



# 2012

## PRESS RELEASE

Monday 7 May 2012

## DUNKERQUE-PORT HOSTS SYMPOSIUM ON DREDGING AND BIODIVERSITY

On 29 and 30 May Dunkerque-Port will host a two-day Symposium, the first day devoted to dredging and the second to biodiversity. Ten years after holding the first technical Symposium on dredging, Dunkerque-Port is repeating the experience, this year adding a biodiversity day.

Dredging operations are a vital factor in the port's economy. The impact of dredging in the marine environment is a constant preoccupation for the port authorities and local government. At a time when sustainable development is becoming an objective required of everyone, Dunkerque-Port focuses on preventive strategies, addressing environmental concerns and seeking the best compromises between the imperatives of economic development, the effect of the cost of dredging operations, and protection of the aquatic ecosystems.

As regards biodiversity, the port domain has an important role to play in the preservation of the natural environments. The sustainable development policy of Dunkerque-Port now includes consideration of the natural areas and landscapes in the gradual setup of a Sustainable Development and Action Plan that integrates the issues of ecological continuity between the city and the port area, while deploying the green and blue belts on the basis of its Natural Heritage Master Plan. The marine environment is also taken into account with the future documents of objectives for the Natura 2000 Sea areas, Dunkerque-Port having been appointed by the State as the main operator.

20 experts will speak on different subjects and two site visits are arranged on the two days.

Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 May 2012, Pavillon des Maquettes, 2502 route de l'Ecluse Trystram, Dunkirk.

COST PER PARTICIPANT: €60 per day or €100 for the two days.

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*Dunkirk is classified as the 7th port of the North Europe Range which extends from Le Havre to Hamburg. Its western port offers the deepest draughts of the Range for container ships and large ore carriers.*

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