

carus monthly newsletter

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Spanish Shipowners' Association General Assembly 2021

With the new **Spanish Minister for Transport** at the helm, the post-COVID reunion of the Spanish shipping sector has taken place a year late with **Carus as the main sponsor**.

Since 2012 Carus has hosted its **Carus Excellence Awards in Spain**. The ceremony takes place in the months of June/July each year to coincide with the General Assembly of the Spanish Shipowners' Association, ANAVE, of which **Carus is an Associate Member and main Sponsor**.



The Spanish Minister for Transport during the event

Carus sponsors this event every year and the event began with a speech by Carus Spain Representative, Jose Rodríguez.

In his speech, **Jose Rodríguez** highlighted the importance of the sector's reunion after a very hard year for everyone, with the hope of seeing a recovery as soon as possible. He also highlighted the human and professional impact that COVID has had. The award was presented to **Alejandro Aznar**, President of the Ibaizabal Group, and outgoing president of ANAVE. Alejandro has a family history that dates back to 1861 with the start of their shipping operations which at one time ranked in the top 15 shipping operators worldwide.

Alejandro took the floor to close the event with the new Minister of Transport, Raquel Sánchez.

Alejandro Aznar welcomed the new president of ANAVE for the next three years, Vicente Boluda.

The outgoing president of ANAVE thanked the collaboration of the Maritime and Port Administration during these months of pandemic. He highlighted the importance of *"the strategic value of the Special Registry of the Canary Islands and the Merchant Marine for Spain"* and the need to concentrate the largest number of matters related to the Merchant Marine in a single Ministry, *"to become aware of the particularities of our sector."*

He proposed the definition of a process for the Blue Economy within the Next Generation Funds of the European Union. And he underlined the importance of innovation to overcome the environmental challenges facing the maritime sector.



The event took place at the Hotel Wellington, Madrid and was attended by the recently appointed **Minister of Transport, Raquel Sánchez**; the Secretary of State for Transport, Pedro Saura; the Admiral Chief of Defence Staff, Teodoro López; the Secretary General for Transport, María José Rallo; the Admiral Chief of Staff of the Navy, Antonio Martorell; the general director of the Merchant Navy, Benito Núñez and the president of Puertos del Estado, Francisco Toledo, together with a wide representation of companies and institutions from the different Spanish maritime sectors.

For her part, the minister valued the relationship with ANAVE that she described as strategic for the Ministry of Transport.

She was also moderately optimistic about the recovery of the economy. She reported that the data accumulated as of June 2021 on port

traffic showed a cumulative increase of 4.6%. *"We are facing encouraging data because maritime traffic always acts as a leading indicator of economic evolution,"* she declared.

After the speeches, the traditional lunch sponsored by Carus was held, which brought together the highest representatives of the private and public sector of the Spanish and European maritime industry.

Among the guests, this year were Christophe Mathieu President of Brittany Ferries, Matteo Catani CEO of GNV —accompanied by their directors Matteo Della Valle and Matteo De Candia, Mario Massarotti CEO of Grimaldi Spain, Ettore Morace CEO of Trasmед Grimaldi, and Marcos Marí Washbourne, President of TRASMAPI, and his General Director, Rafael Cardona.



Jose Rodriguez presenting the Carus Excellence Award 2021 to Alejandro Aznar, President of the Ibaizabal Group and outgoing President of ANAVE.

This award is intended solely to highlight the excellence and dedication to the maritime sector, and is awarded to **the most outstanding professionals** in this regard.

Previous editions of the Carus Excellence were awarded to the President of ECSA and Suardiaz Group, Mr. Juan Riva, and to the President of Balearia Group, Mr. Adolfo Utor. The Carus edition of the Excellence Award 2014 went to the Director General of Spanish Merchant Marine, Mr. Rafael Rodriguez Valero. And the latest Carus Excellence Award went to: Mr. Vicente Boluda — President of Boluda Corporation and Carus Excellence Award 2015; Mr. Emanuele Grimaldi —CEO of Grimaldi Group and Carus Excellence Award 2016; Mr. Luis Miguel Sousa —CEO of Sousa Group and Carus Excellence Award 2017; D. Antonio Armas — President of Naviera Armas and Trasmediterranea, and Carus Excellence Award 2018; Mr. Mike Corrigan —CEO of Interferry and Carus Excellence Award 2019; and Mr. Nils-Erik Eklund, Member of The Board of Directors of Viking Line since 1997, and President and CEO of Viking Line from 1990 to 2010.

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Marcos Marí Washbourne, President of TRASMAPI in the foreground of the Carus table, along with Matteo Catani, José Rodriguez, Ettore Morace, and Christophe Mathieu





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