

Dear valued customer,

Yesterday the Covid-19 Taskforce was held for the third time. It confirmed that the port is still fully operational. Please find below a few highlights:

- Thanks to the great efforts of pilots, dock labour and all involved in the logistics chain, sufficient labour is available and supply of Europe remains guaranteed.
- At present, connectivity with the hinterland hasn't been impacted. Road, barge and rail capacity remain unchanged.
- The green lanes created by Europe prove to be an efficient measure at the Belgian borders and waiting times are limited.
- Customs and FAVV (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain) also remain a stable factor in the supply chain.
- Economic impact:
 - An increased demand in e-commerce and pharmaceuticals has been noticed. The supply of foodstuffs remains stable after an increase the last couple of weeks.
 - The future economic situation is uncertain, however we still notice an important activity in the port.
 - Due to the low oil price, the trading activity increased which resulted in more tankers calling port of Antwerp and a high occupancy of the available tank storage.
 - Some container lines are taking out capacity by increasing the number of blank sailings both on the Far East – Europe trade as the Transatlantic trade. The effect of this action will become most probably noticeable at the port as from current and next weeks.
- The taskforce defined various action points:
 - A more flexible provision of cleaning & protective products is being evaluated to guarantee required amounts.
 - The nautical chain is stable, however a slight decrease in number of calls has been noticed. This reduction is triggered by the uncertain economic situation.
 - The existing regulation in view of crew changes and shore leave has been highlighted as unclear and will be discussed and streamlined between the different actors.
 - A directive has been drawn up specifically for barge operators in case of illness on board. This directive will be published once it has been finally approved by the relevant authorities.
- A call to all involved: please keep in line with the general regulations highlighted by the port of Antwerp and other governments and do not create your own set of rules in view of port operations. The safety of staff is our common priority but we also need alignment to keep operations as smooth as possible.

We keep on monitoring – together with the entire port community - the situation on a constant basis both from an operational and an economical perspective.

The taskforce will continue to take place on a weekly basis. We will keep you informed on the situation and on the additional measures which have been discussed to keep the port running.

Via [this link](#), please find the latest press release.

Thank you for your trust in the port of Antwerp and also thanks to all of you who contributed to the #weapplaud campaign supporting our care providers.

Best regards

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