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FOREWORD

2020 has undoubtedly been a year most of us would like to forget as quickly as possible. However, our review of the year just gone in this FORWARD Belgium annual report serves as a reminder that there are many positive things to take away.

The dedication, enthusiasm, warmth, determination, ambition and flexibility of our sector - and above all of every one of our employees, forwarders, customs representatives and so on - gives us plenty of reason to look forward to 2021 with great confidence.

This annual review also provides a brief outline of the topics we

have been working on at FORWARD Belgium. I would like to thank all employees, committee members, Young FORWARDERS and others for their tireless efforts in the interest of our entire community.

If you would like more information about a certain topic, we are always happy to discuss this with you personally.



INTERNAL OPERATIONS

FORWARD Belgium

2020 has forced us to adapt to a **new reality**, but one thing has become clearer than ever as a result: our sector's amazing **resilience**.

FORWARD Belgium was no exception: Covid-19 had an impact on our activities too. A few more gaps started to appear in our usually full diary and webinars became the norm, all major activities were cancelled and meetings were held virtually. Despite these changes, we continued to provide information to our members with all due respect for the applicable coronavirus measures.

The creation of a **Coronavirus hotline** was one initiative we took in response. Aside from providing coronavirus-related information, the hotline also served as a way for FORWARD members to share their experiences, which is likely to have had an inspiring effect and certainly delivered a number of useful tips and tricks for colleagues.



FORWARD Belgium Board of Directors

FORWARD Belgium welcomed **two new board members** in 2020: Veerle Goolaerts (Grimaldi Belgium NV) and Wim Gijbels (H. Essers & Zonen Internationaal Transport NV).

Raymond Troch represented **VEREXZ**, the Association of Zeebrugge Freight Forwarders, on the Board of Directors.





FORWARD Belgium committees

FORWARD Belgium organises a **range of committees**, on which members can discuss all kinds of current topics.

An overview of the various committees can be found [here](#).

Coming soon - New website FORWARD Belgium

FORWARD Belgium's website – forwardbelgium.be - is currently receiving a makeover.

Stay tuned for more!

NEW WEBSITE

Coming soon

Stay tuned!



forwardbelgium.be

INTERNAL OPERATIONS

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

(Online) Legal QuickScan

FORWARD Belgium offers a free **Legal QuickScan** service to review legal statuses, the use of general terms and conditions, customs liability, insurance policies, contracts, SOLAS obligations and much more.

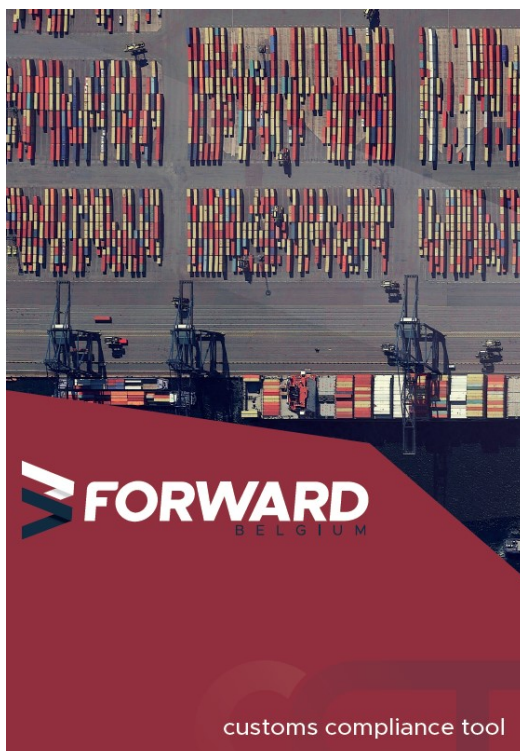
Our QuickScan can give you the assurance you need that you are adequately covered against the risks you face on a daily basis.

Download the brochure [here](#).

Your Legal QuickScan can now also be performed **online**.



FORWARD Belgium applications



Customs Compliance Tool

FORWARD Belgium offers a **Customs Compliance Tool** to its members in partnership with our external partner, Sway-it.

This compliance tool is a cloud-based solution that enables you to conduct internal audits in a user-friendly way.

Download the brochure [here](#) for more information.

