



FORWARD

BELGIUM

Sustainability Flash 2026-1

Chatbot WARD



WARD: our digital assistant for a smarter and more sustainable sector

Did you know that our website has its own digital assistant? **WARD**, the **FORWARD chatbot**, helps members find their way to information, documents and answers to frequently asked questions quickly and efficiently.

By digitising processes and making information more accessible, WARD contributes to **smarter, more efficient and more sustainable operations** within our sector. Less searching, fewer emails, less paper – more time and space for what really matters.

[Discover WARD on our website and be sure to give it a try.](#)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact [the secretariat](#).

FORWARD Cup



The FORWARD Cup sets sustainability in motion

On **Friday 5 June 2026**, Young FORWARD Belgium will be organising the **9th FORWARD Cup** at the Jef Mermans Stadium in Merksem. This mini-football tournament is much more than just sport: it is a sustainable community event where exercise, connection and team spirit take centre stage.

Sporting team-building not only enhances the health and well-being of participants, but also strengthens social cohesion within our sector. By playing together, supporting each other and having fun together, we are building a resilient and sustainable logistics community.

Register now to secure your team's place!

Discover the full programme and all the practical details on our website: <https://forwardbelgium.be/forward-cup>

Supply Chain Experience Day



Strengthening sustainable talent: join the Supply Chain Experience Day

On **Thursday 23 April 2026**, Karel de Grote Hogeschool, Young FORWARD Belgium and BSV The Next Generation are once again joining forces for the **Supply Chain Experience Day**. An initiative that fits perfectly with our sustainability ambition: investing in human capital, inspiring young people and making the logistics sector future-proof.

By bringing companies and students into direct contact with one another via a dynamic speed-dating concept, we are building a strong, inclusive and resilient talent pool. This is sustainable sector development in its purest form.

Interested in taking part and getting young people excited about our sector? [Register now via the Young FORWARD Belgium secretariat.](#)

More info or questions? [The secretariat will be happy to help.](#)

FORWARD Goals



Official award ceremony of FORWARD Goals for Sustainable Development

During our general meeting on 24 February, the **FORWARD Goals certificates and Awards** were once again presented to the companies that have distinguished themselves over the past year with their sustainable initiatives. With this recognition, we are putting the spotlight on companies that actively contribute to a future-oriented, climate-conscious and resilient logistics sector.

The **next evaluation committee** will meet on **9 June 2026**. Companies wishing to participate may [submit](#) their application by that date [via the FORWARD Belgium secretariat.](#)

Further background on the FORWARD Goals can be found on our website: <https://forwardbelgium.be/forward-goals>

IMO Update

Transport of plastic pellets by sea container

In 2024, the **International Maritime Organization** (IMO) published Circular MEPC.1/Circ.909, setting out recommendations to **prevent** the **loss** of **plastic pellets** during **maritime transport**. Within the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR), a practical **update** for the implementation of these recommendations was recently developed by, amongst others, Cefic, FIATA, the World Shipping Council and P&I Clubs. In practical terms, this means that for containers carrying plastic pellets, it is recommended that the following be used in booking requests and shipping instructions:

- use the SMDG cargo code “PLX”
- include a declaration stating that the container contains plastic pellets in accordance with IMO Circular MEPC.1/Circ.909

For example:

“Contains plastic pellets as per MEPC.1/Circ.909. Freight container subject to stowage and securing under deck or inboard in sheltered areas of exposed decks.”

This information allows the shipping company to apply appropriate stowage and securing measures to minimise the risk of plastic pellets being lost at sea.

Although these recommendations are not mandatory, shipping lines may:

- shipping companies request this when booking containers
- shippers in the chemical sector include this statement in their shipping instructions

It is therefore useful to take this into account when exporting plastic pellets.

Further details:



- [Update on the implementation of the Recommendations for the carriage of plastic pellets by sea in freight containers \(MEPC.1/Circ.909\)](#)
- [Update to the recommended approach for shippers to implement paragraph 1.2 of MEPC Circular MEPC.1/Circ.909*](#)

Tip

SDG 3 | Good health and well-being

Opportunity for employees aged 45 and over to register for a preventive health check-up which they can have carried out during working hours.

[Find out more](#)

Tip

SDG 15 | Life on land

Support organisations specialising in reforestation, such as [Desert Leaves](#) and [Go Forest](#).

[Find out more](#)

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