



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

ACTIVITIES FORWARD BELGIUM

New office within the governing body

On Thursday 21 March, the governing body of FORWARD Belgium appointed **Wim Gijbels** as its new chairman.

Wim Gijbels, Business Unit Manager Forwarding & Customs at H.Essers, has served on the board of FORWARD Belgium since 2020.

As chairman, Wim Gijbels is assisted by **two vice-chairmen: Johan Proost**, Managing Director at Express Global, and **Stephan De Pauw**, Managing Director at Embassy Freight Services Europe.

FORWARD Belgium training

In-house coaching for FORWARD Belgium members

The scarcity on the labour market and the increasing challenge of finding suitable staff make **investment in knowledge and training essential** for the coming years.

To **support** companies in our sector in this, FORWARD Belgium has developed **several practical 'toolkits'**. These are specifically aimed at the core activities of freight forwarders and customs representatives and provide **essential basic knowledge** to operate successfully and continue to grow within the logistics sector. Here, we focus on sector-specific recommendations, practical guidelines on how your operational staff can best deal with problems in the logistics chain, tips to increase compliance and reduce your risks, use of model templates and standard contracts, ...



Available FORWARD toolkits for in-house guidance:

1. A Toolkit for the freight forwarder from life (*available via e-learning from 2025!*)
2. A Toolkit for the forwarder outsourcing customs activities (*internal or external*)
3. A Shipper's Toolkit: how freight forwarders support their customers' complex logistics chain.

Companies interested in learning more or booking in-house coaching should visit the FORWARD Belgium website or contact the secretariat.

Legal QuickScan

Protect your business with our **Legal QuickScan**, a free service from FORWARD Belgium for its members.

This service provides a **comprehensive legal screening** of offers, e-mail traffic, contracts and other relevant documents. The aim is to increase legal certainty and reduce risks within your company.

The legal QuickScan includes:

- **Legal screening**
Assessment of your company's legal status, use of general terms and conditions and/or logistics contracts, and recommendations regarding customs liability.
- **Practical preparation**
guidelines to get the most out of screening.
- **Detailed report**
A clear overview of findings and concrete recommendations, including best practices.

This service is essential for companies looking to strengthen their legal position and minimise risks.



FORWARD BELGIUM COMMITTEES

FORWARD Belgium has **several committees** where members have the opportunity to discuss topical issues and share insights. These committees provide a platform for collaboration and play a crucial role in addressing the many challenges within the industry.

A full list of committees can be found [on our website](#).

In 2024, the committees considered a wide range of issues. Some highlights include:

Breakbulk committee

BulkChain project

In 2023, the **BulkChain project** was relaunched. Together with a sounding board group, it worked on defining the business processes and establishing the business requirements.

In 2024, these were discussed and validated in the focus group.

The next step is formal validation within The Way Forward and a detailed plan of action will be discussed.



Certified Pick up

By NxtPort

Scheepsagent

Terminaloperator

Release party

Transportoperator

Digitalisation committee

Certified Pick up - CPu

Certified Pick up is a digital platform for container release in Port of Antwerp-Bruges.

The system guarantees safe, transparent and efficient container transport.

On 15 January 2024, Certified Pick up started in phases.

On 17 May 2024, PIN codes for picking up a container in Antwerp behind the locks finally disappeared as well. From

that date, you can only pick up a container in the entire port area via the Certified Pick up platform.

More information:

<https://www.certifiedpickup.eu/>

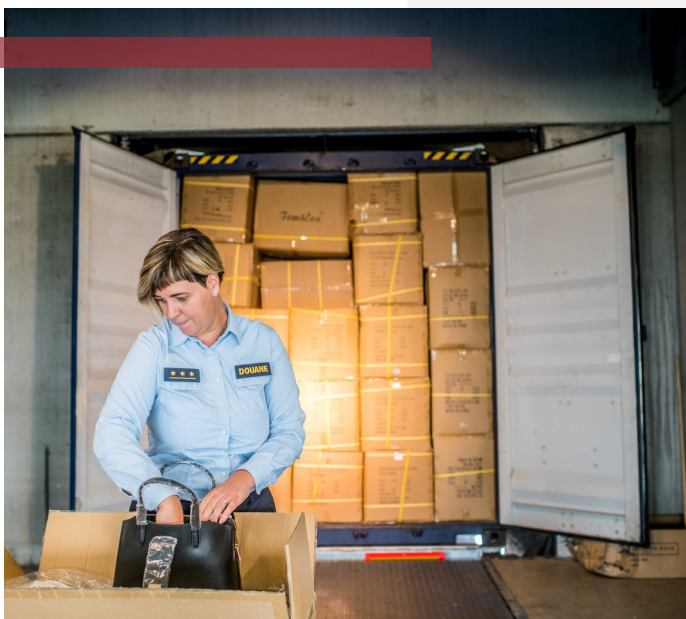
The power of AI: practical applications for your business

On Friday 4 October 2024, FORWARD Belgium organised an inspiring session entitled "The power of AI: practical applications for your business".

During this meeting, guest speaker Collin Van der Vorst shared valuable insights on how companies can use AI tools to improve efficiency and optimise business processes. Participants were presented with concrete examples of the application of AI tools in practice, leading to new perspectives and ideas.

The session concluded with a contribution from Robin Pauwels, COO of The Beacon, who highlighted the importance of innovation. He elaborated on The Beacon's role as an innovation hub for businesses.

This session highlighted the potential of AI for the logistics sector and inspired companies to invest in technological innovation.



Customs committee

Review of Customs & Excise Sanctions Policy

On Thursday 30 May 2024, the Commission for the Review of Sanctions Policy and Modernisation of Belgian Customs Criminal Law was officially launched. This initiative marks an important step towards a modern and efficient customs law in Belgium.