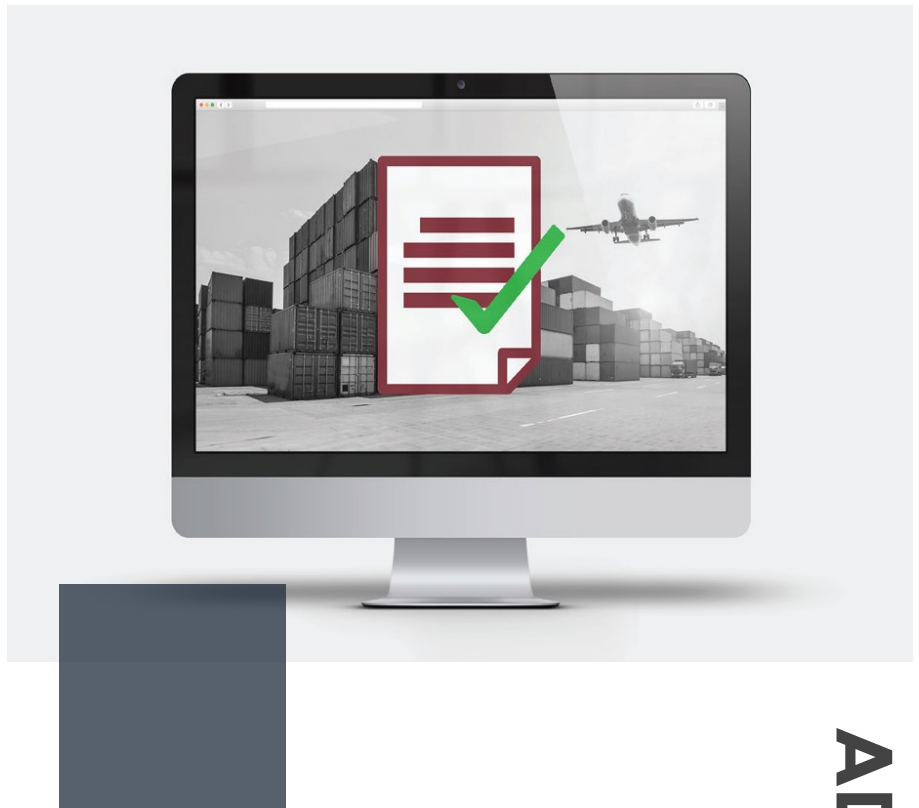
FORWARD E-contract application

The **FORWARD E-contract application** gives forwarders the option to send contracts digitally and have them signed by their clients/suppliers using a legally valid digital signature. View the brochure [here](#) for more information.

The process breaks down into 10 easy steps. The **10-step plan** and accompanying **manual** can be downloaded [here](#).

An **accompanying letter** has also been drawn up for FORWARD E-contract application users to use when writing their clients; this can be downloaded [here](#).

As an added benefit, the application meets all legal requirements for digital signatures.



The Customs authority has also confirmed that it supports the use of the application for customs representation contracts.

In addition, the application serves as an ideal tool to demonstrate a direct link between customs representatives and their clients (importers/exporters).

All FORWARD Belgium members have had **free** access to this tool since 21 April 2020.

The launch was accompanied by an online information session to provide further detail on the FORWARD E-Contract application.

You can watch this information session again via [this link](#).

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Model agreement - terms and conditions - SLA / forwarder - transporter relationship

It is a good idea to make clear arrangements to guarantee additional legal cover in any **relationship** between a **forwarder** and a **transporter**. To help you do so, FORWARD Belgium has drawn up a set of **model terms and conditions** to govern the forwarder-transporter relationship.

In practice, agreements between forwarders and transporters have often left much to be desired. By using a model agreement, the expectations of the forwarder are also taken into account and disputes can be avoided when things go wrong.



As not all forwarders want to enter into a comprehensive contract with their transporters in all circumstances, the following documents have been drawn up:

A **model SLA (service level agreement)** to be signed by both the forwarder and transporter, which mainly governs operational agreements.

A **comprehensive model agreement** to be signed by the forwarder and transporter to govern the (long-term) relationship between the two parties.

Model terms and conditions (general terms and conditions) to which the forwarder can refer in its contacts with transporters. These model terms and conditions follow the opposability principle of general terms and conditions, as is the case with the General Belgian Forwarding Conditions. They can be used in addition to the General Belgian Forwarding Conditions as part of the forwarder-transporter relationship.

FORWARD Belgium members can request these documents from the [secretariat](#).

CURRENT TOPICS

A selection of current topics ...

Customs

E-commerce

E-commerce is showing no signs of slowing down, and ever more logistics service providers are becoming involved in the organisation of e-commerce traffic. In this context, it's never a bad idea to take a moment to reflect on the potential risks associated with this type of business. Aside from potential customs risks, the logistics service provider's possible responsibility for the **safety and compliance** of

the product must also be taken into account. For more on this point, please refer to the Regulation of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and product conformity. This Regulation states that products cannot be traded without an economic operator established in the EU taking responsibility for their safety and/or compliance. If no manufacturer, importer or authorised representative is established in the EU, the 'fulfilment service provider' will be deemed to have taken on this role.



This Regulation will enter into force partially on 1 January 2021 and in its entirety on 16 July 2021. Failure to comply or breaches may result in fines and prosecution.

The growth of e-commerce activities has also resulted in a higher risk of errors be-

ing made by customs agents. One of the main problems is **undervaluation**, with companies declaring values that are lower than what their goods are actually worth.

Customs agents can counter this risk by taking a critical look at the assignments they receive. However, determining the average value of a product remains a complex process.

FORWARD Belgium is continuing to press for the creation of a clear framework in this respect.

