

Hidalgo highlights the potential of coastal cities to grow and strengthen their weight in the EU thanks to the Blue Economy

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Noticias



The mayor of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Augusto Hidalgo, participated this morning in the opening of the meeting 'European Atlantic Cities', in which he highlighted the potential that the Blue Economy means for coastal cities in order to strengthen their growth and also their economic and political weight within the European Union.

This meeting, attended by European experts in the Blue Economy and the president of the Network of Atlantic Arc Cities, the Portuguese José María Costa, aims to analyze the challenges that coastal cities have and the policies developed by the EU to promote the sea as a niche of opportunities.

Hidalgo stressed that although coastal cities are on the periphery, they are a fundamental part of Europe's strategy and growth into the future "because the blue strategy, blue employment linked to the sea, rivers and coasts is an activity that generates employment in the EU, which generates economic activity," he stressed, noting that it is also an advantage that the activity is shifting from the traditional historical centers of power and economy of the EU to the coastal cities, which are leading the world today growth.

"Europe has to assume that political weight of the coastal cities and from these cities we have to start sending to the EU that message that we are a priority, because we are going to be fundamental in the economic development of the EU," Hidalgo added.

In this regard, he highlighted the importance of meetings such as the one held today in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, which allows for synergies between different European coastal cities to advance along this line. A strategy that, as the mayor recalled, in the capital of Gran Canaria is already being implemented, including some of the most important actions being carried out in the city such as the Puerto-Ciudad project, or initiatives aimed at creating employment related to the sea, also linked to sectors such as leisure or new technologies, "with a vision that goes far beyond the traditional economy linked to the blue," said Hidalgo.

'European Atlantic Cities'

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria hosts the meeting 'Atlantic European Cities' within the activities organized as European Atlantic City 2017, a nomination that must serve, recalled the mayor, to boost the importance of the blue economy as one of the most powerful sectors and with more projection for the future of the Gran Canaria capital.

In Europe, the blue economy generates 5.4 million jobs and a gross added value of almost 500,000 million euros per year. In the Canary Islands, the estimates are 6% of the GDP of the archipelago and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is the city that contributes the most in this sector. Only in the port activity in the capital there are more than 12,000 direct jobs.