The multidisciplinary expert committee is led by **Olivier Schoenmaeckers**, director of FORWARD Belgium, and **Werner Rens**, Advisor General at the General Administration of Customs and Excise (AAD&A). This collaboration underlines the ambitious nature of this long-awaited project, which aims to harmonise and update Belgian customs legislation to better meet the needs of a modern logistics sector.

Inbound Release Platform

2024 saw the launch of the **PN/TS customs system** for the maritime sector.

That new system will bring major changes to the operational activities of various players in the logistics chain and will provide digital registration and control of goods on entry.

To support companies in complying with these new obligations, intensive work was done within **The Way Forward** to develop the **Inbound Release Platform (IRP)**. This collective platform provides terminals, shipping agents and customs representatives with the tools to efficiently comply with PN/TS requirements.

By sharing and reusing data, the IRP creates more transparency and provides real-time insight into the status of goods, adding significant value for all parties involved.

To thoroughly inform members about this platform and the new obligations, FORWARD Belgium organised the **'Inbound Release Platform for the declarer and logistics service provider'** workshop on **Friday 19 April**. This session offered practical insights and support to ensure a smooth transition to the new system.

National Forum & Regional consultations

At the various meetings of the National Forum and regional consultations, FORWARD Belgium continues to raise all kinds of issues that have an impact on the functioning of the sector.



Online info session 'Customs IT projects'

On Wednesday 16 October, FORWARD Belgium organised a well-attended online information session on the progress of various customs IT projects. During this session, the main MASP projects (PN/TS, NCTS5, AES, IDMS, ICS2) were explained. This covered topics such as the impact of these projects on companies, the planned timing and the actions companies should take to remain compliant.

Together with Alfaport VOKA and The Way Forward, consultations with the AAD&A on the implementation of the various customs IT projects take place on a weekly basis.

Postponing NCTS P5 implementation until 21 January 2025

At the request of FORWARD Belgium and other professional organisations, Belgian Customs has decided to postpone the implementation of **NCTS P5** until **21 January 2025**. This is the latest possible extension within the technical deadlines set at European level.

From this date, **all new transit declarations** are required to be filed through the new system (phase 5). Further delay is out of the question.

FORWARD Belgium stresses that companies should complete their preparations in good time and finalise them in line with the new deadline. It is crucial that all parties involved are ready to make a smooth transition to the NCTS P5 system.

Sustainability committee

EU regulation on deforestation-free products (EUDR)

The EU Deforestation Free Products Regulation (EUDR) will come into force on 30 December 2025 for large enterprises, with a later effective date of 30 June 2026 for micro and small enterprises. This regulation aims to stop global deforestation and reduce greenhouse gases, and plays a crucial role in promoting sustainability within supply chains.

The EUDR applies to specific products such as timber and wood products, coffee, cocoa, palm oil, and cattle. Companies producing, importing or exporting these products are required to prepare a **due diligence declaration**. This declaration serves to verify the origin of the products, with variations depending on the risk level of the producing country.

The regulations apply to:

- Imports to the EU
- Exports from the EU
- Production within the EU

FORWARD Belgium has developed several tools to support companies in implementing these regulations:

- **Fiche "EUDR Application to Logistics Services"**: A handy overview of the regulations and their implications for the logistics sector.
- **Customer information sheets**: Available in Dutch and English, these documents inform customers about their obligations regarding the EUDR.

Through these measures, FORWARD Belgium is helping its members prepare for the challenges and opportunities the EUDR presents for a more sustainable future.



CBAM - Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

With the introduction of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Europe is taking an important step towards a sustainable economy. The mechanism aims to create a level playing field between European

companies, which are bound by strict rules around carbon emissions, and producers in third countries where such rules are often lacking. Through a carbon tax, CBAM aims to make the production of carbon-intensive products in third countries less attractive and thus encourage fair competition.

Since 31 January 2024, companies falling under the scope of CBAM are required to submit an initial report. A CBAM working group within FORWARD Belgium is closely monitoring the issues and developments.

FORWARD Belgium has developed 2 templates that can be used with respect to your client:

- 1) **CBAM Information Document** - A clear document to inform customers about CBAM.
- 2) **CBAM Reporting Declarant Notification** - A tool for accurate reporting to customers.

Through these initiatives, FORWARD Belgium supports its members to effectively comply with the new requirements while communicating transparently with their customers about the impact of CBAM.



Evidence-based tools for successful work resumption after burnout

On 29 February, the Sustainability Committee organised an inspiring session entitled 'Evidence-based tools for successful work reintegration after burnout'.

This session offered valuable insights and practical tools to support companies and employees in effective reintegration after burnout.

The session covered the following topics:

- **Understanding burnout:** what is burnout and what signs are important?

- **Complexity of reintegration:** Participants gained insight into the challenges and dynamics of a successful return to work.
- **The ideal reintegration process:** A practical framework for setting up a supportive pathway.
- **Concrete actions:** Immediately applicable tools and steps to promote reintegration.

With this session, FORWARD Belgium wants to make companies aware of the importance of a well-thought-out approach when returning to work after burnout, and provide them with the right tools to achieve this in a sustainable way.

FORWARD Goals for sustainable development

In 2021, FORWARD Belgium introduced the sustainability label 'FORWARD Goals for Sustainable Development'. With this initiative, we encourage companies to develop and implement sustainable policies in an accessible and achievable way.

