

■ ■ ■ Friday 25 september 2015

DUNKERQUE-PORT'S ONGOING ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS: THE SALT BASINS

Thursday 24 September 2015 saw the latest edition of the «Sustainability Mornings» organised by Dunkerque-Port. These events are an opportunity for the Port to discuss, with the hundred or so partners attending, its different actions in the field of sustainable development.

This new edition focused mainly on the theme of biodiversity, a real challenge for the entire port district, and allowed the Port to share its vision for the management of its natural areas. During the event, the sessions included presentations of the ecological developments made in the port, and in particular the «salt basins» which are one of the compensatory measures carried out in connection with the LNG Terminal.

The North and South basins cover 4.22 and 2.52 hectares respectively. They have been designed as a haven where wading birds can feed and rest undisturbed, mainly as a stopover during migration and for overwintering. The North basin will also allow the development of salt-tolerant plants (notably European glasswort).

These lakes are fed from the Dunes Canal by a system of pumps that allow the level of salt water to be controlled according to a cycle defined by ecologists, and should soon become real islands of biodiversity. The «salt basins» also represent a final stage of GPMD's ecological developments in connection with the LNG Terminal.

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: the world's busiest passenger port (Calais-Dunkirk); France's largest harbour complex (traffic of more than 90 MT at Calais-Dunkirk); France's leading energy hub; France's leading port for containerised fruit imports; France's leading rail port; the region's largest waterway port; and the first LNG terminal (end 2015). Dunkirk is also a Sustainable Port (Natural Heritage Master Plan SDPN, Sustainable Development & Action Plan PA2D, Natural Environment Management Plan PGEN, etc).

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