Direct representation

In several recent cases, the GAC&E has raised queries regarding the relationship between customs representatives and clients under the **direct representation** statute.

FORWARD Belgium has already taken a number of actions in this respect.



CURRENT TOPICS

Brexit

On 1 February 2020, the United Kingdom officially left the European Union. On 1 January 2021, the transition period will end, and companies trading with the UK will face major taxation and customs changes.

In order to prepare companies for this as much as possible, the European Commission has published a [Brexit Guide for Business](#) and a [Brexit Checklist for Traders](#), with steps to be taken during the preparation process.

The British government has also recently launched a new communications campaign called 'Keep Business Moving': <https://www.gov.uk/eubusiness>

FORWARD Belgium continues to monitor developments in this area closely.

Dual-use goods

Given the significant risks involved in the trade of **dual-use goods**, FORWARD Belgium has created several concise information sheets in collaboration with the Strategic Goods Control department to support compliance efforts in our sector.

You can view these documents [here](#).

We hope that these information sheets can help you increase the level of compliance at your business.



Tax representation contract

The changed VAT rules on consignment stock and chain transactions and the application of the VAT exemption to intra-community supplies (the so-called VAT Quick Fixes) entered into force on 1 January 2020.

As a result of these changes to the VAT rules, the **standard tax representation contract** under global number 796.5 also needed to be altered.

To assist businesses in this sector, FORWARD Belgium has amended this contract in view of the new legislation. This changed contract has been approved by the VAT authority.

We recommend that you do not just use this contract for new clients, but for existing clients too. However, we appreciate that this will present a challenge in some situations, so we have developed an **addendum** as an alternative. By signing this addendum, the client confirms that it is aware of the changes.

FORWARD Belgium members can request the new contract and the addendum from the [secretariat](#).



Certified Pick up (CPu)

The new digital process for the release of containers, known as **certified pick-up** (CPu), will come into effect from January 2021 to replace the current PIN code release procedure. This project has its roots in the fight against drugs and crime and aims to improve safety during the delivery process at the port. The new procedure will operate via NxtPort.

All parties involved in container

handling will need to register to use the new system.

CPu will be implemented in phases. PIN codes will not immediately be shared via CPu from 1 January 2021. What will happen on that date is that container status information will become available on the basis of a BL+CTR NR combination. From the second quarter of 2021, the PIN code will be replaced by a digital release right in the CPu system.

A popular (online) info session on the subject was organised for members of FORWARD Belgium on 25 November 2020. This presentation is available to download [here](#).

More info about CPu can be found on <https://www.portofantwerp.com/nl/certified-pick>

Second-hand car byloads

Efforts are being made by the various actors at the port to ensure used vehicles can be handled and transported in a sustainable and safe manner.

The **new regulations** of the Antwerp Port Authority for **second-hand vehicle byloads** are available to download [here](#). These measures will take effect on 1 January 2021.

Insurance brokerage

The **law on insurance brokerage** has changed. The new legislation lays down a number of criteria (expertise, accreditation, training) that are unlikely to be feasible for most forwarders in practice.

A consultation has taken place between the Professional Trade Association of Insurance Brokers and the competent authority in Belgium. Following this consultation, FORWARD Belgium has issued "guidelines" for the sector and submitted these to the FSMA (Financial Services and Markets Authority).

Regardless, plenty of scope for interpretation remains and each issue largely depends on the concrete circumstances, but one thing that is clear is that increasing insurance premiums or including a 'visible' commission on them will no longer be allowed.

Based on our viewpoint and the guidelines obtained from the FSMA, FORWARD Belgium will make recommendations to the sector on how best to deal with this.



Home working policy and employment contract addendum

The introduction of remote working is a hot topic at the moment, and it is likely to become the new normal. To ensure remote working goes smoothly, clear agreements need to be made. To assist its members in this area, FORWARD Belgium has drawn up examples of both a **remote working policy** and an **employment contract addendum**.

FORWARD Belgium members can request these documents from the [secretariat](#).

On-the-job-training "Global Forwarding@company"

FORWARD Belgium and **KdG University of Applied Sciences and Arts** have designed a project around the concept of **on-the-job training** as part of the third year of KdG's Logistics Management course. The project will start by offering one module during the third year, but it is our ambition to incorporate on-the-job training throughout the Logistics Management course. The focus of this on-the-job training will be on 'forwarding', and the following name was selected for the project as a result: **"Global Forwarding@company"**.

Unlike the internship, where students apply the knowledge they have already acquired in practice, on-the-job training in an authentic and professional environment allows students to acquire the knowledge and skills that the sector expects.

This results in a clear win-win situation for both companies and for the course and its students.

Students come into contact with business practice right from the start of the course, narrowing the gap between theory and practice as a result. Companies have the opportunity to help train their future employees and get the opportunity to deploy students in the workplace for several days a week during the course.

As a consequence, this project is bound to serve as a major stride forward in the 'war for talent' within our sector!

