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Guidelines for port planning regulations Rosario Pavia

The guidelines for port planning regulations have finally assumed the form of a Guideline memorandum. This document intervenes in some areas which have long been neglected: the relationship between port planning and the planning of urban and land areas, the complexity of the process of approval for port plans and the distinction between the stages of drawing up the plans and the stages of evaluation for environmental impact/compatibility. The recent memorandum is also a great help in methodological and operative planning, underlining the necessity of finding a true integration between port, city and territory through the effective coordination of stages of decision making and the methods of planning and programming. Through this planning agreement, the consultation of services between local administrations, central administrations and local authorities of infrastructural networks and understanding between port and council authorities become strategic steps. To almost reaffirm the need to join port planning to the more general urban planning, the memorandum defines port plans in both structural and operative terms, thus standardising them with the more advanced trends in council urban planning found in current regional regulations. The structural port plan includes the strategic choices for urban and land planning around the area of the port: on the one hand there are environmental, scenic and other identifiable invariables, while on the other hand, there are the infrastructural systems of which the port is an integral part. Other than the sphere of the port itself, the structural plan also

identifies two subspheres: the first is relative to the operative port, or rather, those areas necessary for the efficient functioning of port activities; the second is the area of interaction between city and port, that is the areas overlapping and connecting between the port itself and the structures of surrounding urban areas. The operative plan defines, dimensionally and technically, the morphological and functional order of the port, its interconnections, its equipment and the singular destinations operating. It also defines the criteria for verification in which plans and operations are evaluated from an environmental point of view as well as technicaleconomical feasibility. The subsphere 'operative port' is directly responsible to the port authority, whereas for the subsphere of port-city interaction, the memorandum indicates methods of intervention concentrated between both the port authority and the local council. The memorandum also provides a check list for analysis and plans which endeavours to unify the designing of port plans and describes a methodology for writing up environmental impact evaluations. This section of the memorandum, written with the environmental ministry, is very important as it underlines the inefficiency of environmental evaluations done ex post, favouring an evaluation process which is developed in the context of defined technical and economical choices when planning. Consequently, the Guidelines for port plan regulations open up a new phase for policy making and the orchestration of operations in port areas. City councils will be brought more naturally to include port planning in their urban

planning, and Regions to integrate the theme of port

planning into their laws and directives.