

WORLD FREE ZONES ORGANIZATION BASES ITS MEDITERRANEAN OFFICE IN BARCELONA

BARCELONA HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS THE VENUE OF 2019 WORLD FREE ZONES CONFERENCE

- World Free Zones Organization management team chooses Barcelona as the Mediterranean office location and CZFB as the host for its 5th International Conference.
- The conference will be held jointly with the International Logistics and Material Handling Exhibition (SIL) in June 2019: approximately one thousand free zone delegates gathered.
- After the nomination of Jordi Cornet as president of the Asociación de Zonas Francas de España, El Consorci de la Zona Franca will gain prominence in the sector.

Barcelona, 30th October 2017. – El Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona will organise 2019 World FZO Annual International Conference and Exhibition (AICE). It will be held jointly with the International Logistics and Material Handling Exhibition (SIL) in June.

World Free Zones Organization management team, chaired by **Mohammed Al Zarooni**, has met with CZFB to approve 2018 budget edition, fine-tune the details for the 2019, and choose Barcelona as the Mediterranean office location.

Mohammed Al Zarooni is happy with *“WFZO continued growth and its usefulness as an international platform for innovation and sustainability. It shows free zones key role in world trade and their contribution to socio-economic development.”*

Jordi Cornet, special State delegate at El Consorci de la Zona Franca, has underlined the desirability of maintaining Barcelona leadership in the business universe as a *“open, inclusive and cosmopolitan city”* and that *“the CZFB’s experience organizing International exhibitions and conferences, Spanish reputation as world logistics platform, and Barcelona’s appeal as the Mediterranean capital have been determining factors for being selected.”*

Cornet has thanked *“Barcelona City Council and Spain's Deputy Prime Minister, Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría, their support to Barcelona candidature. This is excellent news for Spain, Catalonia, and Barcelona. El Consorci has proved again that if you work together, you boost the results, and this is important in a global world, which requires determination and unity of action.”*

The AICE Conference will gather approximately one thousand free zone delegates in Barcelona. 2015 and 2016 editions took place in Dubai – WFZO headquarters–; and 2017 edition, in Cartagena de Indias. 2018 Conference will be held in United Arab Emirates.

This meeting has coincided with the visit of the America's Free Zone Association (AZFA). So, this has given them the chance to network.

According to WFZO, there are 3,500 free zones (from 130 countries), 350 associated (from 78 countries): more than 70 million workplaces, approximately 1% world's workforce.

Jordi Cornet, has recently been appointed as president of the Asociación de Zonas Francas de España (September 2017) and, consequently, El Consorci de la Zona Franca will gain prominence in the sector. The association gathers 7 free zones: Barcelona, Cádiz, Vigo, Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Santander and Sevilla.

El Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona is a public institution created in 1916 by the Spanish government and the City of Barcelona. As an autonomous entity with its own legal personality, it is self-financed and geared toward generating economic activity. In addition to managing Zona Franca Industrial Estate and Zona Franca Customs Authority, it fosters industrial, logistic and urban areas, offices, and trade fairs with business, logistic and real estate interests, such as SIL.

You can download a photo of the signing agreement [here](#) and of the visit of the WFZO management can be downloaded [here](#).

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