FORWARD Belgium and KdG University of Applied Sciences and Arts entered into mutual consultation to agree the learning objectives that students will be required to achieve in the workplace. These objectives will relate to both technical knowledge and soft skills.

On-the-job training will start in February 2021.



AirCargoBelgium

BRUcargo

Digital Green Lane

A '**Digital Green Lane**' was developed at BRUcargo, taking into account two of the main priorities of Air Cargo Belgium: 'Digitisation' & 'Operational Excellence'.

The BRUcargo Digital Green Lane is a standardised 'pick-up & delivery' process, supported by all BRUcloud land-side management applications.

BRUcure / COVID 19 vaccins

Within BRUcargo, a BRUcure taskforce has been set up to manage the transport of COVID-19 vaccines. Years of co-operation and a relationship of trust with pharmaceutical manufacturers have made Brussels Airport the preferred pharmaceutical location in Europe for this purpose.



Havencentrum
de haven in 't echt

Port Centre Lillo

FORWARD Belgium is in close talks with the **Port Centre** to explore how initiatives can be taken to promote our sector to young people.

EVENTS

Full steam ahead

On Tuesday 21 January, the Port of Antwerp and FORWARD Belgium organised an information session titled *“Full steam ahead! Oosterweel: How the multimodal mix helps your transport move forward.”*

The presentations given at this session are available to download [here](#).

‘Working in the port and logistics’ webinar

FORWARD Belgium, Talentenstroom, Alfaport Voka and ASV organised a **“Working in the port and logistics” webinar** for 100 young people on 4 June and 15 October.

After a general introduction to the sec-

tor, the young people attending the sessions had the opportunity to take part in break-out sessions. In these break-out rooms, students / jobseekers were given the chance to talk to employees from the sector and learn more about what exactly the job of a forwarder involves.

The presentations can be viewed [here](#).

Lunch & Learn: Making legal issues more easily digestible

On 6 February 2020, FORWARD Belgium and ASV organised a first-ever **Lunch & Learn** session around the following topic: **“Making legal issues more easily digestible”**.

In the first presentation, **Dirk Noels**, lawyer at Kegels&Co, discussed **lien and pledge rights** in the maritime sector.

Afterwards, **Adry Poelmans**, lawyer at Van Doosselaere Advocaten, took to the floor to discuss **demurrage and detention**.

To conclude, **Véronique Beeckx**, lawyer at Elegis Advocaten, addressed the issue of **customs representation in Belgium**.



Towards #ZEROPELLETLOSS together

FORWARD Belgium and its sustainability committee are fully dedicated to sustainable enterprise, and on 2 October, we organised an information session on [Operation Clean Sweep®](#), an initiative by PlasticsEurope to prevent plastic pellets in the environment.

'Pellet loss' occurs not only at producers themselves, but also during the storage and transport of their products throughout the logistics chain. Forwarders and logistics service providers can make a valuable contribution by taking measures themselves, and by monitoring compliance among their customers and suppliers.

“With a zero pellet loss target you can help preserve our marine environment! You can make a real difference!”

For more information, please see the following websites:

- ✓ <https://www.plasticseurope.org>
- ✓ <http://www.opcleansweep.eu/>



OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP
OBJECTIVE: ZERO PELLET LOSS

EVENTS

‘COVID-19 - support measures & remote working’ webinar

On 8 October, FORWARD Belgium organised a **webinar** around the topic of '**COVID-19 - support measures & home working**'.

Right from the early days of lockdown, it soon became apparent that the law in Belgium provided few answers in this type of crisis situation. As a result, the government had to take measures very quickly, but some simply came too late and others were introduced retroactively.



At the start of the lockdown, companies had no option but to switch to remote working almost instantly. This forced transition would prove to be the biggest home working experiment ever.

Various studies have shown that 8 out of 10 employers currently offer the option to work remotely. The introduction of remote working is a hot topic for companies at the moment, and it is likely to become the new normal. Employees, on the other hand, are expecting remote working to remain an option and are demanding more flexibility.

An overview can be found in [this presentation](#).

Young FORWARD Belgium

How Young FORWARD Belgium works

Young FORWARD Belgium is a **committee** that **informs, engages** and **inspires** young professionals in logistics services.

It offers young people the opportunity to make contacts and exchange experiences, which enables them to further develop their professional network.

In addition, the committee focuses heavily on the personal development of its members and on promotion of the sector to young people.

The Young FORWARD Belgium committee is open to all young people working for a FORWARD Belgium-affiliated company.

The Young FORWARD flyer is available to download [here](#).



Enthusiastic young people between 18 and 40 with ambition in the logistics sector.

On Monday 5 October, Young FORWARD organised a brief **information session** for everyone with an interest in helping to shape the logistics of the future.

This presentation is available to download [here](#).



Young FORWARD Committee

We always try to invite one or two thought-provoking speakers to the meetings of the Young FORWARD Belgium committee. The following topics were covered in 2020:

Shortsea initiatives

Despite the fact that everyone agrees that a modal shift is needed, it often remains difficult to offer competitive solutions.

