

Mr. President Tomei, Mr. President Dimitrov, Mr. President of the Liguria Region, and Mr. Mayor of the city of Genoa, Authorities.

I would like to extend You my respectful greetings also on behalf of the Italian Coast Guard Commandant, Admiral Nicola Carlone, and on behalf of the 11,000 men and women of the Italian Coast Guard.

The opportunity to intervene in this important event allows me to describe to this audience **the added value offered by the Italian Coast Guard in providing** as "Maritime Administration" and for the benefit of the world of shipping **the so-called "Coast Guard functions", effectively contributing to a European Coast Guard system.**

In 2011, the *European Coast Guard Function Forum* formalized and identified a list of 11 Functions aimed at standardizing those Coast Guard services that European national organizations and administrations must provide in order to **ensure an effective service for the benefit of maritime and shipping communities**: in the perspective of a European Coast Guard system, it marked the beginning of the establishment of synergies between the Coast Guard Authorities of the Member States.

In this context, **the Italian Coast Guard represents**, at the European level, a **model of centralized Coast Guard functions under a single administration**, like few other European ones (e.g. the Greek Coast Guard), having "*a strategic level approach capable of covering all or almost all Coast Guard functions*"<sup>1</sup>.

In particular, according to the current regulatory framework, **the Italian Coast Guard has direct competencies in 8 under 11 functions**: *safety of navigation (including maritime traffic management); safety of maritime and port transport; traffic monitoring and maritime surveillance; protection of the marine environment and response to pollution; search and rescue at sea; investigation of maritime accidents and maritime assistance service; response to emergencies and disasters at sea; inspections and controls in fisheries.*

As far as the remaining three functions are concerned, the Italian Coast Guard provides support to the respective national administrations in *customs control activities*, with special reference to pre-clearing of ships and control of cross-

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<sup>1</sup> "Evaluation of risk assessment capacity at the level of Member States' authorities performing coast guard functions in order to identify commonalities and ways to enhance interoperability and cooperation in this field across EU" – pubblicato il 30.03.2017 dal COWI-EASME

border waste traffic; *prevention and fight against smuggling and illegal trafficking by sea; border control.*

The recent **Recommendation C(2021) 5310 of 20 July 2021** drafted in synergy between the Member States and the European Agencies EMSA, EFCA and FRONTEX, establishing a *Practical Handbook on European cooperation on Coast Guard functions* **allowed Italy to be able to formalize and consolidate the "Coast Guard functions" and the respective competencies between the national Administrations.**

The **continuous dialogue with the pertinent European Agencies and the National Administrations** supports the achievement of their policies through the use of the information and data that the Italian Coast Guard has at its disposal through their own monitoring systems: maritime information services for the civil and productive uses of the sea, the protection of the marine environment and the protection of the relative biological resources.

**They are all valuable services for the benefit of the shipping world and for the safety of maritime traffic.**

I therefore welcome with pleasure the invitation to this event, which highlights how the **maritime sector is a fundamental element for the development of our country**, a strategic junction of a future that will be increasingly characterized by global exchanges and interactions.

This is a macrocosm where the **Italian Coast Guard acts as a major interlocutor** of experts who act for the growth of our country.

This is a macrocosm where the **maritime sector is the silent engine that allows us to look with confidence to the future**, from the perspective of globalization, with confidence in the potential that our country can express.

A spirit that can be identified with all the Authorities and Associations present in this assembly and in that of the Italian Coast Guard personnel that I represent here today: **we are all together with a driving force for the upgrading of the present world and the new shipping.**