

GRIMALDI STRENGTHENS ITS BRINDISI-IGOUMENITSA LINK

From 29 February, the vessel Europolink will join the ferry Kydon Palace on the twice-daily service between Italy and Greece

Naples, 28 February 2024: The Grimaldi Group will offer even more transport capacity and comfort on its connections between Italy and Greece: from next 29 February, the Neapolitan company will deploy the vessel *Europolink* on the twice-daily Brindisi-Igoumenitsa service. It is the ro-pax unit (i.e. dedicated to the mixed transport of rolling freight and passengers) with the greatest cargo capacity ever deployed in the Adriatic Sea. The new ship will join another modern ro-pax unit, the *Kydon Palace*, on the line where the Grimaldi Group offers two regular daily departures from each of the two ports.

The Italian-flagged *Europolink* can transport 930 passengers and 3,900 linear meters of rolling freight, equal to 220 trucks. Compared to the ship *Igoumenitsa*, that she will replace on the line, she can transport 20% more passengers and approximately 50% more trucks on each voyage.

Added to this significant increase in capacity is the enhanced service quality offered to passengers and drivers: the *Europolink* has 201 cabins (with 632 total beds) of various types (inside, ocean-view and junior suites), all with air conditioning and en suite facilities, some equipped for passengers with reduced mobility. Available for passengers are also two lounges with 75 comfortable reclining seats, a self-service restaurant, two bars, a large shop, a play area for children, a sauna and a slot machine area.

"Grimaldi strengthens the carriers and the carriers strengthen the port. A key formula for maritime economy, applied for 12 years in the port of Brindisi by the Neapolitan company which has never spared effort and commitment, increasingly implementing routes with effective, comfortable and eco-sustainable connections", commented Ugo Patroni Griffi, Chairman of the Port System Authority of the Southern Adriatic Sea (AdSPMAM). "The introduction of the Europolink, a ro-pax vessel whose features are designed to guarantee comfort to passengers, including truck drivers, represents a significant step forward in optimizing maritime transport, improving the service offered and increasing the appeal of our port, an important gateway for the motorways of the sea and a multifunctional hub in the Mediterranean basin".

"The introduction of the Europolink on the twice-daily Brindisi-Igoumenitsa ro-pax line represents a new upgrade for an already effective and competitive service, which has become an essential bridge for truly efficient and sustainable transport between Italy and Greece in terms of both economic and environmental aspects", declared Grimaldi Group Managing Director Emanuele Grimaldi. "This innovation fits well into our broader investment strategy in Greece which, among other milestones, led us to acquire the majority stake in the Port of Igoumenitsa last year. Overall, our presence will

facilitate the realization of the full potential of the Greek port, through the improvement of its services and the use of increasingly larger and more modern ships on the routes that connect it to Italy", concluded Emanuele Grimaldi.

The wide network of motorways of the sea operated by the Grimaldi Group significantly expands the reach of the Brindisi-Igoumenitsa link: for example, through transshipment in the Apulian port, trucks coming from Greece can continue by sea towards Northern Italy or Sicily on the Ravenna-Brindisi-Catania ro-ro line, and vice versa.

The Grimaldi Group is also active on the Ancona-Igoumenitsa route for the transport of freight and passengers between Italy and Greece. Both for this service and for the Brindisi-Igoumenitsa connection, additional calls in Corfu are scheduled during the Easter period and the summer season. Between the two shores of the Adriatic, the company also operates the Venice-Bari-Igoumenitsa-Patras service, dedicated to the exclusive transport of rolling freight with the use of the largest ro-ro ships in the world.

For more information:

AdSP Mare Adriatico Meridionale: Maria Di Filippo- +39 0831 562649, Mob: +39 338 2994445; Email: m.difilippo@adspmam.it

Grimaldi Group – External Relations: Paul Kyprianou Ph: +39 081 496246; Mob: +39 3204076539; Email: kyprianou.paul@grimaldi.napoli.it

The Grimaldi Group, headquartered in Naples, operates a fleet of over 130 vessels and employs approximately 18,000 people. Wholly owned by the Grimaldi family, it is a multinational logistics Group specialised in the operation of roll-on/roll-off vessels, car carriers and ferries. It comprises seven shipping companies, namely: Grimaldi Deep Sea, operating in the transport of rolling cargo and container on the Atlantic routes and between the Mediterranean and West Africa; Grimaldi Euromed, specialized in the transport of rolling freight in Europe, in the Motorways of the Sea and in the transport of passengers in the Mediterranean with the Grimaldi Lines brand; Atlantic Container Line, which offers transport services for containers and rolling cargo between North America and North Europe; Malta Motorways of the Sea, whose vessels connect Malta to the main ports in the Mediterranean; Minoan Lines, operating in Greek cabotage for the transport of freight and passengers; Finnlines, operating in freight and passengers transport in the North and Baltic Sea; Tramed GLE, active in the transport of freight and passengers between mainland Spain and the Balearic Islands.

The maritime connections are the core of an advanced logistics chain, which includes port terminals and road transport companies. The over 20 port and terminals owned/operated by the Grimaldi Group are located in 13 countries around the world: Italy, Spain, Greece, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Ireland, Belgium, Egypt, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin. Most of these terminals are fitted with Pre-Delivery Inspection (PDI) facilities, warehouses and workshops.