Click [here](#) to download the 'The burning platform Shortsea' presentation by Dries Van Gheluwe, Shipping Lines Key Account Manager at the [Antwerp Port Authority](#).

YOUNG FORWARD BELGIUM



Brainstorming on multimodality

On 31 January, Peter Lagey, Multimodal Flanders Manager, offered more detail on how exactly Multimodal Flanders works.

Click [here](#) to download the presentation.



Oosterweel verbinding

Oosterweel works

During the Young FORWARD Committee meeting of 19 May, the members invited Bojan Cerović, Project Communications Officer at Lantis, to provide additional detail on the **Oosterweel works**. Bojan guided the attendees through a presentation titled “Towards a mobile and liveable region”,

which can be downloaded [here](#).

E-CMR

The coronavirus crisis has only increased the demand for electronic documents and the electronic signing of documents.

During the online Young FORWARD Committee meeting on 28 April, Barry van Leuven (Pionira NV) explained how to efficiently digitise the logistics chain and which solutions are available. **E-CMR** is a good example of this.

The presentation is available to download [here](#).



Things you didn't know about the Legal Committee

The FORWARD Belgium **Legal Committee** focuses on legal developments within our sector.

Caroline Gubbi (FORWARD Belgium Legal Advisor) provided a brief overview of current legal issues at the Young FORWARD Committee meeting of 27 February.

Her presentation is available to download [here](#).

We are digital natives, we speak customs

During the **'We are digital natives, we speak customs'** presentation at KdG University of Applied Sciences and Arts on Thursday 5 March, a selection of Young FORWARD Belgium members discovered how **maximum digitisation** can be achieved through the **integration of community platforms**.



Visit to Carglass' EDC

In May 2019, Carglass officially opened its brand-new European Distribution Centre in Bilzen.

Approximately 1.4 million windscreens and 22 million accessories pass for the European market pass through the centre every year, which makes it the largest windscreen distribution centre in the world!

Young VIB and Young FORWARD Belgium were given an exclusive look behind the scenes on 12 February 2020.



Home working for young people: survey results

Home working was seen as a positive development by 64.6% of survey participants.

A better work-life balance, more flexibility, less stress and no more commuting were highlighted as the main reasons behind this sentiment.

On the flipside, the lack of (social) interaction with colleagues and IT system difficulties were cited as the main drawbacks of home working.

The results of this short survey can be downloaded [here](#).

FORWARD Academies

The FORWARD Academies were also given a digital makeover in 2020. Three fascinating FORWARD Academies were organised over the course of the year.

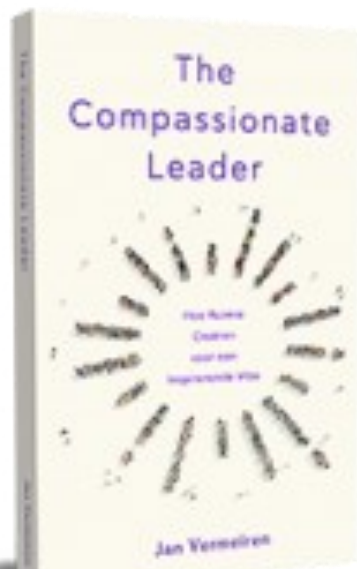
Coronavirus crisis: maintain / improve the vibe of your team

The first FORWARD Academy took place on 31 March and didn't waste any time in addressing the issue on everyone's lips at that moment.

The topic "**Coronavirus crisis: maintain / improve the vibe of your team**" turned out to be an instant hit.

With 100 registrations, it exceeded Young FORWARD Belgium's expectations and gave the sector a clear answer to the question of how to stay informed.

After the event, guest speaker [Jan Vermeiren](#) treated the participants to a hard copy of his book "**The Compassionate Leader**".



A post-COVID 19 outlook on procurement and supply chain management: Where do the opportunities lie?

On 12 May, a virtual FORWARD Academy was organised in partnership with [Young VIB](#). Guest speaker [Manu Matthysens](#) addressed the following topic: **“A post-COVID 19 outlook on procurement and supply chain management: Where do the opportunities lie?”**.

This presentation is available to download [here](#).



Insight about Artificial Intelligence in Logistics

At the virtual FORWARD Academy on 25 June (**“Insights on Artificial Intelligence in logistics”**), guest speakers [Valentin Carlan](#) and [Thomas Huybrechts](#) (University of Antwerp) briefed participants on how artificial intelligence can be implemented within logistics.

These presentations can be downloaded via the following links:

- ✓ [Introduction to Artificial Intelligence - Thomas Huybrechts](#)
- ✓ [Insights over AI and logistics - Valentin Carlan](#)



Stress and burn-out prevention workshop by Lisbeth Peeters & Isabelle Van de Vijver

At the FORWARD Academy titled **"Boost your resilience: stress and burn-out prevention"** on 13 October, participants were treated to a fascinating evening during which they learned to better evaluate the balance between burden and coping ability.

