

MS *European Endeavour*

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The ***MS European Endeavour*** is a roll-on/roll-off passenger ferry which is owned and operated by P&O Ferries. P&O took delivery of the ship in October 2007 from Acciona Trasmediterránea. She is the 28th member of the current P&O fleet and is the second P&O ship to have carried the name *European Endeavour*, the first is now the *Gardenia* of Transeuropa Ferries.

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History

The ship was built in 2000 for Merchant Ferries as the *Midnight Merchant* for a planned service between Liverpool and Belfast, however the ship was chartered to Norfolkline for their new service between Dover and Dunkirk and remained on that route until July 2006 when she was replaced by one of three new ships for the service.

In August 2006 she was chartered to Acciona Trasmediterránea for service in the Mediterranean and renamed *El Greco* registered under the Spanish flag.

On 26 June 2007 it was announced that P&O Ferries had agreed to purchase the ship in order to meet the growing demand for space from haulage customers throughout its operations. The ship will primarily be used on the Dover–Calais route but also on P&O Ferries Irish Sea and North Sea routes to cover for the refit of other vessels.^[3] The ship entered service with P&O on their Liverpool–Dublin route on 6 November 2007.

The ship has been involved in two incidents. On 22 March 2008 the ships mooring ropes parted resulting in her drifting across the eastern entrance of Dover Harbour. The ship was assisted back to her berth by a Dover Harbour tug.^[4] On 29 August 2008 the ship suffered a partial loss of electrical power which resulted



Rear deck as the *Midnight Merchant*

Career

Name:	<i>European Endeavour</i> (2007–Present) <i>El Greco</i> (2006–2007) <i>Midnight Merchant</i> (2000–2006) ^[1]
Owner:	P&O Ferries (2007–Present) Acciona Trasmediterranea (2006–2007) Cenargo International Ltd (2000–2006)
Operator:	P&O Ferries (2010–Present) DFDS Seaways (2010) P&O Ferries (2009–2010) P&O Irish Sea (2007–2009) Acciona Trasmediterranea (2006–2007) Norfolkline (2000–2006)
Port of registry:	Nassau, Bahamas (2007–Present) ^[1] Santa Cruz De Tenerife, Spain (2006–2007) Nassau, Bahamas (2000–2006)

in a collision with Linkspan 7 in Calais. European Endeavour's 'cow catcher', a metal structure welded to the bow to support the bow ramp when deployed, was demolished and significant damage was caused to the linkspan.^[5]

Due to a downturn in freight traffic P&O Ferries laid up the ship in Tilbury in May 2010. She was chartered to DFDS Seaways in August 2010 and early September 2010 to provide refit cover on the Birkenhead–Dublin and Belfast routes. On completion of this charter the ship was sent for its annual overhaul and then proceeded to Dunkerque for layup. She remained in Dunkerque until early February 2011 when she sailed for Liverpool in preparation for returning to service on the Liverpool–Dublin service replacing the M/V Norcape.

Regular routes

- *Dover–Dunkirk* October 2000 - July 2006.
- *Barcelona - Palma de Mallorca* August - October 2006.
- *Barcelona/Valencia-Palma de Mallorca/Ibiza/Maó* October 2006 - September 2007.
- *Dover-Calais* 11 January 2008 - May 2010.
- **Liverpool - Dublin** From February 2011.

It was P&O's intention that the ship would primarily be used between Dover and Calais but would also cover the refits of other ships on the following routes:-

- **Hull-Rotterdam**
- **Hull-Zeebrugge**
- **Liverpool-Dublin** 6 November 2007 - 16 December 2007
- **Tilbury - Zeebrugge** January 2009.

It was discovered that the ship was too wide to fit through the lock at Hull so she did not serve the routes from that port as intended. She was briefly used on a re-established Dover-Zeebrugge route but the service only lasted for one day due to lack of freight.

Sister ships

The ship was one of four ordered for Merchant Ferries services on the Irish Sea. Collectively they are known as the *Racehorses* because of their naming. The other ships were:-

- **Dawn Merchant** now *Norman Trader* of Epic Shipping. Built 1998 Named after the race horse "Dawn Run".
- **Brave Merchant** now *Norman Bridge* of Epic Shipping. Built 1999 Named after the race horse "Dancing Brave".
- **Northern Merchant** now *Zurbarán* of Acciona Trasmediterránea. Built 2000.

The **Murillo** of Acciona Trasmediterránea is of a similar design to the *Racehorses* but has an altered lower passenger deck and was completed in 2002.

Route:	Dover–Dunkirk (2000-2006) Liverpool–Dublin (2007-Present) ^[1]
Builder:	Astilleros Españoles S.A. (AESAs) Seville, Spain.
Yard number:	290
Completed:	2000
Maiden voyage:	5 October 2000
In service:	5 October 2000
Identification:	IMO number: 9181106

General characteristics

Tonnage:	22,152 GT
Length:	179.95 m (590.4 ft)
Beam:	25.24 m (82.8 ft)
Draught:	6.5 m (21.3 ft)
Installed power:	Four Wärtsilä 9L38 engines
Propulsion:	Twin controllable pitch propellers
Speed:	22.5 knots (41.7 km/h; 25.9 mph)
Capacity:	300 passengers 120 freight vehicles. ^[2]

Gallery



References

1. ^ *a b c* "M/F European Endeavour" (<http://ferry-site.dk/ferry.php?id=9181106&lang=en>). Ferry-site.dk. Retrieved 22 September 2011.
2. ^ P&O Ferries Freight Dover-Calais (http://www.poferriesfreight.com/freight/content/pages/template/news_and_info_fleet_information_Dover_-_Calais_Dover-Calais.htm)
3. ^ P&O Ferries - New freight ship boosts P&O Ferries 26 June 2007 (http://www.poferries.com/tourist/content/pages/template/_footer_about_P&O_Ferries_press_releases_PR_-_New_freight_ship.htm)
4. ^ Ships in the Port of Dover - European Endeavour in trouble (<http://shipsintheportofdover.fotopic.net/c1479507.html>)
5. ^ Marine Accident Investigation Board - Completed PE Summary European Endeavour (http://www.maib.gov.uk/publications/completed_preliminary_examinations/completed_preliminary_examinations_2008/european_endeavour.cfm)

External links

- P&O Ferries official site (<http://www.poferries.com>)

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