More and more companies are joining this initiative. Currently, the following companies have achieved the FORWARD Goals GOLD label:

- a.hartrodt Belgium
- Antwerp Metal Logistics - AML
- Aprojects
- BDP International
- Ceva Air & Ocean Belgium
- Cryo Logistics
- Customs Support Belgium Holding
- Deloitte Belgium
- Drewes Logistics
- Embassy Freight Services Europe
- Eutraco
- Fast Shipping and Forwarding – Division of Fast Lines Belgium
- Grimaldi Belgium
- FORWARD Belgium
- Haeger & Schmidt Logistics Belgium
- H. Essers
- Intertrans
- JAS Forwarding Worldwide Belgium
- Logwin Air + Ocean Belgium
- Manuport Logistics
- Naxco Belgium
- Seabird International Shipping
- Schenker
- TCI Carriers
- TMA Logistics
- Van Moer Forwarding
- Vedrova
- Ziegler

Every year, FORWARD Belgium presents the FORWARD Goals Award to a company that excels in original sustainability initiatives. For 2024, the honour went to **Naxco Belgium**, for their long-standing efforts to enthuse young people and students about our sector. Their efforts not only show their commitment to the sector, but also contribute to the development of the next generation of professionals.

Are you a member or associate of FORWARD Belgium and would also like to receive the FORWARD Goals label? Then visit <https://forwardbelgium.be/FORWARD-Goals> or contact [the FORWARD Belgium](#) secretariat.

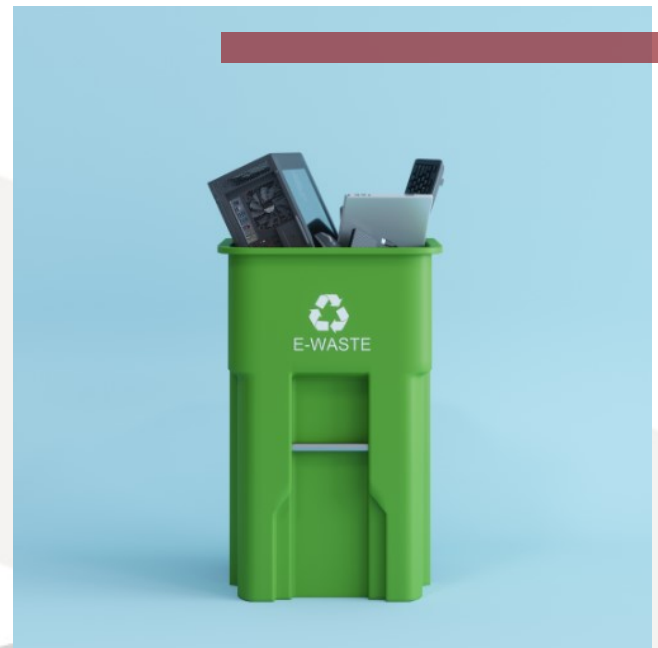
Need inspiration? Action points from companies that have already received the FORWARD Goals label have been collected in the recently updated '[Inspirational Guide](#)'. This guide offers plenty of creative ideas and practical tips to get you on the road to your own FORWARD Goals label.

Export control of E-waste

The draft delegated act WEEE will come into force from 1 January 2025. These regulations will have a significant impact on exports of certain electronic components.

Under the new rules, exports of dismantled transformers, electric motors, circuit boards, and solar panels, among others, to countries such as Pakistan, Turkey and Japan will be banned. This export ban aims to regulate the export of electronic waste (E-waste) and contribute to more sustainable treatment and recycling within the EU.

FORWARD Belgium advised its members to take timely steps to comply with these new regulations and minimise the impact on their logistics processes.



ETS2 – Emission Trading System

A revision of the Emissions Trading Directive was adopted at European level in early 2023. One element is the introduction of a new emissions trading system (the 'ETS2') applicable to buildings, transport and other sectors.

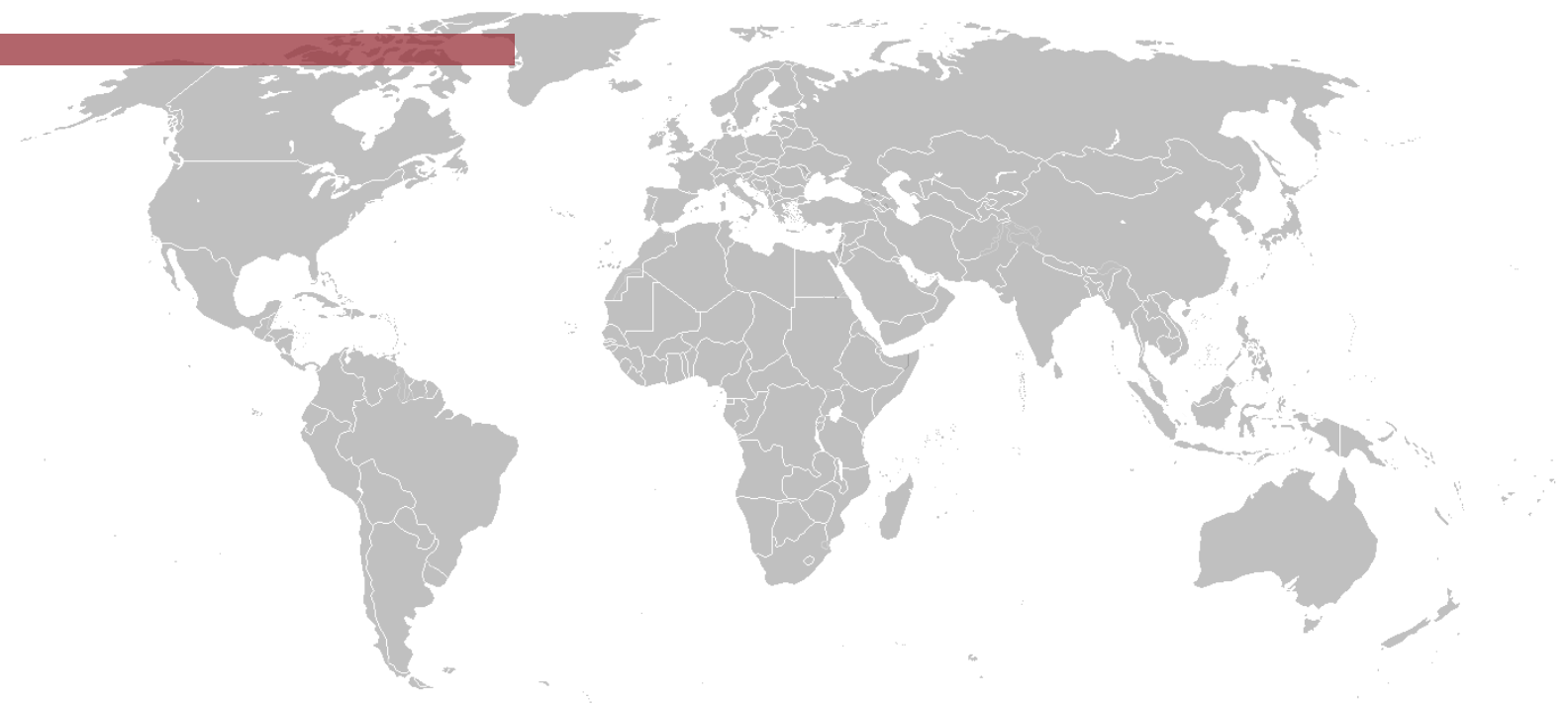
This new ETS will resemble the already existing system for fixed installations in some respects, but is otherwise a completely separate instrument. A key difference from the existing ETS for fixed installations is the issue of regulation. Under the existing ETS, ETS obligations have to be fulfilled by the end users of fossil fuels, under ETS2 it is the excise duty payers who are responsible for the release for consumption under the excise duty regulation.

