

# 10 REASONS TO INVEST IN LOGISTICS IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM

## 1 CENTRAL LOCATION AND TOP-NOTCH MULTIMODAL CONNECTIVITY

60% of Europe's purchasing power is located within a 500 km radius. Antwerp which can directly connect to all major European destinations and to the rest of the world thanks to its port, the proximity of the national airport and the presence of a regional airport, the well organised rail transport (including high speed train) and inland navigation systems, and its dense network of main highways.

## 2 WORLD PORT

Antwerp's seaport is number 1 in Europe for conventional break bulk and number 2 for container traffic. With more than 5.4 million m<sup>2</sup>, it has by far more covered storage capacity than all north-western European ports together, and it offers the widest logistical services of all European seaports, such as assembling, labelling, quality controls, stock management, after-sales service, and postponed manufacturing. Its efficient shift system that assures the continuity of the port activities day and night, all year round.

## 3 EXPERTISE

Thanks to a long history of experience, Antwerp's logistic and maritime companies offer tailor made solutions for your needs. Well trained stevedores and multilingual office workers convert this experience into high productivity and flexibility. Academic and practice-based education and research in maritime and logistics management, and even in nautical science and marine engineering, are on hand abundantly, thanks to the University of Antwerp, the Antwerp Management School, the Antwerp colleges, the Antwerp Maritime Academy, organisations like Portilog (lifelong learning in logistics), the Flanders Institute for Logistics, the Research Centre Commodity Flows and the Institute of Transport and Maritime Management Antwerp.

## 4 ADVANTAGEOUS CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Belgium's custom regulations are beneficial. First, a tax representative can clear goods in Antwerp which can then freely travel in the EU and are subject to the VAT in the land of destination, with a global VAT number, which guarantees speed and flexibility. Second, in Belgium goods in transit can be stored in warehouses without customs costs. Third, companies can acquire the Authorized Economic Operator Status, so that they can benefit from simplified customs regulations.

## 5 TAX BREAKS

Benefit from significant tax cuts thanks to Belgium's notional interest deduction scheme. By deducting a notional rate of interest on their equity, companies can significantly decrease their total taxation liability. The advance ruling system offers legal certainty regarding companies' total liability. Expats also benefit from advantageous income tax rates, which means lower salary costs for employers for the same net salary.

## 6 INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS

The logistics industry is of course closely related to the (petro)chemical cluster in Antwerp, which is Europe's largest, and most diversified. The (petro)chemical cluster makes continuous investments in logistics and multimodality. Besides (petro)chemical logistics, Antwerp is also the lynchpin for fashion logistics, food logistics, pharma logistics, and many others. Furthermore, the presence of many clusters of SMEs in the greater Antwerp area requires logistic solutions.

## 7 IDEAL HEADQUARTERS LOCATION

Belgium is the epicentre of European decision-making, and therefore has always been had an international status. It is, in short, an ideal location for your European headquarters. Moreover, the Flemish Government backs the logistics industry. With the Flanders Logistics programme it wants to make Flanders the best European region in the field of smart and sustainable logistics by 2020.

## 8 LOTS OF AFFORDABLE SPACE

The Antwerp region offers more than enough land for logistical activity at affordable prices. High-quality office space is also abundantly available at very affordable prices. Compared to other surrounding cities and countries, prime rents in Antwerp are much more attractive. Antwerp Headquarters helps you to find the best premises.

## 9 ICT SUPPORT

Logistic activity not only generates commodity flows but also information flows. All material handlers in Antwerp take utmost care in tracking and tracing to control the value chain. Many software houses develop tailor-made software to support your supply chain and integrate it with that of your suppliers.

## 10 A WORLD CITY ON A HUMAN SCALE

Live in one of the most vibrant and coolest cities in Europe. Antwerp's reputation as a culinary, fashion and diamond capital makes it an epicentre of style and luxury. Combined with its lively cultural scene and relaxed atmosphere, it is a great place to live. Antwerp was awarded second place in the ECA International ranking on quality of life for expats. Antwerp Headquarters also provides a comprehensive support programme for expats.

# YOUR BUSINESS IN ANTWERP?

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### TECHNOLOGY IN ANTWERP

**S**EE OF THE ART infrastructure, outstanding connectivity, proven expertise, world-class research... Antwerp has all the things you would expect of a world business city. But also a few you wouldn't. Like some of the best international schools in Europe and a comprehensive range of social services to match. In so many ways, Antwerp helps you stay in touch with all the important things in life.

