

Trieste Summit Newsletter



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NEWS REVIEW: Maritime sector in 2026



ITALY: A review of the performance of container terminals

Ship2Shore's analysis records strong performances at MCT Gioia Tauro (+14%), Vado Gateway (+86%), TDT Livorno (+18%), SCT Salerno (+16%), PSA Vecon Venice (+19%), TCR Ravenna (+13%), TFG Naples (+36%), MITO (+24%), Terminal Bettolo (+65%) and HHLA PLT Trieste (+143%), while volumes declined at TMT Trieste (-28%) and TSG Genoa (-37%).

[Read more \(EN\)](#)



DP World survey: Trade leaders upbeat on 2026 despite rising barriers

The global trade outlook looks fragile. Business confidence does not. That's the core finding of DP World's Annual Outlook Report 2026, showing 94% of respondents expect 2026 trade growth to match or exceed the pace of 2025, despite rising frictions and volatility.

[Read more \(EN\)](#)



Underwater maritime world: a sea of opportunities below the water surface

After the commission of Italian Navy's U212 NFS submarine in Jun 2024, Fincantieri, now the world's fourth largest shipbuilding company, looks to the strategic opportunities of the maritime underwater sector.

[Read more \(IT\)](#)



Arctic freeze: interview with Amb. Francesco Maria Talò

Trump's claims on Greenland opened up a new tension front in US-EU relations. Between national security, strategic resources, Arctic shipping routes, and commercial pressures,, the Arctic is becoming the new battleground between Western allies and global powers.

[Watch the interview \(IT\)](#)

NEWS REVIEW: EU and Indo-Pacific



EU-India Free Trade Agreement: why Italy should care

EU-India FTA emerges as a strategic lever for Italy in a context of growing transatlantic tensions, offering a for SMEs, agri-food, and wine to access new markets and secure early positioning in an increasingly fragmented world.

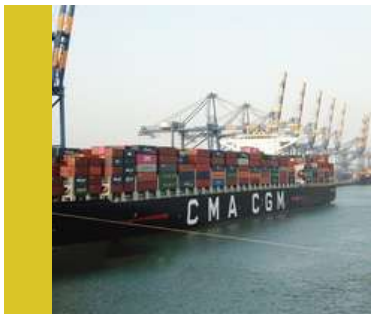
[Read more \(IT\)](#)



India-EU relations at a strategic turning point

India and the EU are accelerating their strategic partnership amid global uncertainty, aiming to conclude and possibly sign a long-pending FTA. Deepening political, economic, and technological ties reflect a pragmatic convergence of interests and a shared commitment to a rules-based, multipolar order.

[Read more \(EN\)](#) [Read more \(IT\)](#)



IMEC: does the “Cotton Road” have real logistic potential?

Could the Cotton Road have real logistic value for economic operators, or should it be considered a political vision designed to separate India's destiny from that of China's Belt and Road Initiative and pacify the Middle East in line with the Abraham Accords?

[Read more \(IT\)](#)



Is the Yemeni government getting ready to attack the Houthis?

Houthis weigh risks as Saudi-backed campaign to unite forces could challenge their decade-long hold on northwest Yemen. The government, led by President Rashad al-Alimi, has announced the formation of a Supreme Military Committee (SMC) that will integrate all the disparate anti-Houthi forces into the Yemeni military.

[Read more \(EN\)](#)

FOCUS: Italy's bilateral strategy



Italy and Qatar anchor major port expansion in Libya's Misrata

Italy is strengthening its strategic and economic role in Libya by backing a major port expansion in Misrata with Qatar and MSC, positioning the hub as a key Euro-African connector. Rome is betting on Libya's infrastructure, trade, and energy cooperation to advance its broader Mediterranean and Africa strategy.

[Read more \(EN\)](#)



Italy-UAE defence deal: why Rome's cabinet vote matters beyond the bilateral

Italy's cabinet has approved ratifying a defence cooperation agreement with the UAE, signalling a strategic bet on Abu Dhabi as a key Indo-Mediterranean partner. The move links security, technology and connectivity, with implications that go well beyond the bilateral relationship.

[Read more \(EN\)](#)



Italy-Germany double down on industry, security and supply chains

Italy and Germany are reinforcing their strategic economic partnership through a high-level business forum in Rome, focusing on industry, infrastructure and defense. With bilateral trade at record levels, this reflects both economic interdependence and a growing political alignment between Rome and Berlin amid shifting European dynamics.

[Read more \(EN\)](#)



The EU's new power couple: Merz and Meloni

As Europe's traditional Franco-German engine splutters, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz is increasingly looking to team up with hard-right Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni as his co-pilot in steering the EU. The two are both right-wing Atlanticists who want to cool tensions with U.S. President Donald Trump. And they both have their frustrations with French President Emmanuel Macron.

[Read more \(IT\)](#)

ANALYSIS: Why Italy should connect IMEC, 3SI's, and CEI

by Emanuele Rossi

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

On January 20, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies approved **Resolution 7-00346**, promoted by MP Paolo Formentini (League), committing the government to assess Italy's accession to the Three Seas format and to develop operational synergies between the three frameworks:

- IMEC's East–West axis (India–Middle East–Europe)
- 3SI's North–South spine (Baltic–Adriatic–Black Sea)
- Central European Initiative (CEI)



The move reinforces Rome's ambition to position Trieste as a core logistical hub connecting Europe, the Mediterranean and the Indo-Pacific, while also pointing to a broader connectivity strategy involving the Central European Initiative (CEI).



“We are committing the government to assess Italy's accession to this initiative urgently and, consequently, to link it with IMEC and the Central European Initiative. Italy thus becomes an even stronger geographic hinge between East–West and North–South, enhancing the port of Trieste as a key hub and strengthening its global competitiveness. This moves clearly in the direction of Italy's national interest.”

