

# le port de DunkERQUE

e-monthly port activities report

## 3 QUESTIONS PUT TO : DAVID CHESLIN

President of the COASTLINK association

On 24 and 25 September 2009 the Port of Dunkirk hosted the annual COASTLINK conference. The association's President, David Cheslin, told us of his impressions at the end of the two-day conference.

- What are COASTLINK's goals?



COASTLINK is committed to promoting larger flows of containerised cargoes on shortsea links. We implement this commitment by providing networking opportunities to companies which form the components of the supply chain: carriers, forwarding agents, ports and terminals, etc. We differ

slightly from government-assisted transport offices because we focus more on commercial solutions. We also target the entire «European» shortsea market (including the Russian Baltic ports, North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean/Black Sea region).

- You have just held your conference in Dunkirk. How do you think it went?

Many people attending felt that our 2009 annual conference in Dunkirk was our best event. This was partly due to the quality of the speakers: most leading maritime transport companies participated in the conference. Among the top-level speakers I would mention Adrie Visbeen, who is well known in transport circles in the Port of Dunkirk for his commitment in Dailyfresh. He argued that reefers will play an even greater role in the transport of fresh produce.

- How do you see the future of the Port of Dunkirk in terms of shortsea transport?

At COASTLINK we feel that Dunkirk has an excellent future in shortsea container transport, particularly in sectors where the carriage of fresh produce is significant. This port is able to offer good inter-modal connections with southern and eastern Europe. We are inevitably in a bit of a «chicken and egg» situation in that, without the maritime volumes, we cannot justify frequent inter-modal departures to many destinations – but we also need the support of local rail operators.



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## «Transport & Logistics» show in Antwerp

The sales team of Dunkerque Port, led by Commercial Director Daniel Deschodt, was present with a stand at the «Transport & Logistics» show which was held in Antwerp from 20 to 22 October 2009.

## Sifel show in Morocco

The Sales Division of Dunkerque Port will be present at Morocco's 7th Sifel show (International Fruit and Vegetables Trade Fair), which will take place in Agadir from 10 to 13 December 2009.

The show's organisers expect 40,000 visitors and 400 companies representing more than 20 exhibiting countries.

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## Dunkerque Port committed to preserving biodiversity

In early 2009, in the context of the permits needed for the LNG terminal project, Dunkerque Port applied for an exemption from Article L411-2 of the Environment Code (displacement of protected species). A committee of experts had drawn up a list of accompanying, attenuating and compensatory measures to eliminate, reduce or compensate for the impacts of the project. The prefectural order of 31 July 2009 authorised Dunkerque Port to re-sow plant species experimentally, by collecting seeds of knotty pearlwort and jersey cudweed. It permitted the port to capture and release a protected animal species of the site, the common lizard, into habitats suitable for its survival. The operations for transfer of the plant species

were assessed under the scientific authority of the Regional Phytosociology Centre / Bailleul National Botanical Conservatory, with scientific support from experts of the Nord General Council. The first seeds were collected on 11 September 2009. Following successful tests in wetlands over the past two years, Dunkerque Port plans to create new wetland dune depressions in an area of 35 hectares to the east of the location of the methane terminal project, where the seeds collected will be sown. In this zone it will develop a new area for biodiversity. In early September, with the support of its ecology engineer, Dunkerque Port also launched a campaign to capture the common lizard. The search will be resumed next spring.

