

PRESS RELEASE

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DELTA SHIPPING LINES MEETS ITS CUSTOMERS IN DUNKIRK

On Tuesday 5 October the representatives of Delta Shipping Lines, a Cypriot company specialising in short sea shipping, were in Dunkirk to meet their French customers and to be present when one of their ships, the *Kalina*, called in the Western Port.

Delta Shipping Lines representatives stressed, first of all, that Dunkirk was the only French port offering a direct, door-to-door service to St Petersburg on fixed days every week. With a route of Tilbury – Dunkirk – Hamburg – St Petersburg, ships with an 850-TEU* capacity make the crossing from Dunkirk to St Petersburg in five days. To optimise this service, specialised in the carriage of products at controlled temperature and dry goods, Delta Shipping Lines has just invested in some 300 new reefer containers.

The representatives of Dunkerque-Port felt that this line offered very encouraging prospects. To quote the Port's Commercial Director Daniel Deschodt, *"This service has considerably enlarged the hinterland of the Port of Dunkirk: we now handle goods from the entire Nord-Pas de Calais Region, as well as Belgium and the south of France. It also illustrates the strong policy of the Port of Dunkirk to develop not only transoceanic lines but also short sea shipping, for instance to and from Denmark and Russia with Delta Shipping, and Morocco (Agadir) with IMTC and CMA CGM. Negotiations are currently under way to make Dunkirk a transshipment platform for goods arriving from Morocco and bound for Russia"*.

For his part, Antti Linteri, General Director of Delta Shipping Lines, expressed his complete *"confidence in the Port of Dunkirk, its customers and its agent (Agence Maritime Rommel/AMR)"* and said that he anticipated *"the possibility of doubling the calls at Dunkirk"*.

*TEU: Twenty-foot equivalent unit (unit of measurement for containers)

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France's third-ranking port, Dunkirk is well known as a port handling heavy bulk cargoes for its numerous industrial installations. It has also built its reputation in other sectors such as cross-Channel RORO traffic to Great Britain, containers, fruits, etc. Classified as the seventh port of the North Europe Range which extends from Le Havre too Hamburg, Dunkirk is also France's leading port for ore and coal imports; France's leading port for containerised fruit imports; France's leading port for copper imports; and France's second-ranking port for trade with Great Britain.