



Presentation of

**Maritime Economy  
in Albania: a strategic  
sector for the country**

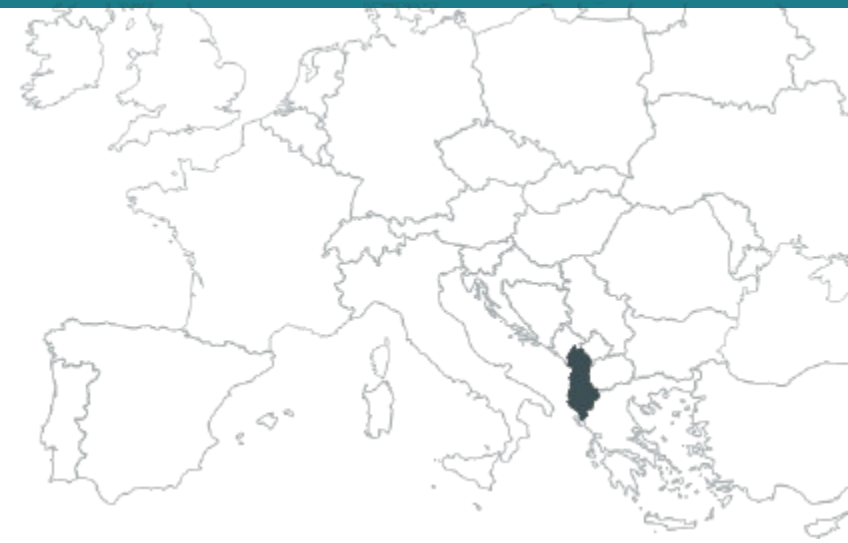
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Research Center related to Intesa Sanpaolo Banking Group

**Tirana, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

# Purpose and Organisation of the Study

Analysing the Maritime Sector in Albania.  
A tool to make the country stand out in  
the international landscape.



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**Part One** Albania's port network structure and competitive position

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**Part Two** Albania's maritime relations with Italy

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## 1 Why is the Mediterranean essential both for global trade and the shipping industry?

## 2 The growing role of the East Mediterranean

- The Adriatic Sea as a gateway
- The rising relevance of Albania

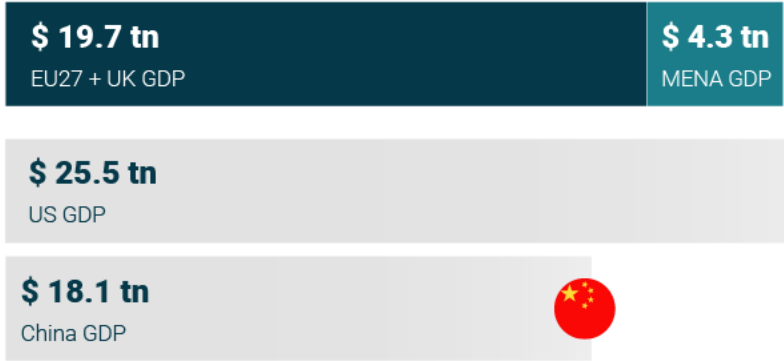
## 3 Albania's port network structure and competitive position



# 1 Why is the Mediterranean essential both for global trade and the shipping industry?

## The Mediterranean is the cornerstone of the world economy

The Mediterranean is at the centre of an area worth **\$ 24 tn** of total GDP, almost as **much as the USA** and **more than China**.



Source: SRM on various data

### The key numbers of the Mediterranean



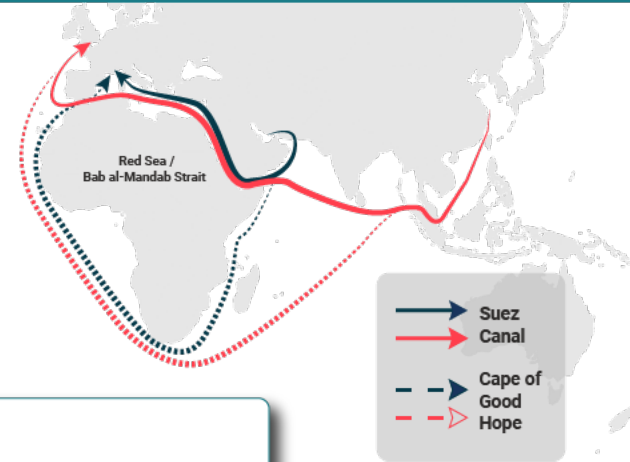
### TOP 10 container ports of the Mediterranean + Adriatic ports



