

## THE WORLD FREE ZONES ORGANIZATION DISTINGUISHES BARCELONA

### **EL CONSORCI DE LA ZONA FRANCA DE BARCELONA APPOINTED TO ORGANISE THE 2019 ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (AICE)**

- The executive board of the World Free Zones Organization announced in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) that Barcelona has been appointed to hold the 2019 conference.
- The Spanish candidacy, represented by El Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona won over Egypt, Mexico, Kazakhstan and Serbia which had also submitted candidacies.

**Barcelona, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017.-** El Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona will organise the 2019 World Free Zone Organization's Annual International Conference and Exhibition (AICE), as announced at the conference that took place in Cartagena de Indias and which was opened by the president of Colombia, **Juan Manuel Santos**.

The decision to hold the 2019 edition in Spain was made by the executive council of the AICE, presided over by **Mohammed Alzarooni**. The Spanish candidacy, represented by El Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona, won over those presented by Egypt, Mexico, Kazakhstan and Serbia.

**Jordi Cornet**, the special State delegate to El Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona, was delighted with the appointment of his organisation as the host and highlighted that ***“the experience of El Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona in organising international fairs and conferences, together with the prestige of Spain as a worldwide logistical platform, the attraction of Barcelona as a Mediterranean capital and the combination of institutional efforts have all been determining factors for the World Free Zones Organisation to select our candidacy.”***

Cornet added that it is ***“an excellent piece of news for Spain, for Catalonia and for the city of Barcelona. Once again, El Consorci de la Zona Franca has shown that by combining efforts, the results are multiplied.”***

**Jordi Cornet**, the special State delegate to El Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona highlighted the institutional collaboration that the candidacy had generated and

acknowledged the work of **Jaume Collboni**, deputy mayor of Barcelona City Council and **Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría**, deputy prime minister of the Spanish government.

To this end, referring to **Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría**, he said ***“her involvement has been essential to achieve this success, as well as in other projects which contribute to projecting the image of Barcelona as a worldwide enclave for trade and economy, because the challenges of the global economy require united action and constancy in the desire to dialogue.”***

**Jaume Collboni**, the deputy mayor for Enterprise, Culture and Innovation of Barcelona City Council, expressed his ***“satisfaction at this success of the Zona Franca, which underlines its function as a first-class logistical and industrial zone in the city.”*** He added that ***“this conference recognises the task of this key feature of competitiveness of Barcelona and represents an opportunity to show the world the Zona Franca de Barcelona's successful model.***

The fifth edition of the conference will take place in the spring of 2019, probably in May, at the Barcelona Palau de Congressos. It will be a worldwide shop window that will boost the city as a centre for international trade. It is calculated that the event will bring together more than a thousand representatives of free zones from all over the world.

In 2015 and 2016 it was held in Dubai, the permanent headquarters of the World Free Zones Organization. In 2018, it will take place in the United Arab Emirates.

According to WFZO sources, there are a total of 3,500 free zones in 130 countries, representing more than 70 million jobs, approximately 1% of the registered active population worldwide.

El Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona is an organisation that was created in 1916 by the Spanish government, Barcelona City Council and the economic bodies of Catalan civil society which, with a historic spirit of consensus, is dedicated to generating commercial and economic activity. It manages the Zona Franca Industrial Estate of Barcelona, the Zona Franca Customs Authority and promotes industrial, logistical and urban areas, as well as trade fair events of business, logistical and property interest.

You can download an image of the head office of the CZFB from [ftp://ftpc.el-consorci.com/mc/Seu\\_sense\\_reflexe.jpg](ftp://ftpc.el-consorci.com/mc/Seu_sense_reflexe.jpg) and of Jordi Cornet from [ftp://ftpc.el-consorci.com/mc/JC\\_27.jpg](ftp://ftpc.el-consorci.com/mc/JC_27.jpg)

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