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### LOGISTICS IN ANTWERP

**E**UROPE'S LARGEST INLAND SEAPORT, fast hinterland connections by road, rail, air and water, ample space to grow and a highly skilled, productive workforce... Antwerp has all the things you would expect of the world's preferred gateway to Europe. But also a few you wouldn't. Like some of the best boutique shopping in the region, a rich cultural heritage and inspiring architecture at every turn. In more ways than one, business and pleasure form an integrated package in Antwerp.

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### OUTSOURCING IN ANTWERP

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### CLEANTECH IN ANTWERP

**S**EE OF THE ART infrastructure, outstanding connectivity, proven expertise in green technology, world-class research and development... Antwerp has all the things you would expect of a world business city. But also a few you wouldn't. Like a comprehensive range of social services, some of the best international schools in Europe and a relaxed lifestyle to top it off. In more ways than one, Antwerp offers the ideal environment for both work and play.

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### CHEMICALS IN ANTWERP

**S**EE OF THE ART infrastructure, outstanding connectivity, proven expertise, world-class research... Antwerp has all the things you would expect of the world's preferred gateway to Europe. But also a few you wouldn't. Like some of the best boutique shopping in the region, a rich cultural heritage and inspiring architecture at every turn. In more ways than one, business and pleasure form an integrated package in Antwerp.

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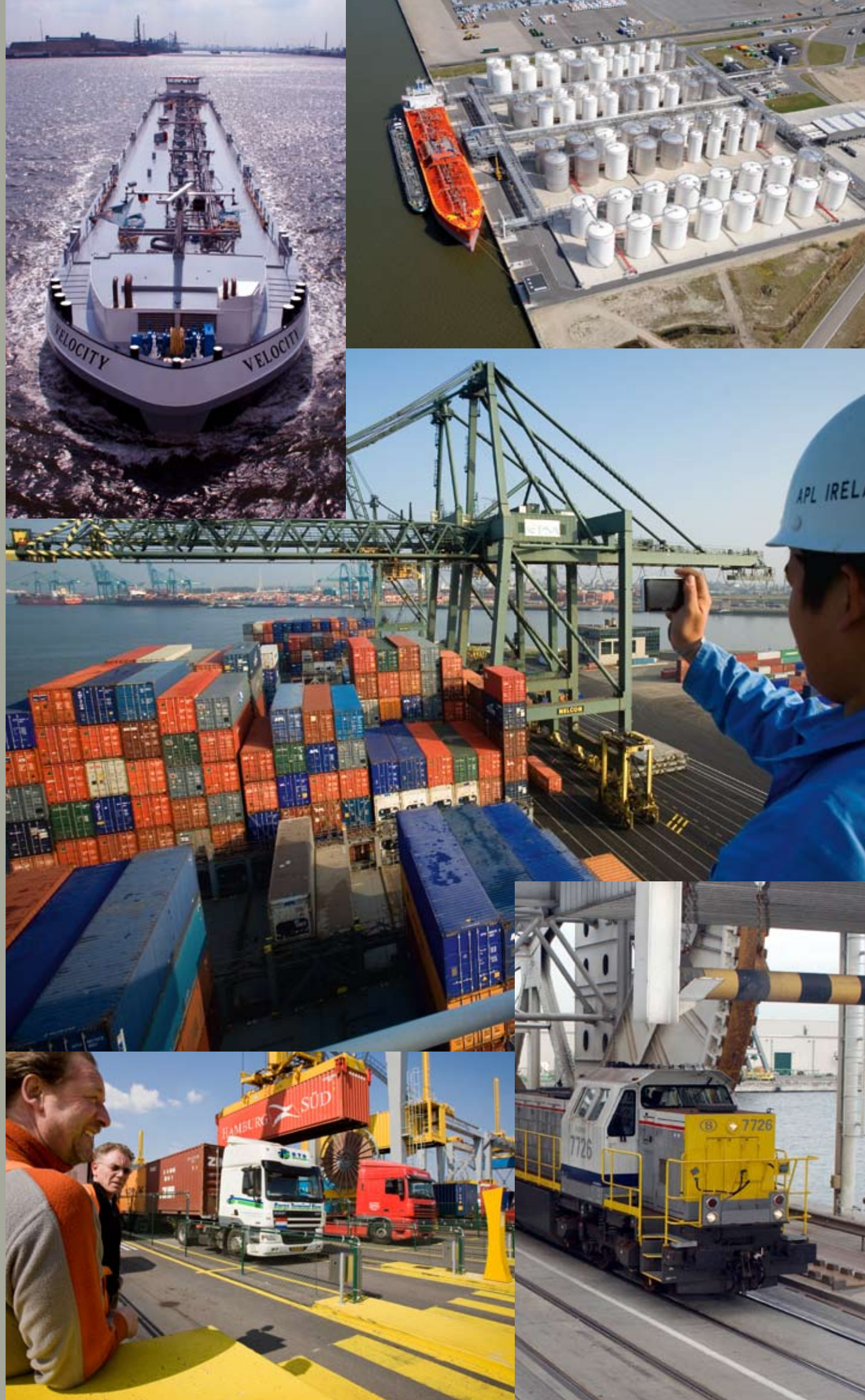


