



Newsletter February 2026

FORWARD Belgium activities



2025 Annual Report: progress in a challenging year

The **FORWARD Belgium** Annual Report **2025** is now available. The past year was marked by cooperation, digitisation, new customs systems, increased focus on security and the impact of European sustainability legislation. Against this backdrop, FORWARD Belgium continued to focus on informing, connecting, defending and thinking ahead – with concrete support and tangible results.

WARD as a digital guide

Since its launch, our **AI assistant WARD** has been helping members find answers quickly and understand complex issues. This year, you can also submit topics from the annual report directly to WARD, without having to read through the entire report.

👉 [Ask WARD your questions here.](#)

[Annual Report 2025](#)



The hidden world behind our logistics chain

FORWARD Belgium invites all its members to the Keynote by **Geert Vandervelden, Expert** at the **National Drugs Commission**, on **Tuesday 24 February**. The theme of this lecture is *'The hidden world behind our logistics chain: How organised crime is evolving - and what role we all play in the fight against it'*. This will be followed by the **general meeting**, to which all members are also welcome. The evening will conclude with a networking reception.

[More info and registration](#)



FORWARD Belgium board elections – Call for candidates

During the general meeting of FORWARD Belgium, which will take place on **Tuesday 24 February 2026**, **three candidates** must be nominated for a position on the board. Candidates must be a **statutorily appointed member of the board** who is actively involved in day-to-day management or is part of the company's management team. In addition, they must be **nominated by a statutorily appointed member of the management** of the same company.

Interested candidates can **submit** their candidacy – **supported by at least three members of FORWARD Belgium** – together with a **curriculum vitae in writing before 10 February 2026** to the [FORWARD Belgium secretariat](#).

For further information about the board elections, please contact the [FORWARD Belgium secretariat](#).



Become a sponsor and put your company in the spotlight

Would you like to make your company visible at the heart of the Belgian logistics sector?

Every year, FORWARD Belgium and Young FORWARD Belgium organise a series of top events that bring professionals together:

- FORWARD Academies – inspiring learning and networking sessions
- FORWARD Cup – sporting, connecting and always a success
- FORWARD Quiz – knowledge, fun and competition all in one
- FORWARD Annual Event – the stylish networking moment of the year

With our **GOLD** and **SILVER sponsorship packages**, your company will gain exceptional visibility at all our events and within our community. We also offer **customised** and **in-kind sponsorship** for companies that like to think creatively.

[Sponsor brochure 2026](#)

GOLD sponsors 2026



FORWARD Belgium Gold sponsors 2026

The following companies are **GOLD sponsors 2026** of FORWARD Belgium:

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

FORWARD Belgium

Customs



Update on CATCH Regulation

During the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on 26 January, several Member States discussed the ongoing challenges in implementing the revised **Fisheries Control Regulation** and the mandatory use of the CATCH system. The countries expressed concerns about proportionality, practical feasibility and the lack of full interoperability, especially with regard to customs systems and third countries. The European Commission announced that the integration of CATCH into the EU Customs Single Window is expected in **February 2026**.



IRP – Support & Contact Points

In the context of the further roll-out of the Import Release Platform (IRP), we would like to remind you of the support available.

For logistics service providers (LSPs):

- Biweekly Q&A calls (Tuesday & Thursday) – register via twf.aw@voka.be
- Questions about customs processes: twf.aw@voka.be
- Technical & functional support for IRP: inboundreleasesupport@nxtport.com

Additional resources via inboundrelease.com:

- Biweekly updated Q&A overview
- Demonstration video of the IRP User Interface
- Documentation and practical manuals



Human Resources



HavenWijs 2026: education meets port companies

On 16 March (Beveren) and 19 March (Antwerp), Port of Antwerp-Bruges is once again organising **HavenWijs**, the meeting place for education professionals who want to collaborate with companies from the port. During a short information session, teachers will gain insight into the port, the new Havenwereld experience centre and an inspiring testimonial. Before and after the session, schools and companies can talk to each other at the job fair to explore possible collaborations, such as internships, guest lectures or teaching materials. HavenWijs is aimed at higher education and third-level secondary education in East Flanders and Antwerp.

[More information and registration](#)

Legal



Maritime Security Act - security verifications

The FPS Mobility has clarified the assessment criteria for security verifications in the maritime sector. From now on, the Federal Police may only base a negative opinion on serious offences, such as drug trafficking, professional theft, serious violence, illegal possession of weapons, involvement in criminal networks or radicalisation. In the case of one-off offences outside these categories, a positive opinion with an individual warning, combined with repeated screenings, will be the standard approach.

[The updated circular 'Security checks in PC 226' can be requested from the FORWARD Belgium secretariat.](#)

Agenda

FORWARD Belgium events and meetings:

February 2026

DATE	TOPIC	TARGET AUDIENCE	MORE INFO
12 February	FORWARD Belgium governing body	Members of the administrative body	info@forwardbelgium.be
24 February	The hidden world behind our logistics chain	Members and associate members	https://forwardbelgium.be/algemene-vergadering

FORWARD Belgium partner events:

- ✓ 26 February 2026: HOGENT Supply Chain Experience Day

[Full agenda](#)

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