

Port policy in Croatia

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Ports are of special importance in the world and for the national economies and international trade. Port activities reach deep into the background of every country, so that port activities have a powerful impact and influence on the economy of an entire country, even on other countries. The port is a part of the traffic system of a state and the junction location into which the traffic from all traffic routes and through all means of transport meets.

It does not belong to any single branch of traffic, but is within the traffic system the factor on which the proper and effective functioning of all other participants in traffic depends.

Seaports are not and can not be purposes within themselves; their assignment is to help expand economic activities by rendering optimal services.

With its authority and policy, and through the application of corresponding legal measures, the state is able to activate stronger or weaker development of the port system, or of individual ports within the mentioned system. The influence of the state on business operations and development of ports is absolutely necessary and justified, since the social advantages produced by the ports system in favor of the entire community are always much greater than the advantages begot by the ports themselves¹.

The mode and magnitude of investment into the development of a port system is an indication of the treatment ports have in the various social communities, demonstrating the degree of orientation of the entire society towards the logistical, traffic and port policy of a maritime country. The feedback rendered by a modern and developed port and a harmoniously adjusted port system of a maritime country, is a stimulus for the economic development of the hinterland, and more exactly to the entire maritime state that invests into ports.

The influence of the state on business operations and development of ports in Croatia is at the very outset. In former Yugoslavia a united and integral approach of the

A maritime state, with its influence and policy by means of legal measures and regulations, can and must follow and urge business operations and development of the national port system, in a word, of each single port within that system. The development of the port system has to be marked by a clearly defined port policy that is a constituent part of the economic and traffic policy of the country. Port policy is a set of legal regulations by which the state shapes and guides the development of ports in compliance with assessed needs. The state's influence on business operations and development of ports in Croatia is at the very outset. The new maritime legislation (Maritime Code and Seaports Act) in Croatia attempts to overcome and rectify the flaws taken over from ex-Yugoslavia and endeavors to organize and direct business and development of the port system more successfully and in compliance with other developed European maritime states. The acts that are now in the process of legislating are the basis for the making of a long-standing, integral and justified port policy in Croatia.

state in its relation to the ports was lacking, the result of which is the numerous negative consequences regarding the condition and developmental possibilities of certain ports, and in other words of the total port system on the eastern coast of the Adriatic. The infrastructure of the new legislation that is coming into effect in Croatia is an attempt to overcome and rectify the flaws taken over from ex-Yugoslavia and an endeavor to more successfully direct the development of the port system as an exceptionally important factor for the development of the Croatian economy.

Port policy of the state: a precondition for business and development of the port system

The development of a port system must not be

chaotic nor coincidental, but must be marked by a clearly defined port policy which is a constituent part of the economic and traffic policy of the maritime country. Port policy is the foundation for an effective development of the entire port system of a maritime state, or more exactly of the individual ports that make up the mentioned system.

Port policy can be defined as a set of measures, decisions, laws, regulations, planned concepts, financial actions, and the tax and tariff system in relation to ports, enforced so as to create positive effects on their development within the total economic and traffic system of the country. As a matter of fact, port policy is the means by which the shaping and guiding of port development is performed in accordance with the assessed needs². This set of measure consists of two essential parts:

- defining the results that wish to be achieved
- determining measures by which the results will be achieved.

In order to attain the desired effects and avoid errors that might occur in the two mentioned parts of a port policy, it is necessary to come up attentively and in all segments with corresponding decisions which will be