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THE LOGISTICS SECTOR IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM

# A Few Success Stories

## Marc BEERLANDT

**M SC** Marc Beerlandt, Managing Director of Mediterranean Shipping Company Belgium NV, emphasizes: “MSC Belgium is regarded by its Principals as a leading agent, together with the Port of Antwerp, which is undoubtedly the port with the highest strategic importance for MSC in Western Europe. Antwerp is the main transshipment hub for the global operations of MSC. An important asset of Antwerp is the work ethic of the employees. Moreover, they have all enjoyed excellent training. Another important asset of Antwerp is the presence of cargo, coming from both the local industry and the hinterland. Last but not least, Antwerp offers many connections which enables us to offer good prices to our customers. In sum, Antwerp and MSC is a perfect marriage. We would certainly like to keep expanding here.”

## Philippe VAN DOOREN

**DE LLOYD / TRANSPORT ECHO** Philippe Van Dooren, Editor in Chief of De Lloyd and Transport Echo, publications specialised in multimodal and international transport news with headquarters in Antwerp, adds: “Why Antwerp? Because of its port, which makes it a city of the world, but which is as easy-going as a suburban town. And because it’s a city of hard-working people who also enjoy life to the full.”

## Fernand HUTS

**KATOEN NATIE** According to Fernand Huts, CEO of Katoen Natie, “Antwerp offers CEOs of multinationals everything their hearts desire. Antwerp may be on a smaller scale than world cities such as London and Paris, but it still has everything in store to meet the needs of large companies, like a quality logistics infrastructure and Antwerp’s outstanding location as a gateway to the European markets, both critical assets.” He also cites “Antwerp’s capacity for expansion, which is not always the case in other European (port) cities located on major supply routes.”

## Eric NOTERMAN

**DP WORLD** CEO DP World Belgium, explains: “Antwerp is a preferred location for companies because of its central position and longstanding tradition as a centre for international commerce. This means that many multinational companies have built their own depots in the port of Antwerp which gives Antwerp an important comparative advantage – there is constant interaction between the manufacturing and shipping sector within the port. Antwerp is also strategically positioned for shippers to strengthen their competitive position, while reducing cost and transport time. From a European perspective, we consider Antwerp to be the best choice for all handling requirements of your goods.”

## Maria VAN MEENEN

**DISSACO** Maria Van Meenen, Managing Director of Dissaco, distribution & shipping services and agencies, emphasizes: “Antwerp is the place to be! It is the crossroads of Europe and the rest of the world. No wonder Antwerp has a long tradition in logistics! The many forwarders, shipping agents and added value service providers are true problem solvers and adapt easily to all situations because of abundant expertise and a rich multicultural history. Our offices are located ideally next to the port and the major highways. And, importantly, they are very affordable compared to neighbouring cities and countries!”

## Liesbeth GEYSELS

**FLEMISH INSTITUTE FOR LOGISTICS** Liesbeth Geysels, Managing Director of the Flemish Institute for Logistics, explains: “The Flemish Institute for Logistics is a knowledge centre that helps companies to realise innovative supply chain projects and hence improve their competitiveness. Being located in Antwerp is not a coincidence. With the port of Antwerp and the presence of the number one chemical cluster in Europe and second in the world, our offices are in the midst of vibrant logistical activity.”

## Sven VERSTREPEN

**TRI-VIZOR** founding partner of TRI-VIZOR, is convinced that “the logistics sector in on the verge of a paradigm shift as some of the largest shippers in the world are gearing up to bundle their supply chains.” He continues: “TRI-VIZOR acts as a neutral party in orchestrating these horizontal collaborations and cross-company supply networks. As a pioneer in this field, TRI-VIZOR won the European Supply Chain Distinction Award for Innovation in 2011.” The location of their offices in Antwerp is not due to chance. “Antwerp is an important European gateway with an extensive hinterland. Antwerp’s central location in the Benelux, in combination with the rich knowledge and experience of the logistic service providers, make it the ideal biotope to bundle supply chains.”



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