3. Maritime transport

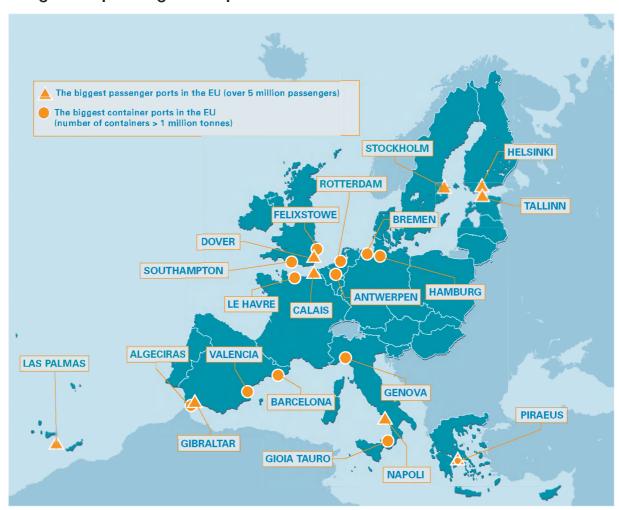


Maritime transport

Due to its geography, its history and, today, to globalisation, the European Union is highly dependent on maritime transport:

- More than 90% of its external trade and some 43% of its domestic trade move by sea; more than 1 billion tonnes of freight are unloaded and loaded annually in Union ports.
- Shipping companies owned by European Union nationals control one third of the world's fleet, and around 40% of EU trade is carried on vessels controlled by EU interests.
- The shipping sector including shipbuilding, ports, fisheries and related services industries employs around 2.5 million people in the European Union.

Freight and passenger transport in the EU



Shipbuilding

- The European Union's shipbuilding sector accounts for some 10% of world production.
- There are more than 150 shipyards in the European Union, of which 40 play an active role worldwide in building large ocean-going merchant marine vessels.
- · Shipbuilding is very important in a number of Member States from an industrial and strategic point of view.
- Some 50,000 people in the European Union are directly employed by shipyards and 250,000 people work for 9,000 sub-contractor companies.
- Exports account for more than half of the industry's turnover of € 34 billion.
- The European shipbuilding industry is a global player in the construction of complex vessels such as cruise ships, ferries, very large yachts and dredgers. It holds a strong position in the construction of submarines and other vessels.
- The European shipbuilding industry ranks number one worldwide for a large number of products, including diesel engines and electronics.

The main shipyards in the EU

