

[CEO Fernand Huts from Katoen Natie]

'Antwerp offers every CEO his heart's desire'

Fernand Huts is head of the logistics group Katoen Natie and is a typical entrepreneur. He concisely summarises the main challenges facing the logistics sector: 'You constantly have to try and boost your efficiency while reducing costs.'

CEO Fernand Huts from Katoen Natie is well known in Antwerp as a practical man. Work hard, play hard resounds the motto, apparently. Fernand Huts believes very strongly in informal structures. 'It rarely works through formal channels. The only way is to invest in grandiose ambiance!'

Fernand Huts also follows in the footsteps of Antwerp's historic Maecenas. Like his wife, Karine, he is a big art lover. Every year, Katoen Natie spends EUR 2.5 million, or 0.3% of the company's turnover, on art, culture, heritage and architectural projects. The collection comprises, among others, a large Cobra collection including paintings by Pierre Alechinsky, Lucebert, Karel Appel, Asger Jorn and Corneille; works by Wim Delvoye and Antwerp artists such as Jan Fabre and Panamarenko.

Katoen Natie was founded in 1854 and was originally engaged in loading, unloading and handling cotton. Nowadays, the company takes on all manner of logistics assignments from consumer goods to petrochemicals. Katoen Natie now boasts 154

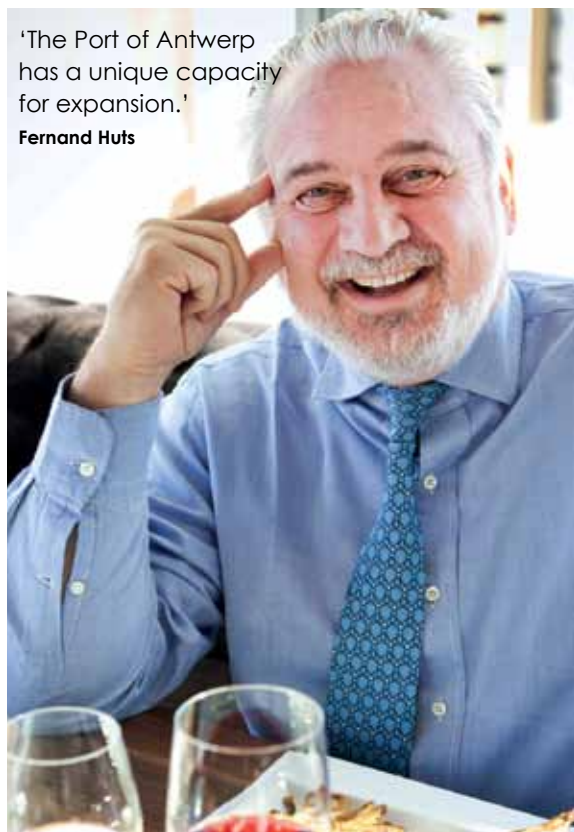
sites and terminals with 4.8 million m² of storage space in Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The group employs around 3000 people in Belgium. According to Fernand Huts, the logistics sector is facing at least two new challenges: the organisation of the Flemish ports and improvements in infrastructure. 'Developing new ideas and saving costs: those are always the biggest challenges for any company.'

Antwerp is the second largest port in Europe and after a dip in 2008 and 2009 as a result of the financial crisis, the traffic figures are again at impressive levels. The list with planned investments by the Antwerp Port Authority is also impressive, representing EUR 1.6 billion of investments in the port between now and 2025.

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Logistics in Antwerp

According to Fernand Huts, 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. Katoen Natie also cites Antwerp's capacity for expansion, which is not always the case in other European (port) cities located on major supply routes.



'The Port of Antwerp has a unique capacity for expansion.'

Fernand Huts

Investment budget: EUR 200 million

Employees in Europe: 9000

Number of nationalities in the company: always changing

Active in Antwerp since: 1845

How is the entrepreneurial climate in Antwerp:
'The entrepreneurial climate here is fun, stimulating and volatile.'

www.katoennatie.com