to wealth. Thirdly and lastly, it will have a deterrent effect on the sector: it is true that the tax is applied in very few cases (only legal persons owning a boat when it is a non-productive asset, therefore natural persons and charter management companies are excluded), but there are already cases of companies that are considering moving to other communities because of this new tax.

This rate is a new obstacle to a sector already heavily penalized, and demonstrates the ignorance that reigns over the wealth generated by the nautical industry. What this sector needs, however, is a clear legal framework that provides legal certainty to continue to develop this economy and create more jobs.

More information:

Neus Jordi

[www.barcelonaclusternautic.cat](http://www.barcelonaclusternautic.cat)

M: +34 627 88 50 51

[neus@neusjordi.com](mailto:neus@neusjordi.com)

[comunicacio@barcelonaclusternautic.cat](mailto:comunicacio@barcelonaclusternautic.cat)

Skype: neusjordi

[www.twitter.com/ClusterNautic](https://www.twitter.com/ClusterNautic)

[www.facebook.com/BarcelonaClusterNautic](https://www.facebook.com/BarcelonaClusterNautic)

[www.linkedin.com/company/barcelona-clúster-nàutic](https://www.linkedin.com/company/barcelona-clúster-nàutic)