

■ ■ ■ Tuesday 13 October 2015

PORT OF DUNKIRK: INAUGURATION OF NEW BORDER INSPECTION POST

The new Border Inspection Post of the SIVEP (*Animal and Plant Health Border Inspection Service*), in the Western Port of Dunkirk, was officially opened on Friday 9 October 2015 in the presence of many public figures, including Henri Jean, Sub-Prefect of Dunkirk, Adeline Croyere, Director of the Central SIVEP, Patrice Vergriete, Mayor of Dunkirk and President of Dunkirk Urban Community, François Soulet de Brugière, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Dunkerque-Port, Philippe Bertonèche, Chairman of the Development Board at Dunkerque-Port and Dunkerque-Port's CEO Stéphane Raison.

Dunkirk's BIP/SIVEP, an essential facility for all businesses wishing to import animal- or plant-based products, is the third one set up in France, after Roissy and Le Havre. It will have required an investment of 2 million Euros, jointly with the Dunkirk Urban Community.

Placed under the direct authority of the Central SIVEP of the Ministry of Agriculture, this structure brings together veterinary and phytosanitary experts and will optimise service to importers and harmonise the inspection process. It will allow the inspection of 5,000 batches a year, compared with 1,000 at present.

The Dunkirk BIP/SIVEP is approved to carry out inspections of:

- animal-based products for human consumption (frozen, chilled and ambient);
- animal-based products for animal feed;
- plant-based products for animal feed;
- plants and plant products, including wood.

Stéphane Raison, Chief Executive Office of Dunkerque-Port, is delighted with the opening of this new facility: «*Dunkirk is France's foremost port for containerised fruit and vegetable imports and a platform for consolidation and break-bulk of dry and fresh products, and this new structure will confirm its leadership position in the fresh and frozen goods sector.*»

Patrice Vergriete, for his part, stresses the close cooperation between the Port and the Urban Community: «*This new facility should give a new boost to incoming traffic for the Dunkirk area and the Côte d'Opale, as well as for France as a whole.*»

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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