By analogy with the ETS for fixed installations, ETS2 entities will also be required to prepare a monitoring plan (as early as 2024), hold a greenhouse gas emissions permit (by the end of 2024), report CO2 emissions annually (from 2025 on 2024) in proportion to fuels sold, and surrender emission allowances annually (only from 2027).

Just as the implementation of the ETS for fixed installations is done by the Flemish Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA), the implementation of ETS2 will also be done by VEKA.

Because in some cases not the fuel owner himself, but an (in)direct fiscal or customs representative is responsible for the excise obligations, they can sometimes also have ETS2 obligations.

FORWARD Belgium is currently in discussions with VEKA to discuss the impact on our industry.



External relations committee

CLECAT / FIATA

FORWARD Belgium remains actively committed to representing the Belgian freight forwarding sector on the international stage through various representatives.



Human resources committee

HavenWijs: Bridge between Port Companies and Education

On 13 March 2024 in Zeebrugge and 15 March 2024 in Antwerp, HavenWijs took place, the event where port companies and education meet.

During this event, companies got the chance to profile themselves to the workers of tomorrow by booking a stand at the info market. This makes HavenWijs an excellent platform to inspire and enthuse young talent for a career in the port and logistics sector.

FORWARD Belgium / Young FORWARD Belgium was also present at the HavenWijs infohub. With this participation, we actively built the bridge between education and the labour market.

'Our Port Drug Free': brochure for shipping agents & forwarders

Unfortunately, the logistics sector still faces illegal trade and fraudulent practices, including the smuggling of criminal goods such as drugs. Port employees and logistics service providers are often, consciously or unconsciously, abused by criminal organisations in the process.

Due to their resourcefulness, it is not always easy for employees to recognise and avoid such situations.

To respond to this, FORWARD Belgium, ASV, and CEPA have jointly developed an awareness brochure specifically targeting office occupations in the port.

This brochure, titled 'Our Port Drug-Free', aims to make employees aware of drug crime issues in the port. The document offers concrete tools for:

- Recognising suspicious situations in and around the workplace.
- Reporting such situations timely and correctly.

With this brochure, FORWARD Belgium aims to raise awareness and contribute to a safer, drug-free port environment.



Port Xpert Shipping: Educational game for young people



FORWARD Belgium actively contributed to the development of the educational game **Port Xpert Shipping**, an initiative of the Port Centre. This game, specially developed for young people aged 17-18, offers them insight into the dynamic world of port and logistics in a playful and interactive way.

Port Xpert Shipping will be combined with an educational day trip for schools, allowing students not only to gain theoretical knowledge but also to experience the practicalities up close.

This initiative fits perfectly with FORWARD Belgium's ambition to enthuse young people about a career in the logistics sector and connect them with the many opportunities within our industry.

Promotion of the sector

FORWARD Belgium is actively committed to promoting the logistics sector among young people. By collaborating with various colleges and universities, FORWARD Belgium brings the opportunities and dynamics of the sector to the attention of future professionals.

An important role in this is played by **Young FORWARD Belgium**, which regularly sends representatives to share practical testimonials with students. These inspiring presentations are invariably received enthusiastically and offer students a valuable insight into the realities and challenges of the logistics world.

With these efforts, FORWARD Belgium continues to contribute to attracting young talent and strengthening the sector for the future.

Havenwereld. Help build the Future of the Port!

