



Urbanistica n. 131

September-December 2006

Distribution by www.planum.net

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**Maritime traffic in the
Mediterranean and
Mediterranean issues***Matteo di Venosa*

In recent years, the Mediterranean has undergone a revolution in maritime transport, becoming one of the leaders in global commercial communications. The Suez-Gibraltar connects the Mediterranean with the large Atlantic and Far Eastern markets and is opened to the Middle east and the former Soviet Republic via the Black Sea. Criss-crossed by the world's ships, the Mediterranean is a strategic geographical space for Occidental commercial trade with emerging countries such as China and India.

Additionally, from the year 2010, it will become an area of free trade, opening Europe to more intense economic and cultural exchange with North Africa. All of this is indicated for Italian ports. In particular, southern ports will find themselves in a situation full of development opportunities.

International maritime traffic is destined to grow in the next ten years. This eventual increase of traffic in the Mediterranean had been newly labelled "the Mediterranean matter", and if placed within this network, the cities of Southern Italy, could become not only point of logistic importance, but also leading centres of industry and production.