The harbour reform law (law 2 January 1994, n. 84) about to reordering of the harbour legislation, decrees the institution of Port Authoritys, whereas previously Corporations, Unions, Superintendencys, Mechanical Equipmnet Companies, and the other Corporations assigned to the control and to the management of the maritime – harbour property, existed.

The operating management of the harbour areas and of the terminals has been transferred to the private operators, while some prerogratives, determinated by the law, remain to the Port Autority competence. (Art. 6 comma a), b), c):

- objectives, programming, coordination, promotion and control of port operations, (art. 16,paragraph 1), and of the other commercial and industrial activities, undertaken by ports, with powers to issue regulation and ordinance , includeding the sphere of safety regarding the risk of accidents connected to aforesaid activities and the hygienic work conditions, in accordance with Articol 24.

- ordinary and exceptional maintenance of the widely used parts of Port area , including maintenance of the seabed, following agreement with the Italian Ministry of Public Works which involves the use of special funds made avaliable specifically for the administration's budget .

- entrustment and control of activities related to the supply, throught payment, to port users of services of general interest, which do not coincide nor are closely connected whith the port operation indicated in article 16, paragraph 1, established by a decree of the Italian Ministry of Transport and Public Works , to be issude within thirty days of the date of this law coming into force .