



Build the links in your supply chain

B2B event invitation

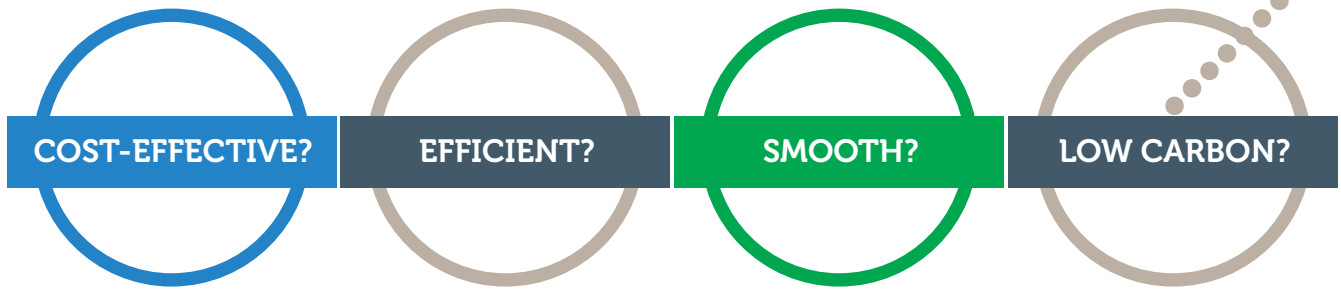
4 October 2010 - Ipswich, Suffolk



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How is your supply chain?



Do you have the information you need on the options available? Do you have the network of contacts that can help? Are you looking for partners with similar experiences who could support you in making the most of your business?

Establishing contacts in the logistics community can play an essential role in growing your business and creating the supply chain solutions that match your needs.

What better time to take advantage of a unique cross-border B2B visit and networking event?

The organisers: Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and the Haven Gateway in the UK, and VOKA-Chamber of Commerce West Flanders (Belgium).

The date: 4 October 2010.

The location: Ipswich, in the Haven Gateway.

The links: the Haven Gateway and West Flanders regions have long-established trade and transport links, from the earliest trades in agricultural products through to today's full range of cargoes and commodities. Both regions are playing a central part in the EU Dryport project.

- The Haven Gateway, one of the fastest-growing areas in the UK, is based around the UK's most important port cluster, including Felixstowe, Harwich, Ipswich and Mistley. The sub-region offers a wealth of experience, facilities and skills in the ports, shipping, transport, logistics and related sectors.
- West Flanders offers businesses a highly developed infrastructure in every way. This includes two seaports - Zeebrugge and Ostend, an extensive inland waterway system, and high-density road and rail networks, with quick and efficient links to other major European hubs.

This exciting B2B event, being organised as part of EU Dryport project, will bring together entrepreneurs, business people, port operators and logistics service providers from the two regions.

- A delegation from West Flanders will travel to Ipswich to meet colleagues from the Haven Gateway region.
- Associated British Ports will organise an Ipswich port tour and presentation.
- Representatives from the ports of Zeebrugge and Ostend will give presentations on their operations and facilities.
- The schedule, including an informal dinner in the evening and optional overnight stay, will allow plenty of time for positive networking - exchanging information, building relationships and learning about the ports.
- A return visit by Haven Gateway delegates to West Flanders is planned for early 2011.

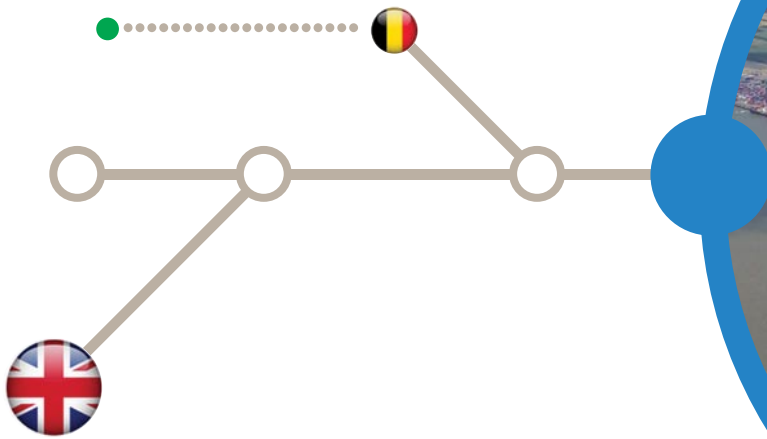
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The Haven Gateway

Singled out by the European Commission as a 'maritime centre of excellence', the Haven Gateway sub-region includes:

- Felixstowe, the largest container port in the UK and the seventh largest container port in Europe, with a major deepwater extension nearing completion;
- Harwich, a major East Coast ferry, cruise and general cargo port;
- Ipswich, a substantial regional port and the UK's largest grain exporting point;
- The niche ports of Harwich Navyard, Mistley and Brightlingsea.

The Haven Gateway ports and logistics sector:

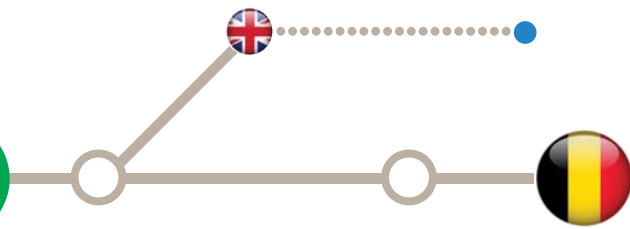
- Employs 32,200 people - 11.3% of employee jobs in the sub-region;
- Has a turnover of £3 billion a year;
- Handles about 40% of the UK's container throughput.

The growth and infrastructure of the Haven Gateway are of regional, national and international importance, and critical to the UK's economy.

The Haven Gateway Partnership brings together partners from both public and private sector, who work together to promote economic opportunities and secure the future prosperity of this major gateway to the UK.

www.haven-gateway.org





West Flanders

West Flanders, situated on Belgium's North Sea coastline, has been at the centre of trade for European commerce since the Middle Ages. With France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and, across the water, the UK, as its immediate neighbours, West Flanders is the ideal business region for companies focusing on international distribution and trade.

The region offers:

- Two major seaports, at Zeebrugge and Ostend;
- High-density road and rail networks;
- Five canals of economic importance, along which a substantial proportion of goods are transported;

The direct and indirect impact of the West Flanders seaports is huge. The two ports:

- Create an added value of more than €2.7 billion;
- Provide 36,000 jobs;
- Spearhead the region's economy;
- Zeebrugge is a multifaceted deep water facility geared for the future.

The logistics sector is a very important spearhead sector for West Flanders. The local authority Province of West Flanders is strongly investing in it via its knowledge network Logistical Platform West-Poort. West Flanders aims to further strengthen her gateways and become a main hub for the European market. Complementary West Flanders improve the supply chains of her mainly industrial companies.

VOKA-Chamber of Commerce West Flanders works to stimulate economic activity and create an optimal framework for successful enterprises - supporting the economic development of the region by lobbying, networking and offering specific services to businesses.

Cross-border events and seminars are regularly organised and always create a good environment for starting new business and forming new contacts. The Chamber's international department, Flanders Tradelink, has more than ten years' experience in organising international business clubs, seminars and other events. The International Logistics Businessclub has been delivering value to the West Flanders logistics sector for more than five years.

www.flanderstradelink.be

www.voka.be/west-vlaanderen





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