

VARNA MUNICIPALITY ALLOCATES 17 HECTARES FOR NEW TERMINAL

More details emerged this week in local media about the future plans for the Port of Varna. The scale of this project and its location in the South Bay Area makes it of particular interest to Rialto Developments' own project right across the bay.

The Port of Varna is the largest seaport complex in Bulgaria and handles over 8 million tons of cargoes per year. It is modernly equipped with excellent inland transport links and is a convenient bridge for cargo flows between Europe, Russia, Ukraine and the Middle/Far East.

The East Port forms the seaside front to the Black Sea and can be seen from Varna South Bay Beach Residence (see adjacent photos). The West Port is located in Varna Lake (in the direction shown on the photos) with two inland canals connecting the sea and the lake.

In 2007 the new plans were made public to relocate the container and grain terminals in the East Port to a new larger port district on the northeastern shore of Lake Varna. The plans include a redevelopment of the old Varna East Port near the city centre into a large marine attraction zone with a new cruise terminal, yacht marina, hotels and other tourist facilities.



Varna City and the Varna East Port seen from across the bay at Varna South Bay Beach residence. The photo is the centre fold in the brochure presentation of the project. A higher resolution graphic can be viewed here: http://213.3.41.93/VSB_Presentation_Maket_Gold_Web.pdf



View across the bay from Varna South Bay Beach Residence. The arrow shows direction of future location of container terminals. In its place will be a new Yacht and Marine Port.

Varna municipality has earmarked 17.5 ha. for a new container terminal, weekly *Stroitelstvo Gradut* reported on April 7. The land plot, located on the northern coast of Varna lake, will be handed over once the Government and the municipality sign a memorandum for the redevelopment of the entire area. It includes the re-location of Varna port to the western side of the lake, as well as the construction of a recreational zone on the current grounds of the port.

The cabinet is set to review the memorandum in mid-April, Bulgarian Transport Minister Petar Moutafchiev said. He added that he discussed the project last week with Varna Mayor Kiril Yurdanov and the chair of Varna municipal counselor Borislav Goutsanov.

Total project costs are estimated at 500 million euro and the terminal would be completed in 2014. Part of the costs will be covered by a loan from the Japan Bank for International Co-operation, which agreed to extend 226 million euro to finance the construction of container terminals in Varna and Bourgas.

Parliament has to ratify the loan by June 30, after which the cabinet can launch the tenders to pick an adviser and a concessionaire, which have to be chosen by November, the newspaper quoted the Transport Minister as saying. Construction work is scheduled to start in August 2010, by which time the main contractor that will build the terminal has to be picked.

Source: Sofia Echo.