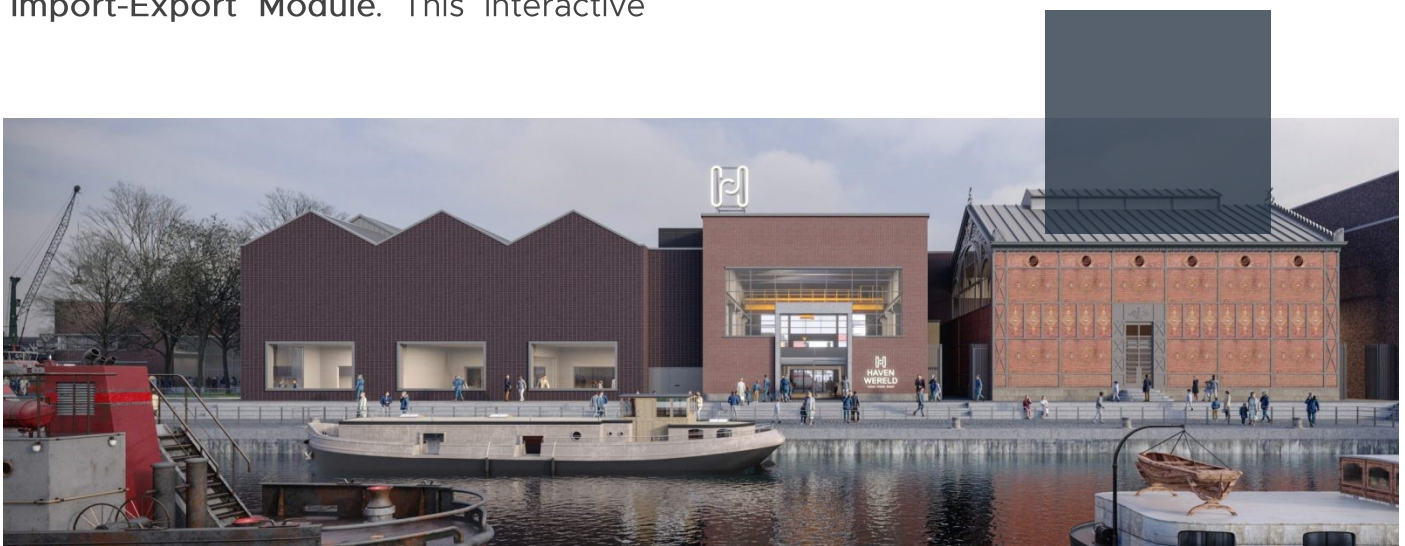
Havenwereld is an initiative of the Province of Antwerp and Port of Antwerp-Bruges, which will open an interactive experience centre on the Droogdokkensite in Antwerp in 2026. Construction work has already started. This innovative centre will offer visitors of all ages a unique opportunity to discover the fascinating world of the port. With a combination of a port experience trail, challenging games and interactive assignments, it also specifically aims to enthuse young people about a career in the port and logistics sector.

In cooperation with **FORWARD Belgium**, Havenwereld will develop a special **Import-Export Module**. This interactive

component will offer visitors an insight into the world of freight forwarding, customs and logistics. It is an excellent opportunity to inspire and inform young people about the many opportunities our sector has to offer.

FORWARD Belgium offers its members the unique opportunity to partner together on this inspiring project. By participating, you not only contribute to the promotion of the sector, but also make your company visible within this progressive initiative.

Do you also want to help build the future of the port? Contact [the FORWARD Belgium secretariat](#) and be part of this promising project!



