



## Logistics and Transport

Locating in the Canary Islands means being closer to Africa and America without leaving Europe. The Archipelago is 100 kilometres from the west coast of Africa and just over 1,000 kilometres from Mainland Spain. This makes it a key business platform that facilitates trade and the transfer of services and technology between continents.

Business success is helped by the modern infrastructure of the Canary Islands. There are 8 airports, 6 of which are international. The two busiest of these (Gran Canaria and Tenerife North) handled over 35 million passengers each and almost 50,000 tonnes of cargo in 2011. There are 1,500 weekly connections to destinations in Europe and many direct flights to Africa, Latin America and North America. Madrid is just a two-and-a-half hour flight away; London, Frankfurt and Rome, four hours and Caracas, eight hours away.

Concerning sea transport, the Islands are connected with almost 500 ports throughout the world, with over thirty shipping lines, including the main logistics operators. The Canary Islands are known as the largest supply, ship repair and bunkering station in the Mid Atlantic and one of the top three for hydro-carbon logistics distribution.

Some references:

- **UNICEF** and the **International Red Cross** have chosen the Canary Islands to set up their logistics operations base for emergency humanitarian relief to Africa; one of only four facilities of this kind in the world.
- The Islands' Port Authorities form part of important international institutions in the industry, such as, for example, the **International Cargo Handling Co-ordination Association (ICHCA)**, which intends to foster co-operation among the main ports of the west coast of Africa and the Canary Islands through the **Canary Islands/Africa Regional Chapter**.
- The Canary Islands are seeking to become one of the largest bunkering centres in Europe for low-sulphur fuels in order to seize the opportunity represented by the SECA Area coming into effect in the Mediterranean in 2011.
- In the Spanish national rankings, the Canarian ports are:
  - **Number three** in container handling.
  - **Number four** in passenger traffic.

