

Press release Thursday, 28 November 2019

## DUNKERQUE-PORT STEPS UP ITS SHORT SEA SHIPPING NETWORK WITH THE LAUNCH OF A DUNKERQUE - REPUBLIC OF IRELAND LINK

BG FREIGHT LINE, a short sea shipping line present on the port of Dunkerque since 2010, has decided to establish a service to and from the Republic of Ireland, as of Tuesday, 26 November 2019.

Three vessels capable of carrying up to 1,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) equipped with reefer plugs will sail the following round trip: Tuesday, Dunkerque, Thursday Dublin and Saturday Cork.

The set-up of this service is in response to strong demand from customers wishing to adopt an environmentally-friendly mode of transport for volumes equivalent to truck loads, through the use of 45' containers made available by BG Freight Line. The direct shipping lane launched by BG Freight Line between Dunkerque-Port and the Republic of Ireland will help secure flows to and from Ireland.

Stéphane Raison, President of the Executive Board of Dunkerque-Port, welcomed the news: "By adding Ireland to our network of shipping solutions, Dunkerque-Port is enhancing its position as a transhipment port serving the main lines, while also offering a genuine alternative to European market participants regularly trading with the Republic of Ireland."

**Koert Luitwieler, CEO of BG Freight Line** commented: "Dunkerque-Port has always been exceptional in terms of assets. The recent lengthening of the Dunkerque container terminal, the acquisition of new gantry cranes and the proliferation of shipping lines have made it a key player in Northern European ports. Present on the port for almost 10 years, BG Freight Line wishes to support its development by setting up this service to the Republic of Ireland and thus allow Dunkerque-Port customers to benefit from our North European transport network."

## **About Dunkerque-Port:**

The largest French port complex (Calais-Dunkerque); the ninth largest port on the Channel and North Sea Range and France's third-largest port, Dunkerque-Port has built a reputation in many sectors: it is the largest passenger port in Europe (Calais-Dunkerque hub); France's largest energy hub; the country's largest LNG terminal; the leading French port for containerised fruit and vegetable imports; the largest French port for ore and coal imports; France's largest rail port; the region's largest waterway port; and the third-ranking French port for grain traffic. Dunkerque-Port is also a sustainable port. It is the trading port of the new Hauts-de-France Region, the largest agricultural region of France, the leading region for the rail industry, and the leading region for the car industry. 2018 Traffic: 51.6 Mt

**PRESS CONTACT** 

Marie-Elizabeth Bogucki Tel.: +33 (0)3 28 28 79 11 Mobile: +33 (0)6 07 13 33 42 Email: mebogucki@portdedunkerque.fr









