



The Port of Barcelona and SEAT launch the first regular line of car traffic to China

The automobile company loads 250 cars onto the vessel *Morning Cornelia*

A new regular line has been in service in the Port of Barcelona since 10th January to transport new cars between the Catalan capital and China. The automobile manufacturer launched the new service by loading a total of 250 cars onto the car carrier *Morning Cornelia*, which is destined for the Chinese market, thus converting Barcelona into the first Spanish port to offer a direct service for the transport of vehicles to China.

The first shipment of SEAT cars consisted of 250 units of the León model, all manufactured at the Martorell (Catalonia) plant and destined for the ports of Guangzhou y Tianjin. SEAT will start commercialising its cars in the Chinese market in the spring.

First call of the Morning Cornelia

The launch of the new service coincided with the first port call of the *Morning Cornelia*, a car carrier owned by the Korean Shipping Company Eukor Car Carriers, which is owned by the Wallenius Wilhelmsen group. The vessel was built in 2010 with a length of 199 metres and the capacity to transport over 6,500 cars.

The new service, which gets underway with the *Morning Cornelia*, is the result of the SEAT expansion project in China. This year the car brand expects to sell 4,000 vehicles in the Asian country. This figure means that the company will make monthly shipments of approximately 400 units from the Port of Barcelona during the first year of penetration in the Chinese market. The new Eukor Car Carriers line will operate monthly, thus rendering a reliable, quality transport service between the Mediterranean and Chinese ports.

The *Morning Cornelia* set sail from the Catalan capital for Tianjin (northern China) on 10th January where it will dock in 25 days to unload all the cars. However, the line will also usually call at the Port of Guangzhou (in the south of the country).

In addition to SEAT, the service will facilitate the internationalisation of other car manufacturers interested in breaking into the Asian country.

Collaboration between the Port of Barcelona and SEAT

The Port of Barcelona and SEAT maintain close commercial ties, which have intensified in recent years through various initiatives. For example, since 2007, the SEAT Factory in Martorell has had a rail link for transporting new cars to the Port of Barcelona. This link, operated by Autometro, transports some



100,000 vehicles annually to the port area, from which they are exported by sea to various foreign markets.

In this respect, Barcelona is the only Spanish port with a European gauge rail connection, connecting the vehicles' terminals – which have the highest capacity in the Mediterranean – to any facility in the rest of Europe, thereby saving 4 days transit time in relation to northern European ports.

Similarly, the first multi-client regular service will soon come into operation in the Port of Barcelona, providing a distribution channel for Asian vehicles destined for Eastern and Central Europe as well as a service for concentrating vehicles in Barcelona that are destined for export to Asia and the Western Mediterranean.

The shipment of the first SEAT vehicles from Spain to China thus consolidates the strong commercial relationship between the Catalan port and SEAT, who have entrusted the Barcelona port community to initiate their expansion project into the Asian country.

Note: We are attaching a photograph of the first call of the Morning Cornelia in the Port of Barcelona. Signed: Port de Barcelona / Juanjo Martínez.