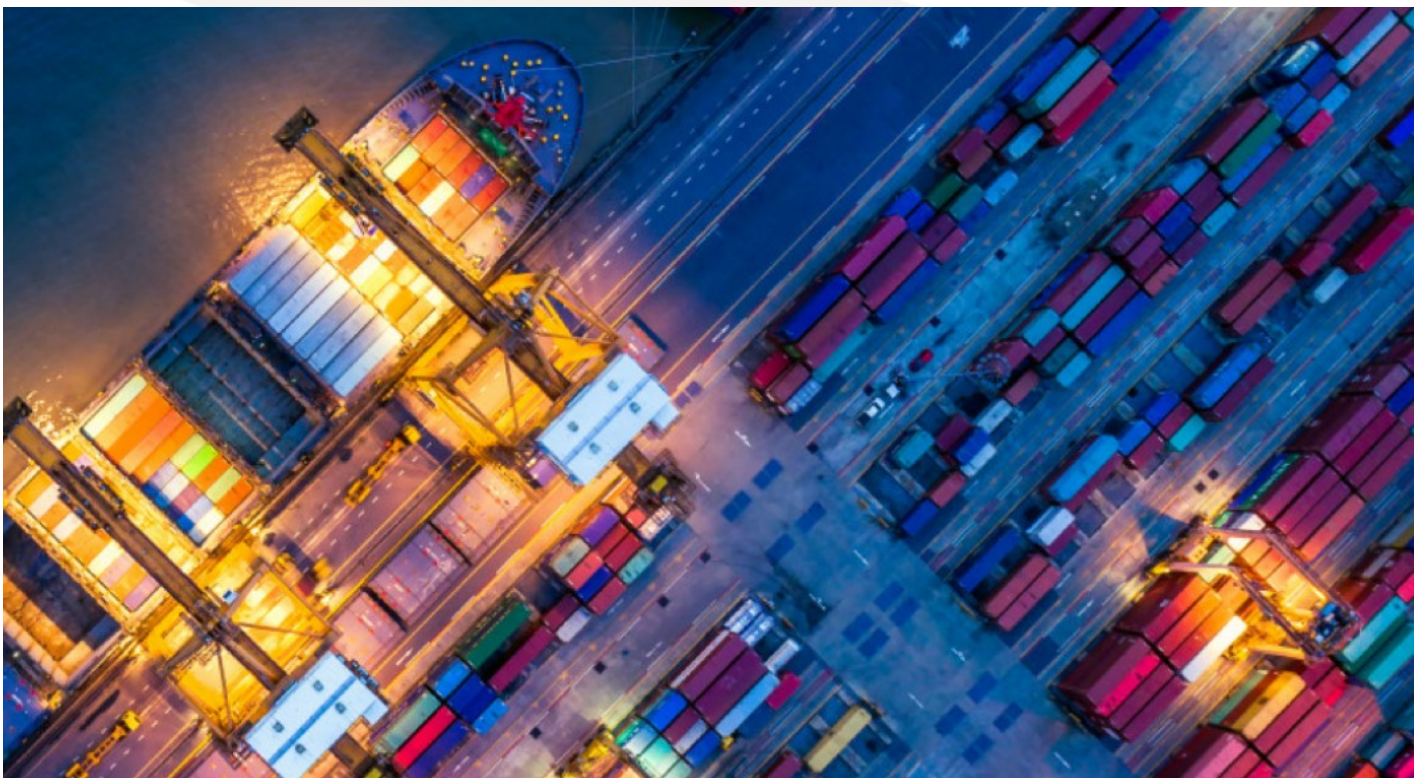
Legal committee

Extension of Maritime Security Act

The **Maritime Security Act of 16 May 2024** introduces new guidelines to better secure maritime activities, with a specific focus on protecting critical infrastructure and functions within the sector. The aim is to tackle organised crime, fraud, and drug trafficking more robustly.

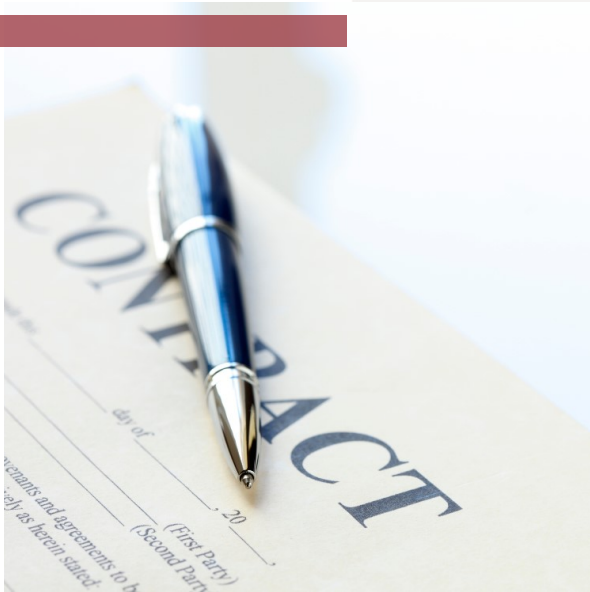
For members of FORWARD Belgium, this means that one will have to comply with the regulations of an 'establishment unit with maritime security impact', which mainly focus on access controls within the company, and security screening of personnel.

On 9 August 2024, the publication was made in the Belgian Official Gazette which included a **list of critical functions**. The function of **freight forwarder** (or clerks who have access to cargo/cargo information) is also included in the list.



It is up to each company to assess which function is a critical function but within a forwarding company or customs representative, this will be the majority of employees.

The recent extension of this law further strengthens the security of Belgian seaports and emphasises the importance of a joint approach to counter organised crime in the logistics sector.



General Belgian Forwarding Conditions 2024

At the end of 2023, FORWARD Belgium introduced the General Belgian Forwarding Conditions 2024.

To invoke the new general terms and conditions, you must make them opposable to your customer.

Publication in the Belgian Official Gazette is no longer possible and has no legal value.

FORWARD Belgium advises companies to carefully consider how they communicate the terms correctly to their customers to ensure legal validity.

Suspicious shipments reporting point FORWARD Belgium

The increasing ingenuity of criminal organisations makes it challenging for logistics service providers to spot suspicious shipments in time. In addition, it appears that rogue companies often "shop around" between different logistics service providers until they find a vulnerable party.

To address this challenge and strengthen the industry, **FORWARD Belgium** has set up an anonymous reporting point for its members. This reporting point allows members to report suspicious situations or shipments.

The reports submitted are shared within a private network so that member companies can stay informed and alert each other.

The initiative highlights the importance of cooperation and information sharing within the sector to stay one step ahead of criminals. Are you interested in participating in this reporting point? Contact the [FORWARD Belgium secretariat](#) for more information.



SUSPICIOUS SHIPMENTS REPORTING POINT

Report any suspicious activity
info@forwardbelgium.be





Mandatory electronic invoicing from 2026

From 1 January 2026, all Belgian VAT-registered companies must use **structured electronic invoices** between themselves. This means that invoices will be exchanged directly via the software of both companies. Sending invoices in PDF format via e-mail or another platform will no longer meet the legal requirements from that date.

To prepare companies in time for this new obligation, it is essential to take steps towards implementing electronic invoicing systems now. In this context, **KPMG** organised the Webinar '**e-invoicing**' for FORWARD Belgium members on **27 February**. This Webinar explained what the changes entail and how companies can prepare for them.

This change marks an important step towards digital transformation and efficiency in business transactions.

Contractual and extra-contractual liability

From **January 2025**, it will be possible to have a concurrence between contractual and extra-contractual claims for contractual damages. This applies both to direct relationships between contractors and to situations involving auxiliary persons of a contractor. This change in the law will have significant implications for our industry, particularly in interactions with customers, employees, directors and subcontractors.

To identify the impact on the freight forwarding and logistics sector, a comprehensive analysis was carried out. This looked specifically at the potential legal and operational implications for companies within the sector. It is essential that companies prepare for these changes and review their contracts and liability structures to minimise risks and comply with the new regulations.

FORWARD Belgium continues to inform and support its members in implementing this change in the law.

Young FORWARD Belgium committee

FORWARD Academy 'The power of negotiation'

On 28 February, Young FORWARD Belgium organised an inspiring session at Gaarkeuken 110, led by guest speaker Theo De Beir.

During this FORWARD Academy, Theo shared his insights on effective negotiation, an essential skill in the daily work of our industry. The session offered valuable tools and practical examples that participants could use to sharpen their negotiation skills.



'Supply Chain Experience Day'

The Supply Chain Experience Day on 25 April, organised by the Karel de Grote-Hogeschool in collaboration with Young FORWARD Belgium and ASV The Next Generation, gave third-grade students the chance to meet companies in the logistics sector through speed dating sessions.

