

GRIMALDI PRESENTS THE NEW CAR CARRIER *GRANDE ISTANBUL* IN TÜRKİYE

The ammonia-ready vessel showcases the Group's continued investment in sustainable maritime transport and reinforces its long-term commitment to the Turkish market.

Naples/Kocaeli, 3 July 2026: This morning the Grimaldi Group presented its state-of-the-art vessel **Grande Istanbul** during a ceremony held at Autoport, the automotive terminal located in the port complex of Kocaeli.

The event was attended by **Edoardo Rixi**, Italian Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, together with **Ertuğ Şevket Aksoy**, Deputy Governor of Kocaeli, **Aras Serafettin**, President of UND (International Transporters Association), as well as other representatives of maritime institutions, port operators and leading industry associations. It also brought together key customers operating on Grimaldi's Short Sea and EuroMed services, alongside representatives of Arkas Holding, parent company of Egekont, the shipping group's agency in Türkiye, led by Vice President **Bernard Arkas**.

Guests were welcomed onboard by **Guido Grimaldi**, Corporate Short Sea Shipping Commercial Director of the Grimaldi Group who, during his brief speech, underlined the strategic importance of the country within its global maritime and logistics network.

Named after Türkiye's largest city and economic capital, the *Grande Istanbul* is **one of the 17 latest-generation, ammonia-ready Pure Car & Truck Carriers (PCTCs)** commissioned by the Grimaldi Group to further enhance the efficiency and sustainability of its global automotive logistics services. With an impressive cargo capacity of up to **9,241 CEUs (Car Equivalent Units)**, she is able to **reduce CO₂ emissions per unit of cargo by up to 50%** compared with previous-generation car carriers.

The *Grande Istanbul* is currently deployed on the Grimaldi Group's EuroMed Service, linking several ports in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean, including Autoport, Borusan, Derince, Gemlik, Haydarpaşa and İzmir in Türkiye. The service transports cars, vans, trucks, other rolling cargo and containers, providing manufacturers and logistics operators with flexible, reliable and sustainable transport solutions.

The Grimaldi Group's presence in Türkiye

The presentation of the *Grande Istanbul* provided an opportunity to reaffirm the Grimaldi Group's long-standing commitment to Türkiye, where the Italian shipping company has been active for almost five decades.

Since the mid-1990s, the Group has operated **regular car carrier services** connecting İzmir to key ports in the Mediterranean and in Northern Europe. In line with the strong development of the Turkish

automotive industry, it later extended its maritime links to include ports in the Marmara region, where major vehicle manufacturers established their production sites.

A major milestone in Grimaldi's growth strategy came in September 2024, when the Group entered the Turkish short sea market with the launch of the **Trieste–Patras–Ambarli ro-ro service**, operated by ECO-class ro-ro vessels, the world's largest and most environmentally friendly units in their category. In response to strong market demand, the service was rapidly **expanded to include Gemlik** and today **offers eight weekly departures** through the deployment of three ECO-class vessels and one Eurocargo-class ship.

Overall, the Grimaldi Group currently deploys around **20 state-of-the-art ro-ro vessels and PCTCs in Türkiye**, representing a total investment of approximately € 1,2 billion. The fleet regularly serves the ports of **Ambarli, Autoport, Borusan, Derince, Gemlik, Haydarpaşa, Yalova, Yeniköy and İzmir**.

In 2025 alone, Grimaldi vessels made **750 calls at Turkish ports**, connecting the country—through direct and transshipment services—to a global network spanning more than 150 ports in over 60 countries across five continents. During the same period, the Group transported around **560,000 cars, vans and other rolling cargo units to and from Türkiye on its Euro-Med services**, as well as **almost 100.000 trucks, trailers and containers on its short sea services**. In doing so, it supported not only the country's automotive industry but also its agricultural and industrial exports. Looking ahead, **in 2026 the Group is achieving +50% growth compared to last year**, driven by increased capacity and service expansion.

“The friendship between Italy and Türkiye has deep roots. Today, thanks to the concrete commitment of the Grimaldi Group, this historical bond translates into an increasingly strong commercial partnership”, said Guido Grimaldi, Corporate Short Sea Shipping Commercial Director of the Grimaldi Group. “We strongly believe in the Turkish market and in this country, which represents a unique logistics platform in the Mediterranean, at the crossroads of three continents. We have ambitious plans to further develop our short-sea and car carrier services to and from the country, thus supporting its trade relations with the rest of the world.”

Beyond shipping services, the Grimaldi Group also contributes to the Turkish maritime ecosystem through its regular use of local shipyards. In 2025 alone, more than 20 vessels underwent repair or drydocking in Yalova and Tuzla, supporting local industrial activity and employment.

More about the *Grande Istanbul*

Delivered in November 2025 by the Chinese shipyards Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding (SWS) and China Shipbuilding Trading Co. (CSTC), both part of China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited (CSSC), the vessel measures 200 metres in length, 38 metres in beam and has a gross tonnage of approximately 77,500 tonnes.

Designed to transport both electric and conventionally powered vehicles, as well as other types of rolling cargo, the *Grande Istanbul* offers a carrying capacity of up to 9,241 CEUs (Car Equivalent Units). Four of her decks are hoistable, allowing the transport of heavy and oversized rolling cargo weighing up to 250 tonnes and up to 6.5 metres in height.

The vessel incorporates the latest environmental technologies available on the market. Her electronically controlled engine delivers one of the lowest specific fuel consumptions in her category while complying with the most stringent international limits on CO₂, NO_x and SO_x emissions. Compared with previous-generation car carriers, the *Grande Istanbul* reduces CO₂ emissions per unit of cargo by up to 50%. She is also designed for future conversion to **ammonia as a zero-carbon alternative fuel** and is equipped for **cold ironing**, enabling the use of shore-side electricity during port stays and eliminating emissions while alongside.

For more information:

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 21,000 people. Wholly owned by the Grimaldi family, it is a multinational logistics Group specialized 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 containers on the Atlantic routes and between the Mediterranean and West Africa; Grimaldi Euromed, specialists in the transport of rolling freight in Europe, in the Motorways of the Sea and in passenger transport in the Mediterranean with the Grimaldi Lines brand; Atlantic Container Line, which offers transport services for containers and rolling cargo between North America and Northern 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, carrying freight and passengers in the North and Baltic Sea; and Tramed GLE, active in the transport of freight and passengers between mainland Spain and the Balearic Islands. These maritime connections are the core of an advanced logistics chain, which includes port terminals and road transport companies. The 20-plus ports and terminals owned/operated by the Grimaldi Group are located in 13 countries: Italy, Spain, Greece, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Ireland, Belgium, Egypt, Cameroon, Nigeria and Benin. Most of these terminals are fitted with Pre-Delivery Inspection (PDI) facilities, warehouses and workshops.

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