Source: EFMD on Eurostat, Port and Canal Authority, ISTAT, Port Authorities

# 1 Why is the Mediterranean essential both for global trade and the shipping industry?

## Suez and the Red Sea: despite the impact on the shipping routes, the forecast of the Med container traffic is positive



Average Suez transits 2024 on 2023 average

**-70%**  
in GT terms

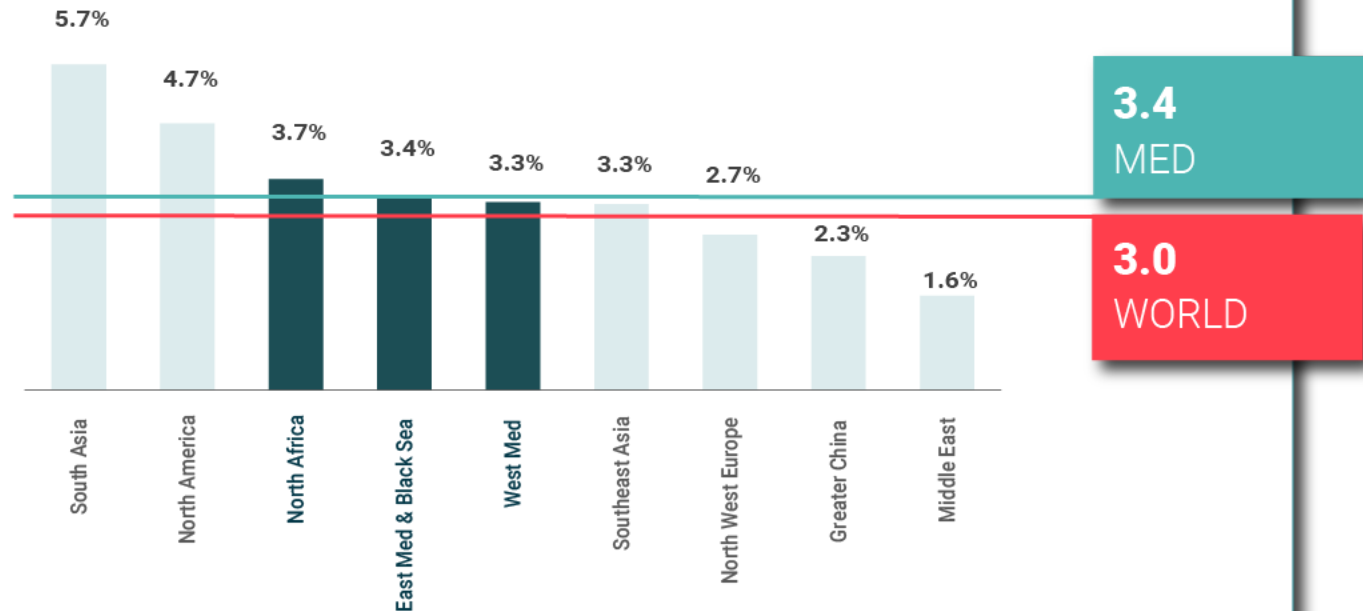
Containership  
Car carriers, Cruise ships, LNG carriers

**-90%**  
or more

Bulkers  
Tankers

**-50%**

Average annual growth rate 2023 - 2028: container traffic



Source: SRM on Drewry and Clarksons

## The Adriatic Sea as a gateway. It supports the Balkans and Central Europe with its maritime and energy infrastructures

The Adriatic Sea includes 6 countries:  
Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia,  
Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia.

