



Press release
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**Partnership Charter signed between Dunkerque-Port, the CNTPA-CSOPMI and the banana producers of Guadeloupe & Martinique
Thursday 9 September 2010**

After 12 years of close cooperation between Guadeloupe and Martinique in the refrigerated carriage of bananas, Dunkerque-Port, the CNTPA-CSOPMI and the Guadeloupe & Martinique Banana Producers' Union (UGPBAN) have decided to reinforce their partnership by signing a new Charter. The document was signed by UGPBAN President Eric de Lucy, Martine Bonny, Chair of Dunkerque-Port's Executive Committee, and Franck Gonsse, Secretary General of the CNTPA-CSOPMI (Occasional and Temporary Port Workers' Union). Also present were Xavier Eiglier, Director of Lignes Antilles Guyane CMA-CGM, and Michel Delebarre, President of Dunkirk Urban Community.

Guaranteeing quality during banana discharging operations in Dunkirk

Bananas from Guadeloupe & Martinique are highly perishable foodstuffs and must be handled with the greatest of care, especially during their transfer to distribution platforms.

- The Charter primarily concerns ships docking with cargoes of bananas in the context of the Regulation on the operation of public berths.
- It also serves to put in place the available facilities for discharging containers of bananas and positioning them at the entrances to logistics warehouses.

"In signing the Charter, we aim to ensure that the trade in bananas from Guadeloupe and Martinique in Dunkirk is reliable and ongoing. Bananas represent an annual tonnage of approximately of 300,000 tonnes for Dunkerque-Port, and the purpose of the Charter is to ensure that Dunkirk remains France's leading port in the handling of containerised fruit and vegetables," explains Xavier Eiglier.

A "quality" approach as part of the Guadeloupe & Martinique Banana Plan to promote sustainable development

Since the launch of the Sustainable Banana Plan in December 2008, the Guadeloupe & Martinique Banana Producers' Union (UGPBAN) has promoted sustainable development in the three areas of the environment, working conditions and the economy.

"This Charter demonstrates a real determination to guarantee social reliability in the Port, as well as offering consumers high-quality fruit," says Eric de Lucy.

About UGPBAN:

Set up in September 2003, the Guadeloupe & Martinique Banana Producers' Union (UGPBAN) brings together three producers' associations: Banamart and Banalliance in Martinique, and *Les Producteurs de Guadeloupe* in Guadeloupe. These three associations give direct support to planters on the two islands in the areas of farming techniques, purchasing, finance and human resources. In mainland France, UGPBAN promotes and markets bananas from Guadeloupe & Martinique on the European market. UGPBAN has 700 producer members, i.e. all the planters of the two islands, and markets 100% of their production.

About Dunkerque-Port:

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 to 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.

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