

BACKGROUND

All signatories to this charter wish to highlight the strategic importance of French ports.

Sitting on the crossroads between maritime routes and multimodal land transport networks, French ports provide direct, interconnected access to various modes of land transportation. They are strategic links that is crucial to the performance and resilience of national and international land and sea logistics

chains and, by extension, the competitiveness of the French economy.

Moreover, port industrial zones are the best places for housing and developing strategic industrial sectors and those of the future; they are sources of employment that are essential for France's economic growth.

Finally, the French domestic navigation sector (ship owners, domestic navigation port services) and railways sector play a strategic role when it comes to shipping goods of all kinds that are required for the economies in France and, to a certain extent, Europe, and the lives of their inhabitants.

OBJECTIVE

Given the level of reactiveness of French ports and the French domestic navigation and logistics sectors, which have remained fully operational since the start of the pandemic, thus ensuring continued supplies and exports in France,

given the actions already in place, and aware of the need to contribute to driving the country's businesses and infrastructures once activities resume, in the name of national solidarity, the signatories to this charter undertake to do their utmost for French ports and strategic domestic navigation and railways sectors. The stakeholders in the port ecosystem are committed to ensuring the fluid, competitive passage of goods, following the example of the socially reliable commitments made by the social partners to include dock workers in this French port recovery.

3.

Stakeholders in French logistics chains and the domestic navigation, port and railways sectors are committed to catering to the needs of these traffic flows while ensuring continued operational excellence and competitiveness, and introducing a performance transparency tool.

2.

Ship owners, shipping agents, freight forwarders, logistics experts and shippers support this drive and the development of French ports that will ensure reliable, competitive transport of goods for their clients. As prime contractors, they therefore undertake to give priority to the passage of goods via French ports by encouraging the use of mass transport modes.

Moreover, they undertake to assist with the development of strategic French domestic navigation and railways sectors in all areas (transport of goods and passengers, services) so that they can: meet requests from prime contractors in all events; include their stakeholders in the French chain of logistics excellence; assist said stakeholders in their modernisation and energy transition initiatives which are essential to the development of these strategic sectors.

4.

This charter is one of the levers of economic recovery in France. It is a first milestone in the efforts to boost attractiveness and competitiveness.

IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOW-UP

A steering committee for this charter, placed under the aegis of the French maritime committee (*Comité France maritime*) that unites all signatories,

will regularly check compliance with commitments, its impact on the work carried out by French ports and French domestic navigation sectors. It can provide the government with suggestions for improvements to enhance effectiveness and economic and logistical attractiveness.

CHARTER SIGNATURE

This charter is open for signature by all stakeholders in the French port logistics chains who wish to commit to ensuring competitiveness in the national port logistics sector.