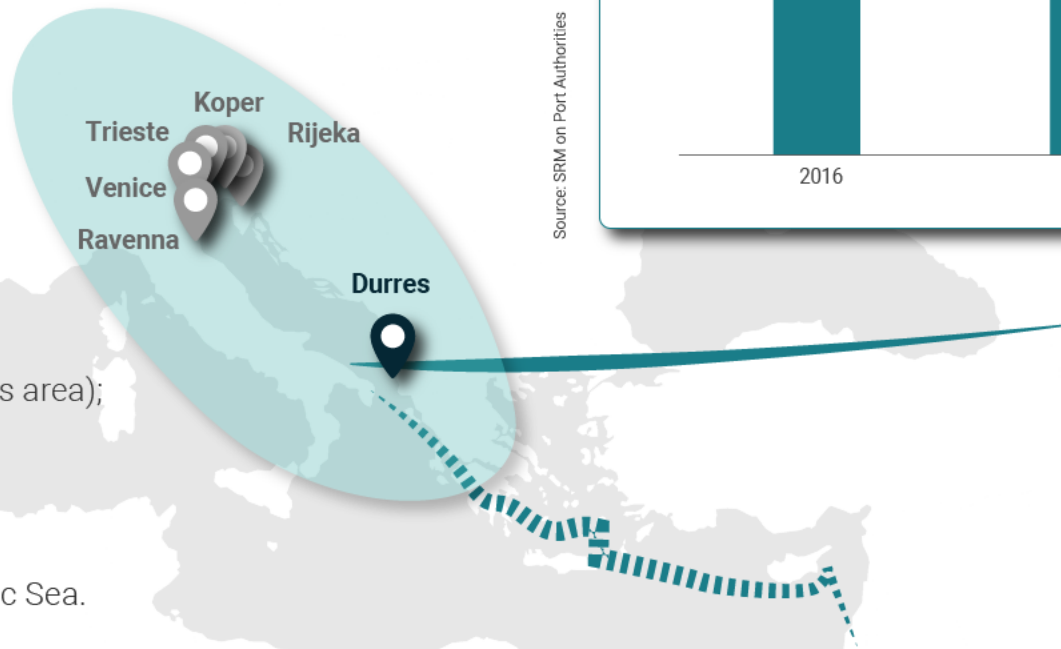
**GDP: \$2,511 bn**

**14% on EU GDP**

Source: SRM on IMF

### ENERGY

The East Med is rich of natural gas (ENI is exploring this area);  
EastMed Pipeline (Poseidon) is under construction to  
connect this area with Italy and Europe;  
TAP (Trans Adriatic Pipeline) is a gas pipeline from  
Azerbaijan to Italy, crossing Greece, Albania and Adriatic Sea.

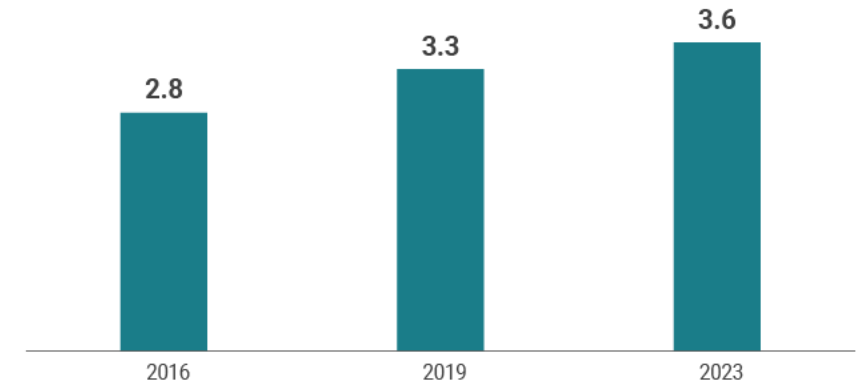


Source: SRM on Port Authorities

### PORTS

In the Adriatic Sea there are many important ports  
handling cargo that is crucial for the countries' economy.

The Adriatic Sea. Container throughput (mln TEUs)



# The Adriatic Sea is a strategic geopolitical crossroads and it has got a regional integration role



## Industry Supply Chains Reorganization



Reshaping relations in the Area, following the regionalization of the globalization.

## Ports, Logistics, Tourism and Maritime Economy



A strategic sector for all these countries.

## Energy Sector crucial for all Mediterranean Strategies



The Adriatic Sea is a strategic energy corridor to Central Europe.

## Italy and Albania could play a crucial role.

The Adriatic space could:

