

## THE **GREAT COTONOU** JOINS THE GRIMALDI FLEET AND INAUGURATES THE CHINA-WEST AFRICA SERVICE

*With this delivery, the G5 class of six state-of-the-art ro-ro multipurpose vessels is now complete. The ship will operate alongside a sister vessel on the Neapolitan group's brand-new deep-sea route.*

*Naples, 23 December 2024:* With the delivery of the **Great Cotonou** on 20 December at the Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co. Ltd shipyard in Ulsan (South Korea), all six innovative G5-class ro-ro multipurpose vessels are now fully operational in the Grimaldi fleet.

With length of 250 metres, beam of 38 metres and deadweight of 45,684 tonnes, the design of the **Great Cotonou** and her sister vessels is the result of a careful study of the needs of the Group and its customers: thanks to an innovative and completely customized internal configuration, these ships are able to transport 4,700 linear metres of rolling freight, 2,500 CEU (Car Equivalent Units) and 2,000 TEU (Twenty Foot Equivalent Units). Compared to the previous G4-class, they have the same capacity for rolling freight while their container capacity is double.

In addition to loading capacity, the **Great Cotonou** stands out for her numerous cutting-edge technological solutions aimed at increasing energy efficiency and reducing environmental impact. The result is a significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per tonne transported of up to 43% less compared to other Grimaldi ro-ro multipurpose vessels. In addition, she is designed for cold ironing with shoreside supply of electricity (where available) as a green alternative to the consumption of fossil fuels during port stays.

In January 2025, the **Great Cotonou** will inaugurate a **brand-new Grimaldi Group route connecting China to Lagos (Nigeria)**. The ship will operate alongside a sister vessel, providing a service with an initial monthly frequency.

This new maritime link will allow the shipment of various types of rolling cargo (such as cars, vans, trucks, construction and agricultural machinery) and of containers from China with transshipment at the Grimaldi-owned PTML terminal in Lagos for delivery to **the main ports in West Africa and Brazil**.

This major announcement was made during the vessel's christening ceremony, held at the South Korean shipyard on 17 December. The event was attended by numerous guests, including Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co. Ltd President and CEO **H.K. Kim**, Senior Vice Presidents **C. O. Park** and **H. J. Choi**, and **Andrea Grimaldi**, Deep Sea Lines Executive Manager of the Grimaldi Group. The ship's godmother was **Bernardette Bottino**, wife of **Peter Bottino**, President and CEO of AES, one of Grimaldi Group's key clients for vehicle transportation between the United States and West Africa.

*“Today, we introduce two major innovations: the Great Cotonou, the sixth and final technological gem of the G5 class, and the new regular service that will enable the transport of rolling cargo and containers between China, West Africa, and Brazil,”* stated **Gian Luca Grimaldi**, President of Grimaldi Group S.p.A. *“We are proud to offer our customers an increasingly extensive network of services that stand out for their high transport capacity and environmental sustainability, thanks to our increasingly young and cutting-edge fleet.”*

For more information:

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**The Grimaldi Group**, headquartered in Naples, operates a fleet of 140 vessels and employs approximately 20,000 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; Trasmed 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.