At the same time, teachers were able to gather valuable information from organisations such as FORWARD Belgium, ASV, Logos and Portilog to provide even better guidance to their students.

Supply Chain Experience Day

YOUNG ANTWERP ANCHORAGE

30.05.2024

On 30 May, the biennial seminar and networking event **Young Antwerp Anchorage** took place at the KAVA Congress Centre. This initiative of Young FORWARD Belgium, ASV The Next Generation, YoungShip Belgium and Jong Voka Antwerpen-Waasland offered young professionals a unique opportunity to gain knowledge and network. With break-out sessions such as 'Sustainability' and a closing walking dinner, this event was a perfect mix of inspiration and connection.





FORWARD Academy 'Spatial Computing'

The 25 June FORWARD Academy, held at Antwerp Port House, focused on the future of technology with the theme **Spatial Computing**. Pieter Van Leugenhausen presented how innovations such as metaverse and AI are reshaping the digital world. The event gave participants new insights into how these developments are affecting the logistics sector.

7th FORWARD Cup

On 6 September, Young FORWARD Belgium organised the seventh edition of the **FORWARD Cup**, a mini football tournament that has now become a much-loved tradition. After an exciting final, H. Essers won the challenge cup, followed by Group-GTS and Gosselin Logistics. Polytra's supporters were awarded the 'Best Support' prize.



Visit Oosterweelwerf Scheldt tunnel Left bank

On 15 October, participants from ASV The Next Generation and Young FORWARD Belgium had a unique opportunity to visit the site of the Scheldt Tunnel, part of the Oosterweel link. The visit offered insight into this large-scale project that will not only improve mobility but also the livability of the region. The excursion ended with an enjoyable networking reception.



11th FORWARD Belgium quiz

On 24 October, the 11th edition of the FORWARD Belgium Quiz took place in De Ark Antwerp, organised by FORWARD Belgium and Young FORWARD Belgium. The tension was palpable that evening at De Ark Antwerp, where no fewer than 57 quiz teams competed for the coveted challenge trophy.

After 10 challenging rounds of questions and 2 table rounds with different themes such as technology, films & series, geography, music, ... MSC Belgium and their team 'More Ships Coming' managed to win. The second prize went to Douane agency Essers. Van Doosse-laere Advocaten, Schenker and Organi received the third, fourth and fifth prizes respectively. Team 'UPS I did it again' from UPS SCS won the prize for the most original team name.

Never a dull moment in liner shipping

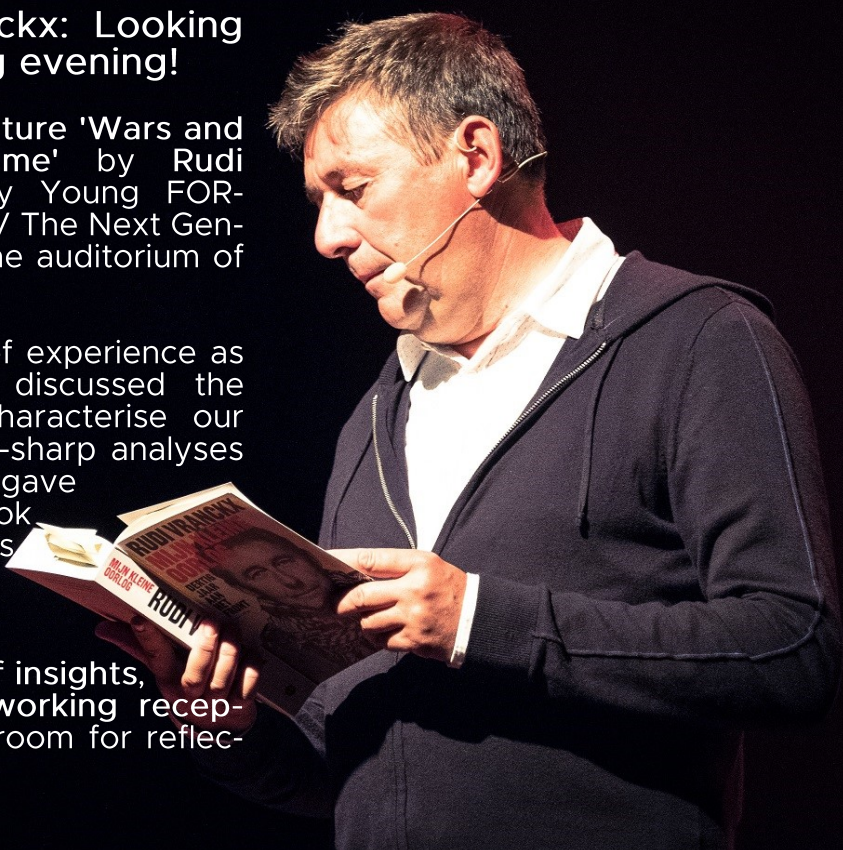
An information session aimed at Supply Chain Management students took place on 24 October, in collaboration with Young FORWARD Belgium and ASV The Next Generation. Stefan Verberckmoes, Senior Shipping Analyst at AXSMarine, shared his expertise on trends in liner shipping, including the rise of green fuels and innovative strategies. Inspiring career stories from Jasper Geerts (ASV TNG) and Nicolas Lens, Vice-President of Young FORWARD Belgium, completed the programme.

Lecture Rudi Vranckx: Looking back on an inspiring evening!

On 7 November, the lecture 'Wars and problems of our time' by Rudi Vranckx, organised by Young FORWARD Belgium and ASV The Next Generation, took place in the auditorium of Havenhuis Antwerp.

Rudi shared his years of experience as a war journalist and discussed the world conflicts that characterise our current times. His razor-sharp analyses and first-hand accounts gave participants a deeper look at the complex dynamics of wars and the human stories behind them.