In addition, the participants dis-

covered what drained their energy and learned to recognise different stress symptoms. They were introduced to the **four building blocks of resilience** and learned how to **strengthen** these.

The presentation is available to download [here](#).



Partnerships with universities and colleges

'Introduction to the freight forwarding sector' presentation

Young FORWARD Belgium has developed a **"Introduction to the freight forwarding sector"** presentation to initiate young people at universities and colleges into the forwarding profession. Several colleges and universities have already invited guest speakers from Young FORWARD.

Virtual job carousel @ KdG

On Tuesday 28 April, KdG University of Applied Sciences and Arts organised a first-ever virtual job carousel around the subject of "talent matching".

The aim was to use a speed-dating formula to offer students the opportunity to explore various jobs in the logistics sector, including the forwarding sector.

Delegates from Young FORWARD were on hand to talk to the students.

FIATA 2021 Brussels: Young Logistics Programme (YLP) Day

In 2021, FORWARD Belgium has the honour of organising the **FIATA 2021 World Congress** (26-29 October).

The first day of the congress, **26 September 2021**, will be fully dedicated to **young people**: the entire day will be filled **by** young people and **for** young people.

The theme of the FIATA World Congress will be **'The changing climate of logistics'**. As sustainability and climate change will be high on the agenda at the FIATA World Congress, a Young Logistics Challenge around the theme of SDGs (sustainable development goals) will take place during the Young Logistics Programme Day.



As part of this, five SDGs were identified as a priority within the logistics sector:

- ⇒ **SDG 5:** Quality education
- ⇒ **SDG 8:** Decent work and economic growth
- ⇒ **SDG 9:** Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- ⇒ **SDG 12:** Responsible consumption and production
- ⇒ **SDG 13:** Climate action

The Young Logistics Challenge will be based on concrete business cases that logistics companies are faced with.

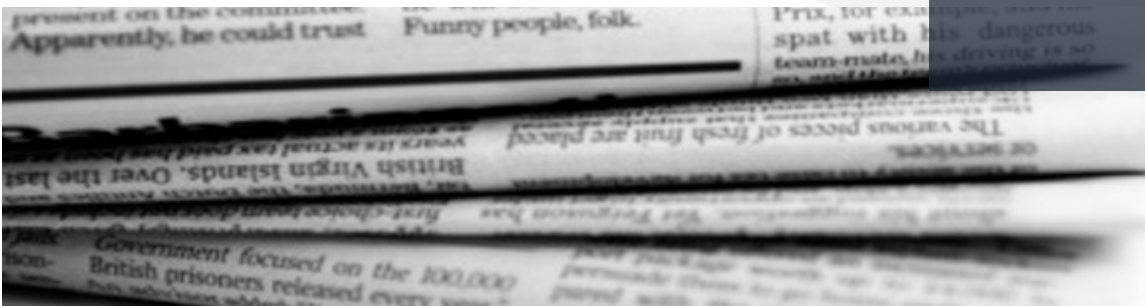
The aim is not only to provide companies with creative ideas in no time at all, but also to offer targeted solutions to complex problems for these companies to start implementing.

IN THE PRESS

FORWARD newsletter

Two editions of the FORWARD Newsletter with interesting articles about what is happening in our sector were published in 2020.

- ✓ The **12th edition** is available to view [here](#).
- ✓ The **13th edition** can be read online [here](#).



Flows magazine

Click [here](#) to view “*Shippers need to take responsibility too: FORWARD Belgium wants better dialogue on goods flows*”, which appeared in Flows magazine in March 2020.

KMOinsider

The challenges ahead for brand-new FORWARD Belgium Chair Jef Hermans

Jef Hermans, Managing Director of the Portmade group, officially took over the chairship of freight forwarder association FORWARD Belgium from Johan Proost in February 2020. “*This is partly a formal role, but I do intend to focus on a few specific areas over the next few years and offer solutions to the challenges in the sector together with my team,*” Jef insisted.

Click [here](#) to read the full article published in the March 2020 edition of KMOinsider magazine.

FORWARD Belgium launches app for digital contract signing

Forwarders and customs representatives conclude contracts with their clients (shippers) on a daily basis. They constantly exchange general terms and conditions and sign proxies and mandates. A **new app** by FORWARD Belgium simplifies this contract management process.

Read the full article [here](#).



World congress for freight forwarders is taking shape

The FIATA World Congress (FWC), which is due to take place in Belgium in October, is slowly starting to take shape. Registration for the event has now opened, so make sure you sign up to put your company in the international spotlight through the various partnership options or by attending the trade fair.

Read the full article [here](#).

Present your business case at the Young Forwarders Hackathon

Forwarders from all over the world will gather in Brussels at the end of October 2021 for the FIATA World Congress (FWC). With more than 40,000 members in the logistics service sector, FIATA is the largest international logistics organisation in the world. FORWARD Belgium has been invited to organise the congress, and its Young FORWARD Belgium arm will help shape the schedule of the Young Logistics day. A hackathon at which you will have the opportunity to present an interesting business case to the international field of participants is just one of the events that will be organised on this day.