**Provide Italy with a gateway to major continental European regions, such as the Danube and the Baltic.**

**Be a front door to the Mediterranean.**



## Albania's main economic figures at a glance

Economy and foreign trade

**GDP at current price \$22.7 bn**

**35.1%**

GDP growth  
2013-2023

**3.2%**

GDP growth  
2013-2023  
annual average

**3.4%**

GDP growth  
2024-2029  
annual average

**\$15,384**

GDP  
per capita  
PPP

**\$19,889**

GDP  
per capita in 2029  
PPP | EXP

**€12 bn**  
**Foreign trade**  
in 2023

**38.5%**  
**Foreign trade**  
change on 2019

**around €10.8 bn  
of foreign trade  
is by sea**





## The Maritime & Logistic Sector

**Cargo handled by total ports in 2023**  
6.8 m tonnes



**92.5%**

share of total transport

**68.9%**

change on 2013

**5.4%**

annual growth 2013-2023

**11 projects in the TEN-T Corridors context for a total value of €1 bn.**

**6**

road projects

**2**

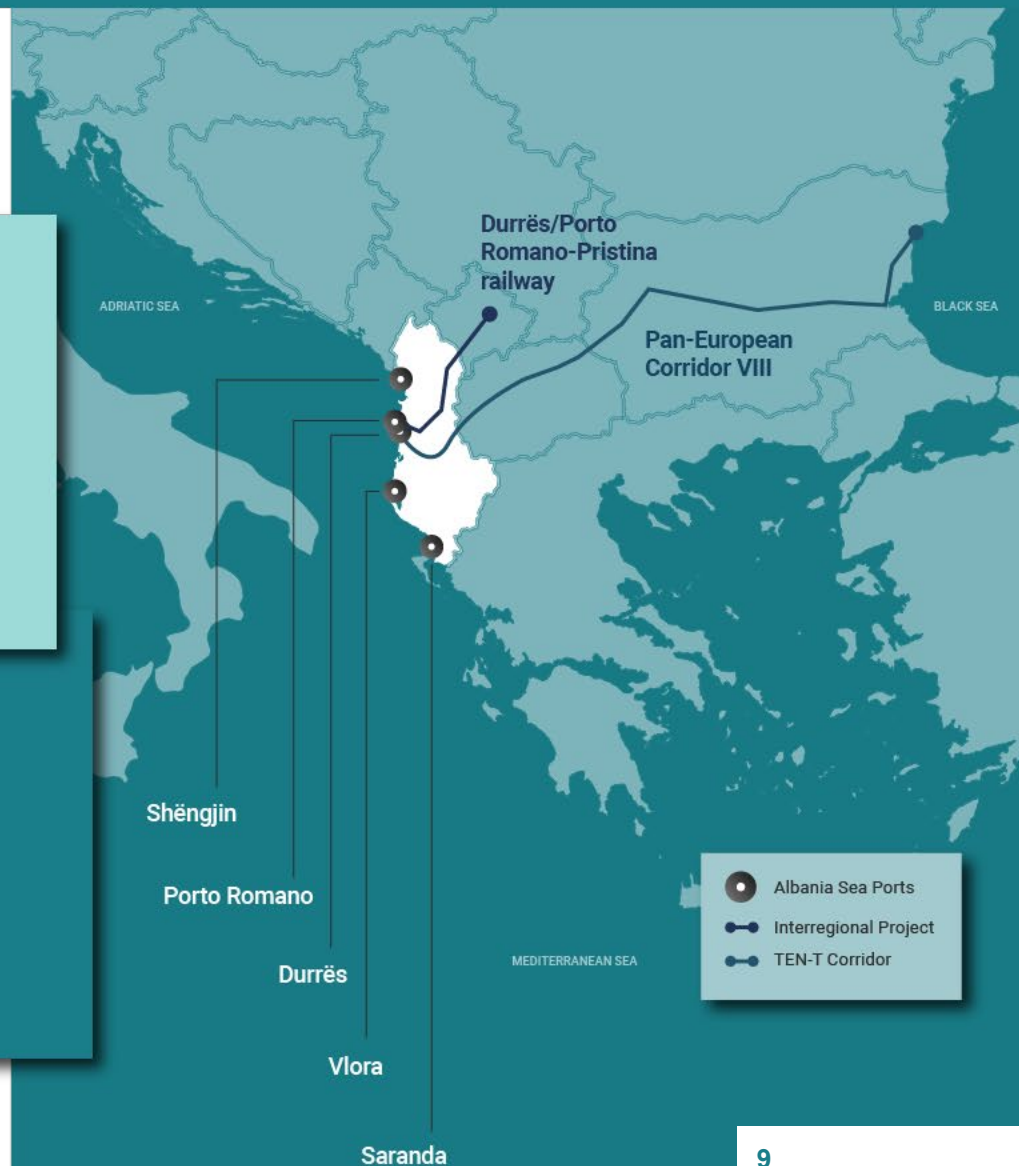
rail projects

**2**

maritime projects

**1**

air projects



Source: SRM on INSTAT



# The main maritime European partners

## Ports and type of cargo

**ITALY:** Main ports: Bari, Ancona, and Gioia Tauro.  
Primary categories: Liquid bulk and Ro-Ro.

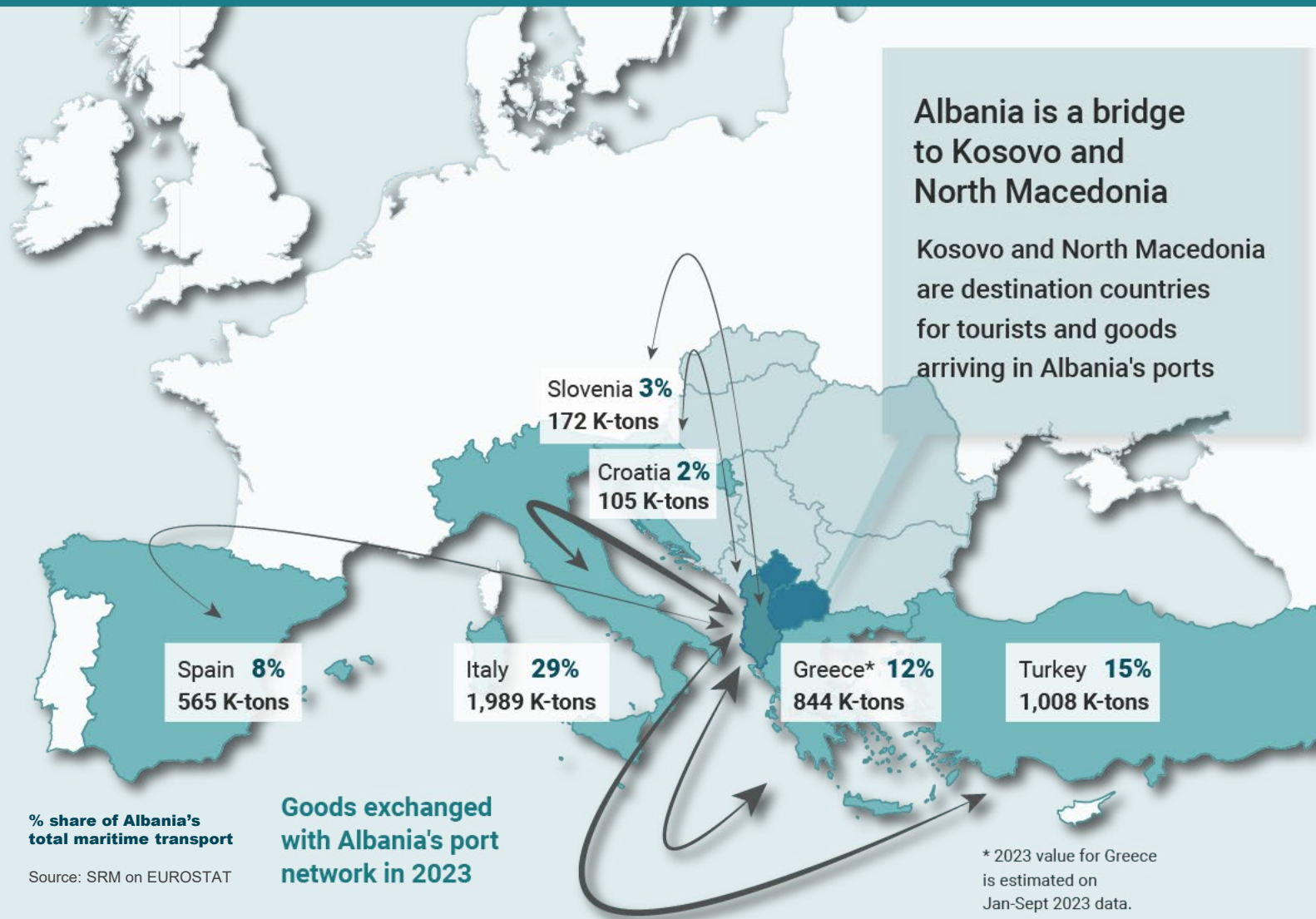
**TURKEY:** Main ports: Aliaga, Izmit, and Izmir  
Primary category: Dry bulk.