It was an evening full of insights, concluding with a networking reception, where there was room for reflection and exchange.



FORWARD Academy: 'Cybersecurity'

The FORWARD Academy 'Cybersecurity' on 17 December at 't Kerk-schip was a particularly inspiring and informative event. At a time when technology and regulations such as NIS2 are constantly evolving, the session provided a valuable opportunity to gain insights on the critical role of cybersecurity in the business world.

The contribution by **Stijn Philips**, partner of IXT, was both engaging and practical. His expertise and clear explanations made complex topics such as cyber threats, strategies and innovations accessible to the audience. He gave concrete tools that companies can use to strengthen their security and be better prepared for future challenges.

The interactive format and relevant examples made for a dynamic and informative session. The event emphasised the importance of a proactive approach and showed how companies can effectively arm themselves against tomorrow's cyber threats.

Maritime transport committee

FMC demurrage & detention

On 26 February 2024, the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) published its **Final Rule on Detention and Demurrage Billing Requirements**. These final regulations bring clear guidelines on who can be held responsible for demurrage and detention payments.

It also established a maximum billing period of **30 calendar days**, providing greater transparency and predictability in the handling of these charges.

The new regulations have been in force in the US since **the end of May 2024**

and have significant implications for all stakeholders within the maritime and logistics sector.

This adjustment highlights the growing importance of transparency and efficiency in the global logistics chain.

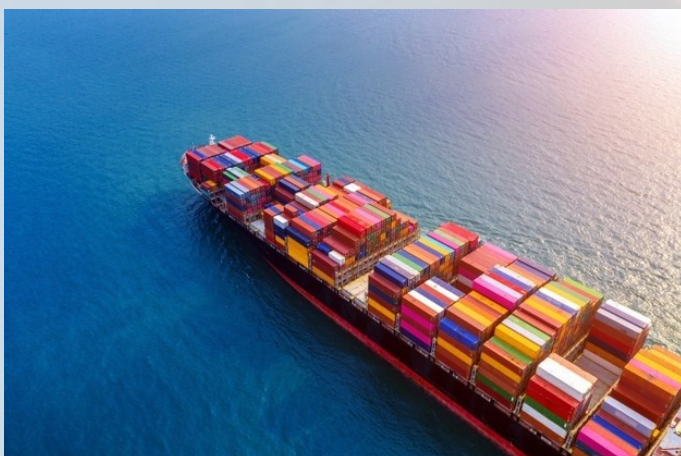
Import Control System 2 (ICS 2)

Since 3 June 2024, the third release of the Import Control System 2 (ICS 2) has come into force.

This release requires shippers using **multiple filing** (such as filing house BL data and buyer/seller information) to make timely preparations. If necessary, postponements can be requested from the customs administration.

When applying multiple filing, it is essential to make clear arrangements and agreements with all partners involved.

Good cooperation and communication are crucial to avoid goods being blocked on entry to the EU or companies risking fines.



We advise all members to make a thorough analysis of the impact of ICS 2 and make clear agreements with partners in the logistics chain. This will help you avoid unnecessary delays and financial risks. If you have any questions, contact the FORWARD Belgium secretariat for support and advice.

FORWARD MAGAZINES

FORWARD Magazine | 20th edition

The 20th edition of the FORWARD Magazine was released in summer 2024. You can read the online edition [here](#).



FORWARD Magazine | 21st edition

The 21st edition of the FORWARD Magazine was released in autumn 2024. You can read the online edition [here](#).

If you would like to receive a printed copy (Dutch and/or English) of these magazines, you can request one from the [FORWARD Belgium secretariat](#).

FORWARD AWARD

FORWARD Belgium Award ceremony

Emission-free urban logistics: Towards a sustainable story

From the bachelor and master theses submitted to compete for the FORWARD Belgium Award 2024, it was decided to award the prize to Charlotte Balis, Gwendoline Devolder and Hannah Dequeker for their bachelor thesis "Emission-free urban logistics: Towards a sustainable story" with Lieve Lombaert & Ellen Seeldraeyers and internship supervisor Marina De Vet as supervisors.



Emissievrije stedelijke logistiek:

Op weg naar een duurzaam verhaal

Charlotte Balis, Gwendoline Devolder, Hannah Dequeker

Handelswetenschappen, Bedrijfskunde en Toegepaste Informatica

Supply Chain Management

Campus Kortrijk

Academiejaar 2022-2023

Lectoren **Lieve Lombaert en Ellen Seeldraeyers**

Stagebegeleider **Marina De Vet**

The work was submitted until obtaining the bachelor's degree in Supply Chain Management at Vives Hogeschool.

An honourable mention was also given to Thibault Claeys for his master's thesis "Dual-use goods: a double-edged sword or just a kitchen knife?" with Prof Christa Sys as supervisor. The work was submitted to obtain a Master's degree in maritime and logistics management at the University of Antwerp.

FORWARD YEAR-END EVENT

Festive networking

On 12 December, FORWARD Belgium closed the year in style at the year-end event 'Festive Networking' at the atmospheric Ark Antwerp. Professionals from the logistics sector came together for a vibrant evening full of inspiring connections, fascinating conversations, and culinary indulgence.

After a warm reception, chairman Wim Gijbels opened with a welcoming speech. He highlighted key themes such as digitalisation, sustainability, the various IT projects and the challenge of attracting young talent. In the context of sustainability, the FORWARD Goals Awards and certificates were then presented.

The evening ended with an extensive buffet and plenty of networking opportunities. A moment to look back on 2024 together and look ahead to the future of our industry with enthusiasm.



The FORWARD
Belgium
secretariat
wishes you a
successful 2025!

CONTACT DETAILS