Click [here](#) to read the full article published in the November 2020 edition of KMOinsider magazine.

FORWARD AWARD

No fewer than 16 dissertations were submitted in a bid to win the **2020 FORWARD Belgium Award**. A decision was eventually made to award the prize to two students:

Jens De Blende with his bachelor thesis titled: *"Landside management process improvement at BRUcargo by Air Cargo Belgium"*, submitted by HOGENT, Aalst campus as part of the Professional Bachelor of Business Management course, with Davide Scatorchia and Kerstien Celis as supervisors.

Salah Eddine El Khaloufi with his master thesis titled: *"The outward internationalisation of the port authority: a case study on the Antwerp Port Authority"*, submitted by the University of Antwerp as a master's thesis to obtain the degree of Master in Applied Economic Sciences, Business Administration, with Dr Joost Hintjens as supervisor.

Both works are available by request [from the FORWARD Belgium secretariat](#).





TRAINING

Portilog

If you are looking for training in shipping, forwarding, logistics or customs, or if you would like to access practical tools that you can put to good use immediately at your own workplace, Portilog is the name you need to remember.

More information is available on their website, www.portilog.be

2020 is a year of celebrations for Portilog!

It's been 70 years since Portilog saw the light of day under the name BIHB. It would not have been able to reach this milestone without its teachers, clients and students. Portilog is grateful for this fact and was more than happy to hear their thoughts.

Click [here](#) to view the testimonial of Olivier Schoenmaeckers, FORWARD Belgium Director.



Port professional training

The **Port Professional** training course (formerly the Shipping & Forwarding diploma) at Portilog has been completely overhauled in partnership with FORWARD Belgium.



INTERNATIONAL

FIATA

FIATA World Congress 2021 Brussels - The changing climate of logistics

The annual FIATA World Congress is one of the largest international gatherings in the logistics sector. FORWARD Belgium will be hosting next year's edition of the **FIATA World Congress**, which is scheduled to take place between 26 and 29 October at the Square Convention Centre — a unique location at the heart of Brussels.

This congress is one of the biggest and most important events on the annual logistics calendar. FIATA represents

around 40,000 freight forwarders and logistics companies worldwide (8-10 million people in 150 countries) and offers the opportunity to network at the highest level. Aside from networking, speakers on international trends/challenges for the sector are another core element of the congress.

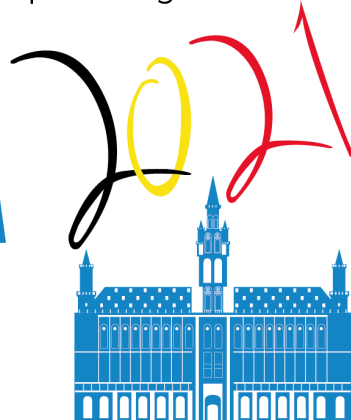
The 2021 event will adopt the theme of '*The changing climate of logistics*', with sustainability, climate change and innovation high on the agenda.

A trade fair will also be organised as part of the congress, giving logistics companies and suppliers the opportunity to put themselves in the international spotlight, right before the eyes of the entire logistics world. On top of that, a 'Belgian Logistics Pavilion' will be organised in partnership with the Belgian ports and airports and the Belgian Customs Authority.

Companies interested in **sponsoring** the 2021 FIATA World Congress can find the sponsorship brochure [here](#).

A promotional video is also available [here](#).

More information about this unique congress can be found on www.fiata2021.com.



The changing climate of logistics



FIATA Best Practice Guide on Abandoned Goods

A '**Best Practice on Abandoned Goods**' document has been developed by FIATA.

This guide provides information for shippers on mitigating the risks involved in abandoned goods.

The guide also contains some practical tips.

Because this "best practice guide" is a rather extensive document, FORWARD Belgium made a synthesis which you can download [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL

Toolkit on demurrage and detention

Under the leadership of Jens Roemer, Chair of the FIATA WG Sea, and the FORWARD Belgium Maritime Transport Committee, FIATA has launched a 'FMC (Federal Maritime Commission) final rule on demurrage and detention' toolkit.

This ground-breaking document is the result of an extensive six-year research project by the Federal Maritime Commission in the US and offers guidance for assessing whether demurrage and detention charges are reasonably applied.

Although the FMC's research is limited to the US, the principles of the document can be applied worldwide. This reference document can be used by companies to address possible abuses and is also likely to find its way into the courts ruling on claims.

The toolkit can be downloaded from the FIATA website: <https://fiata.com>



CLECAT

FORWARD Belgium is represented on different working groups at European level and closely monitors the discussions on the European stage regarding our sector. Brexit, customs, sustainability, digitisation and transport are just some of the fields in which significant steps have been taken that will have a major impact on our sector.

