



Newsletter August 2026

FORWARD Belgium activities



FORWARD Belgium Annual Event - Save the Date | 10 December 2026

Please make a note of **Thursday 10 December 2026** in your diary. On that day, we at FORWARD Belgium will be rounding off the year with our annual end-of-year party, which this time will take place at the beautiful **Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp**. It promises to be another evening where we can look back together on the highlights of the past year, celebrate our successes and look forward to what lies ahead. The official invitation with all the practical details will follow in the autumn.

GOLD sponsors 2026



FORWARD Belgium Gold Sponsors 2026

The following companies are FORWARD Belgium's **GOLD sponsors** for **2026**:

- ✓ [BDO Belgium](#)
- ✓ [Vanbreda Marine](#)
- ✓ [SSC Consolidation](#)
- ✓ [Van Doosselaere & Partners](#)
- ✓ [Customs Support](#)
- ✓ [Portilog](#)

FORWARD Belgium



Customs

Update: follow-up on physical inspections and processing times
Following our recent meeting with the Minister and **Kristian Vanderwaeren** regarding the persistently long processing times for physical checks, an initial follow-up meeting has now taken place. The meeting examined the causes of the long waiting times in greater detail. A dedicated team is now being set up within the **Central Administration** to investigate the situation further and monitor it closely. The possibility of establishing a **confidential point of contact** where companies can raise specific cases is also being considered. A further follow-up meeting is scheduled to take place shortly.



Human Resources

Put your company in the spotlight – together we can inspire the employees of tomorrow
The Port of Antwerp is full of remarkable stories, and they deserve to be seen. A **content group** has now been set up within Alfaport Voka to bolster the [jobsindehaven.be](#) campaign with authentic photos, videos and testimonials from our companies. We are **still** looking for **a few more companies** that would like to join in and share their stories.

For any questions, further information or to sign up straight away, please contact **Kaat Scharpé** at kaat.scharpe@voka.be .



Young FORWARD Belgium

13th FORWARD Quiz Night | 24 September 2026 – sign up now!
On Thursday **24 September 2026**, FORWARD Belgium & Young FORWARD Belgium are once again organising the **FORWARD Quiz Night**. An evening full of fun, team spirit and surprising quiz moments, where colleagues challenge each other in the battle for the coveted challenge cup.

Put your team together, choose a creative team name and enjoy a lively quiz night with challenging questions, competition and networking.

[More info and registration](#)

Sleep better: insights from expert Jana Maes | 17 September 2026
On **Thursday 17 September**, sleep expert **Jana Maes** will give an accessible talk on sleep at **The Beacon**: why it is so important, how our sleep changes over the years, and which habits contribute to a better night's sleep. She will also briefly discuss sleep medication and when sleep therapy may be recommended. Participants will gain practical insights they can put into practice straight away. A networking reception will follow the talk.



The official invitation will follow shortly.



Maritime transport

Transparent communication during the current crisis
The **ongoing tensions** in the **Middle East** and the **closure** of the **Strait of Hormuz** are having an **immediate impact** on **global supply chains**. For freight forwarders, this translates into a mounting number of operational and financial challenges. Due to the disruption of crucial shipping routes, shipping companies' schedules are constantly being revised. Ships are diverting and unloading cargo at ports other than those originally planned. This not only causes delays but also puts increased pressure on European ports, resulting in congestion. For **freight forwarders**, this means they must **constantly adapt, revise their schedules** and **seek creative solutions** to ensure goods still reach their destination on time.

[Read more](#)



On our website, you'll find WARD, FORWARD's digital assistant.
WARD helps members quickly find the right information, documents and answers to frequently asked questions. By digitising processes and making information more accessible, WARD contributes to more efficient and sustainable operations within our sector.
Less searching, fewer emails, less paper — more time for what really matters.
You can use WARD directly via our website. The secretariat remains available for any further queries.

Calendar

FORWARD Belgium events and meetings:

September 2026

DATE	TOPIC	TARGET AUDIENCE	MORE INFO
10 September	FORWARD Belgium Governing Body Meeting	Members of the governing body Sponsors and associate members of FORWARD Belgium	info@forwardbelgium.be
10 September	Impact Through Partnership FORWARD Academy 'You can learn to sleep better'		/ImpactThroughPartnership
17 September	FORWARD Belgium	All logistics operators	jongeren@forwardbelgium.be
24 September	Quiz 2026	All logistics players	forwardbelgium.be/quiz2026

FORWARD Belgium partner events 2026:

- ✓ [20-21-25-27-28 August | Port Summer School 2026](#)

[Full programme](#)

This newsletter was sent to you by:



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