

PRESS RELEASE

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Ports Agency

Mr. Aziz RABBAH, Minister of Equipment and Transport chaired the Board of Directors meeting of the National Ports Agency, which was held in Rabat at the Ministry, Monday, June 24, 2013. During this session, devoted to the assessment of ANP 2012 achievements, the Board focused on the investment effort made by the Agency totaling 644 million dirhams, as well as the various activities undertaken by the Agency to improve the effectiveness of the national port facilities and to strengthen its governance, particularly through fostering public-private partnership and promoting the franchising system to operate the port terminals.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Aziz RABBAH recalled that 2012 was characterized by the adoption of the national port strategy for 2030, presented to His Majesty King Mohammed VI in December 2012. With a 20-year forward-looking vision, the national port sector is in the process to live a new stage of modernization and development of the port offering that help position the Moroccan market as the logical hub at the regional level, said the Minister. As such, Mr. RABBAH, noted that the results of this strategy are already emerging through several actions including the start of construction of the new port of Safi or the launch of the feasibility study for the new port of Kenitra Atlantic and the reclassification of a number of ports. Mr. Minister finally stressed the central role of the National Ports Agency to continue the implementation of port strategy on the ground, through its development plans, directly and / or through public-private partnerships and with a central focus improving the competitiveness of national port areas.

In her presentation of the main lines of the activity report submitted to the Board, Mrs. Nadia Laraki, General Manager of ANP indicated that during 2012, the agency initiated several strategic projects able to add a new momentum into the port sector. Such projects are part of the development and modernization policy of the national ports, which surely represents a fundamental leverage for the promotion of foreign trade of the country. As such, ANP General Director highlighted the launch of the construction works of the sea route that should ensure the connection of this port with the future dry port of Zenata, ensuring also a better traffic fluidity inside the port and its immediate vicinity. She has also highlighted the launch in 2012 of the port of Nador West Med, a

project aiming to position the Moroccan port sector within the Mediterranean basin opportunities.

In the field of the port sector regulation, ANP General Director recalled the central role of ANP in this regard and stressed the stakes and challenges to raise the Moroccan ports sector to international standards, improve the competitiveness of Morocco foreign trade and make port logistics a important source of GDP improvement. All 2012 achievements, she said, meet these goals and are stepping up to ensure the overall action consistency of the various port stakeholders.

In order to improve the governance system of the sector and strengthening its regulatory tools, ANP General Director mentioned that 2012 was the completion year of several concessions regarding particularly the third container terminal Port of Casablanca, the port project of Nador West Med and coal terminals in Jorf Lasfar. It was also the year of the launch of a call for interest in the concession of the new shipyard in the port of Casablanca, the continued compliance of port licensees within the applicable regulatory framework, the development of port public tariffs for services and the initiation of several operations aimed at promoting private investment in the port sector.

As far as external trade by sea is concerned, Mrs Nadia LARAKI noted that the overall port activity reached 92.3 million tonnes last year, marking a decrease of 3.9% compared to 2011.

Regarding the ports managed by ANP, the General Director indicated that the activity of these ports recorded in 2012, an increase of 3% compared to 2011, with 71.2 million tonnes. The trend in port activity within ANP is the result of 2.1% stronger exports with 25.8 million tonnes, and an increase of 3.5% of imports, which reached 45.4 million tonnes.

Regarding the containers activity in particular, ports managed by ANP ensured transit of 965,000 TEUs, representing a slight increase of 2.6%, mainly driven by the recovery of this activity at the port of Casablanca (+3.4%). At the national level, this activity (including Import - Export via Tanger-Med), reached 1.04 million TEUs at the end of 2012, marking a slight increase of 1.8%.

On the financial front, 2012 turnover reached 1,191 million dirhams, a net profit of 146.2 million dirhams and a value added of 678.1 million dirhams.

Furthermore, the General Director reported that as part of the external openness to promote regional cooperation particularly, the National Ports Agency signed in November 2012, a tripartite agreement Morocco-Japan-African countries, relating to the animation of port management training sessions by the Port Training Institute for the benefit of ten African countries.

At the end of its work and after exhaustion of the items on the agenda, the Board of Directors adopted resolutions submitted to it.

Before adjourning, the Board of Directors requested the Minister of Equipment and Transport, to convey to **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God be with him**, on their behalf and on behalf of all the officers and employees of the ANP, a message of fidelity and loyalty and unwavering devotion to His person and Auguste Alawite Throne, as well as their determination to work tirelessly for the development of the national port sector.