An overview of all CLECAT priorities is available on <https://www.clecat.org/>

Customs and Indirect Taxation Institute chair

In 2020, Dimitri Serafimoff (Portmade NV) was appointed as the new Chair of the CLECAT **Customs and Indirect Taxation Institute (CITI)** on behalf of FORWARD Belgium.

Dimitri has been a member of the CITI working group for several years and is also part of the Brexit working group at CLECAT.

Freight Forwarders Forum 'Logistics Put to Test at Times of Crisis'

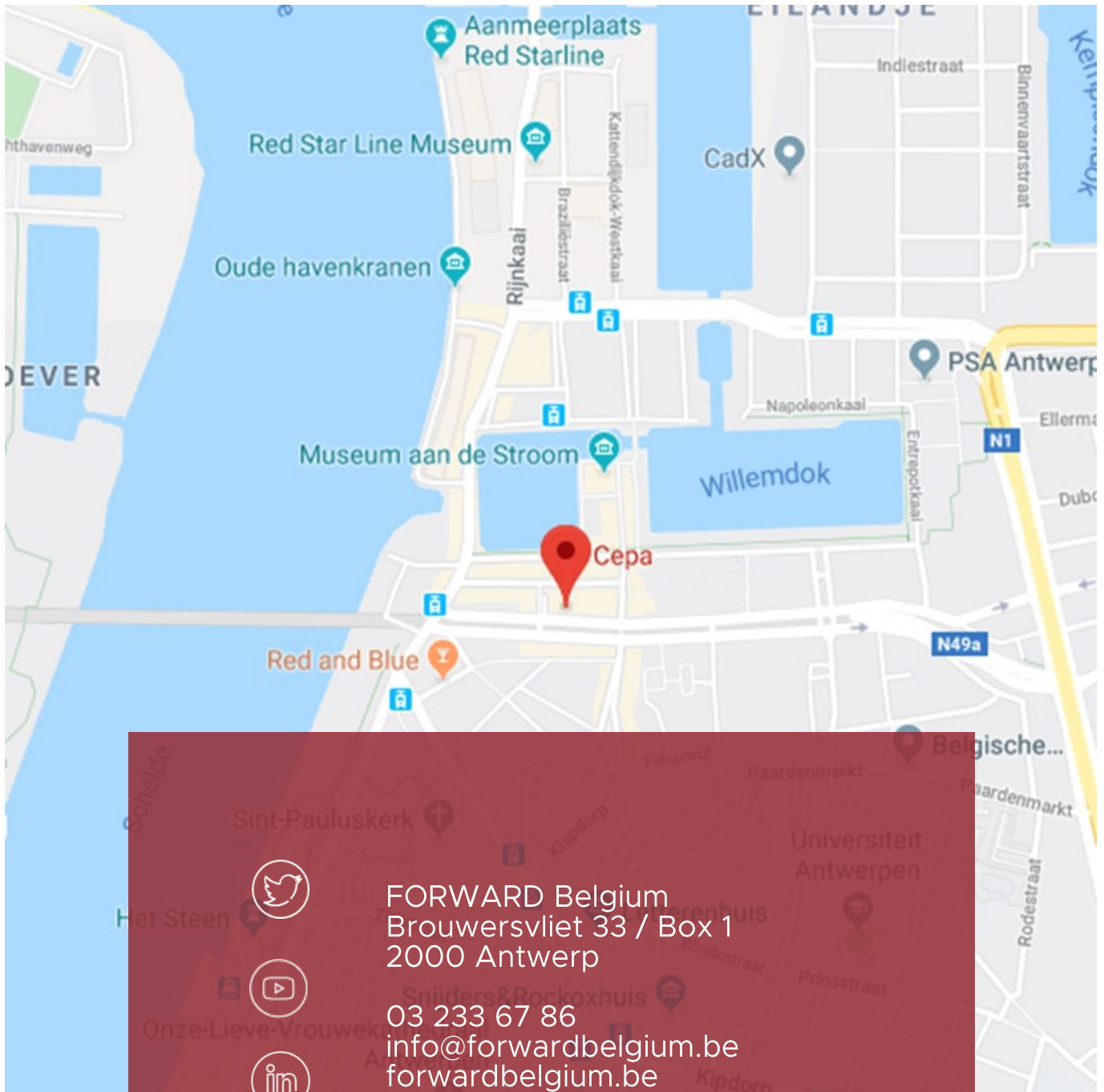
The annual **CLECAT Freight Forwarders Forum** took place online on 12 November around the following topic: *"Logistics put to test in times of crisis"*.

You can download the presentations [here](#).



**FORWARD Belgium
bedankt alle expediteurs
voor hun belangrijk aandeel
in het verzekeren van
de goederenstromen tijdens
COVID 19.**

CONTACT DETAILS



FORWARD Belgium
Brouwersvliet 33 / Box 1
2000 Antwerp

03 233 67 86
info@forwardbelgium.be
forwardbelgium.be