**GREECE:** Main port: Piraeus.  
Primary category: Container.

**SPAIN:** Main ports: Tarragona and Barcelona  
Primary category: Liquid bulk.

**SLOVENIA:** Main port: Koper.  
Primary category: Liquid bulk.

**CROATIA:** Main ports: Bakar and Ploce.  
Primary category: Liquid bulk.





## Albania's port infrastructure developments plans

### Investments

Tourism | € 2.1 bn

Cargo | €390 million



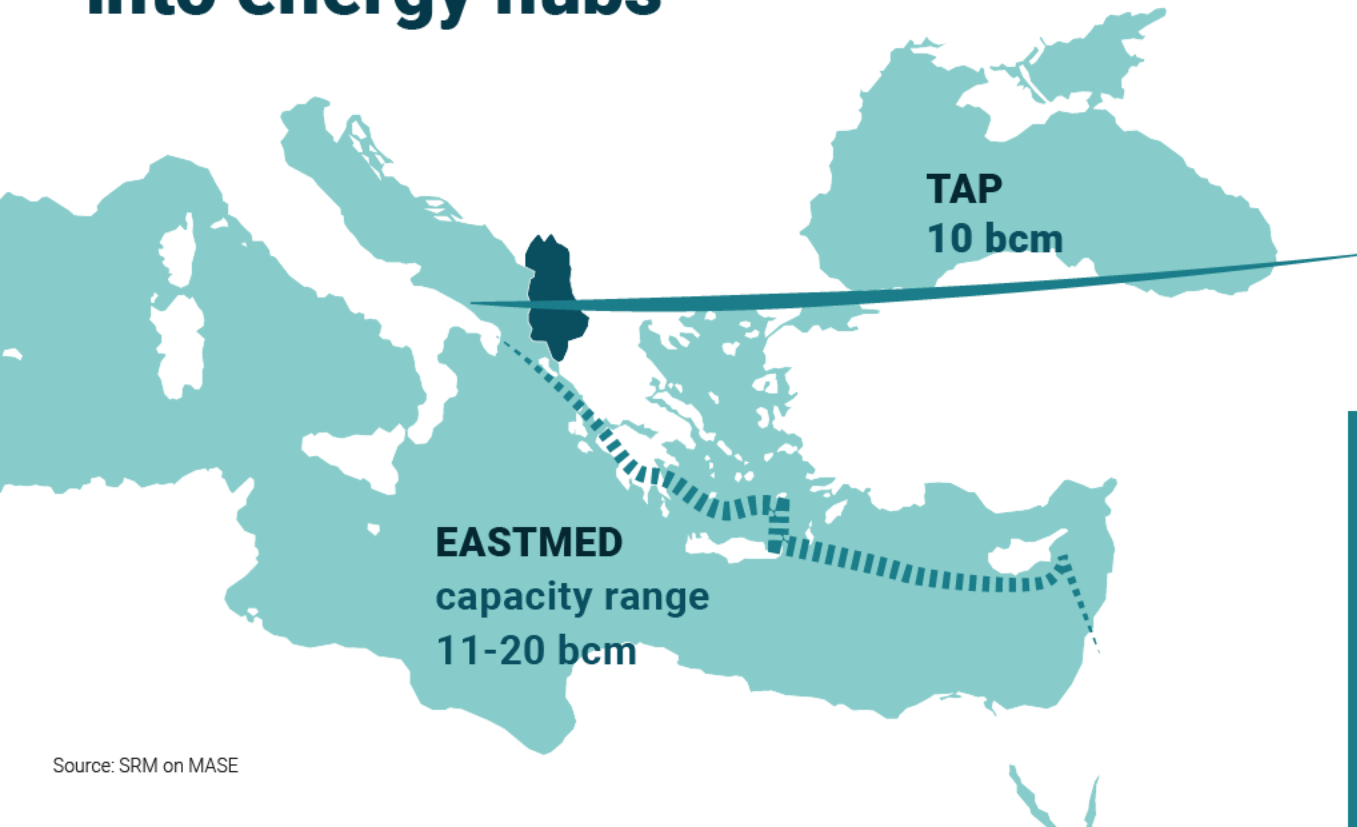
**Cargo activities will be moved to Porto Romano**

from 200 k TEUs to 2 m TEUs

**Durrës, Vlora and Saranda will become the most important touristic ports, especially for mega yachts**



# Ports are not only logistics nodes... They are evolving into energy hubs



## Ports are:

- crucial infrastructure for regulating the functioning of the energy market: they take on the role of primary locations for production, storage and trade of oil&gas;
- entrance points of oil & gas pipelines;
- energy gateways: refineries are access points to hydrocarbon transportation infrastructure and are usually located near ports; Oil and Chemical need to be converted into biofuel and biochemical. close to energy-intensive industries where hydrogen can be use;
- energy communities: they facilitate the energy transition process of shipping and logistics;
- alternative fuels bunkering points to boost green shipping.

Durres is moving towards this direction:

### Action Plan for a Sustainable and Low-carbon Port

- Revitalisation of green areas
- A recycling plan for a sustainable port
- A Mobility plan for Durres Port employees
- Investment in clean energy (renewable)



Thank you for your attention

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