Paolo Formentini, vice-chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

[Read more \(EN\)](#)

[Read more \(IT\)](#)

FOCUS: Trieste news



Italy–U.S. maritime ties get a boost as Trieste rejoins MSC's Dragon service

Trieste's return to MSC's Dragon service restores a direct maritime link between Asia, the Mediterranean and the U.S. East Coast, strengthening Italy–U.S. economic connectivity. At a time of transatlantic political uncertainty, logistics and port infrastructure are emerging as stabilising pillars of the bilateral relationship.

[Read more \(EN\)](#)



OCEAN Alliance confirms Trieste for 2026

At the Convention between Carriers and Ports for OCEAN Alliance, the CMA CGM Group, COSCO Shipping, Evergreen, and OOCL launched OCEAN Alliance "DAY 10 Product". Operating on 41 services, OCEAN Alliance, currently the largest operational alliance in the shipping industry, confirms calls at the Adriatic ports of Trieste, Koper (Slovenia) and Rijeka (Croatia).

[Read more \(IT\)](#)



Innoway Trieste and Italy's Ministry for Infrastructures and Transport on the future of Bagnoli della Rosandra

The joint venture between MSC and Innofreight presented the main results and next steps of the industrial project to revitalise the Bagnoli della Rosandra hub to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MIT). Innoway confirmed a total of €100 million investments and expects to exceed 600 wagon units delivered in 2026.

[Read more \(IT\)](#)



Trieste Port focuses on IMEC and infrastructure development

Port governance reforms, the future of the international free port, and the role of global logistics corridors were the focus of the debate organised by the Democratic Party, during the conference 'Port of Trieste: local and global horizons'. The discussion included reference to possible new markets, including Mercosur, and the need for adequate infrastructure.

[Read more \(IT\)](#)

ANALYSIS: Trieste as Belgrade's Gateway to Europe's New Corridors

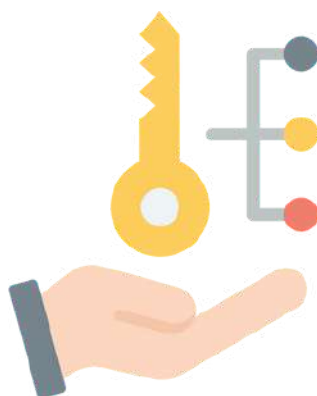
by PUPIN Initiative 

STRATEGIC CONTEXT:

Trieste is re-emerging as one of Europe's most strategically valuable ports, positioned at the head of the Adriatic as a gateway between Central and Eastern Europe and global trade routes.

For Serbia, landlocked, export-oriented, and navigating both EU integration and diversified international partnerships, Trieste represents a modern access point and a corridor into emerging geopolitical and economic networks.

Trieste's 21st-Century Value



potential European terminal for the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

natural endpoint - exceptionally connected to Central and Eastern Europe through direct rail and road linkages

strongest existing infrastructure footprint into the European hinterland compared to alternative candidates such as Greek ports or Marseille

Why Trieste Matters for Serbia: Four Core Interests

TRADE CONNECTIVITY
EXPORT GROWTH

1

2

RELIABLE AND DIVERSIFIED
SUPPLY CHAINS

ENERGY SECURITY
AND STRATEGIC
INFRASTRUCTURE

3

4

EU INTEGRATION
REGIONAL COOPERATION

[Read FULL ANALYSIS \(EN\)](#)

Trieste Summit invites UND to join Advisory Board

Trieste Summit invites **Uluslararası Nakliyeciler Derneği (UND)** to join the Association's Advisory Board, recognizing Türkiye's strategic role in Indo-Mediterranean trade flows and Trieste's leadership as the natural bridge between the Indo-Mediterranean and Central Europe



IFROM LEFT TO RIGHT: **Alberto Pasino** (Trieste Summit - Director), **Serafettin Aras** (UND - President), **Turgut Erkeskin** (Trieste Summit - Advisory Board), **Kadir Çirkin** (UND - Vice President)

The invitation presented in Istanbul by the Association emphasized how Türkiye's geoeconomic positioning and Trieste Ro.Ro. system —operational for over thirty years and currently handling approximately 350,000 vehicles annually— constitute the architecture of genuine corridor redundancy serving Indo-Mediterranean flows to Central European markets, as it effectively reduces dependence on chokepoints such as Bab-el-Mandeb. Within this framework, Trieste emerges as the privileged gateway for both terrestrial and maritime corridors traversing Türkiye, thanks to its treaty-protected free-port status and ongoing major infrastructure investments.

The meeting reinforced the conviction that closer collaboration between Türkiye's businesses and Trieste Summit —already evidenced by Kadir Çirkin's participation in the first Indo-Mediterranean Business Forum and Turgut Erkeskin's status as member of the Advisory Board— can simultaneously strengthen Türkiye's role in Indo-Mediterranean trade and Trieste's position as the gateway of the relevant trade flows to Central Europe.

Save the Date

JANUARY

27-30

INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2026

Collaboration, Resilience, Transition and Addition

ONGCAT, GOA (India).

MARCH

2-6

EUROPEAN OCEAN DAYS 2026

Blue economy and sustainable development

BRUSSELS (Belgium).

MARCH

5-7

RAISINA DIALOGUE 2026

Saṃskāra: assertion - accommodation - advancement

NEW DELHI (India).

MARCH

17

**VERTICE MINISTERIALE
IMEC**

TRIESTE (Italy)

MAY

21-22

EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY 2026

Blue economy and maritime economy.

LIMASSOL (Cyprus).

OCTOBER

6-9

FIATA CENTENNIAL CONGRESS

Empowering Global Logistics

MILAN (Italy).



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