



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

FORWARD BELGIUM ACTIVITIES

Conversion to NPO

The new Companies and Associations Code (CPC) abolished the Professional Associations Act (1898). This means that FORWARD Belgium henceforth adopts the status of NPO.

FORWARD Belgium training

Toolkits and in-house guidance for FORWARD Belgium members

In previous years, FORWARD Belgium has developed several **best practices** and **model documents** focused on the freight forwarder and customs representative profession. These focus on sector-specific recommendations, practical guidelines on how your operational staff can best deal with problems in the logistics chain, ways to increase compliance and reduce risks, use of model templates and standard contracts, ...



The frequent operational and legal questions of FORWARD Belgium members that we receive every day and the advice we provide in this regard, we have compiled, in the form of best practices, in a reference book that provides an ideal basis for dwelling on the day-to-day operations of the freight forwarder and its relationship with other logistics players such as shipping companies, terminals, carriers, customs, ...

Members can download these various FORWARD Belgium Toolkits from the following website page: <https://forwardbelgium.be/toolkits>

Given the ongoing labour market challenges, investing in knowledge and training of your employees will become crucial in the coming years.

FORWARD Belgium aims to assist its members in this by offering in-house guidance.

There are 2 sessions offered by FORWARD Belgium to its members:

1. a Toolkit for the freight forwarder taken from life (approx. 2 hours)
2. a Toolkit for the freight forwarder outsourcing customs activities (approx. 2 hours)

For more info, please contact [the FORWARD Belgium secretariat](#).

FORWARD BELGIUM COMMITTEES

Several committees are active within FORWARD Belgium where members have the opportunity to discuss current topics. An overview of the different committees can be found [here](#).

A selection of some of the topics discussed in these committees in 2023:

Breakbulk committee

BulkChain

Within The Way Forward, the digital partnership in the private port community, **Bulkchain** is being further developed.

Meanwhile, the business processes and business requirements were aligned with the breakbulk players involved.

Further work will be done in the coming months to digitise the processes in the breakbulk business.





Digitalisation committee

AI in forwarding

On 14 March 2023 - in collaboration with the research institute imec - the Webinar 'Getting started with digital innovation & artificial intelligence' was organised for FORWARD members.

Following this, FORWARD Belgium and The Beacon organised an **inspiring brainstorm** on 31 May 2023 on the **application of AI in the logistics chain**.

Following topics were discussed during several workshops with technology companies:

1. How can we robotize time-consuming data input to save both time and money, and free up employees to serve customers even better?
2. How can we make the logistics chain more predictable and thus more efficient?
- 3: How can AI be used for compliance, risk management and fraud detection?
- 4: How can technology support you in setting up CO2 reporting?

Further consideration will be given in the coming months to how these concepts can be further addressed.



Inbound Release Platform

The introduction of PN/TS (inbound customs process) has a **significant impact** on the operational processes at the different players in the logistics chain.

The development of the collective platform that will help terminals, shipping agents and customs representatives meet their obligations is an **absolute priority**

within The Way Forward. Implementation is foreseen in the second half of 2024.

The IRP platform will **add value** to all players **by sharing and reusing data**. This will make the inbound process more transparent and provide continuous insight into the current status of goods.

Certified Pick up

By NxtPort

Scheepsagent

Terminaloperator

Release party

Transportoperator

Certified Pick up - phased implementation

Certified Pick up is a central data platform for container release and retrieval. CPU replaces the system of current PINs.

The CPU platform brings transparency by providing real-time insight into container status. Administrative processes can thus be simplified and transport can be better planned.

On 15 January 2024, CPU was launched in phases. Some shipping lines / shipping agents switched to container handling via CPU at major container terminals. Others followed in phases over the following weeks.

More information: <https://www.certifiedpickup.eu/>

Customs committee

FORWARD Belgium best practice customs compliance

FORWARD Belgium has developed a Customs Compliance Best Practice for freight forwarders who outsource their customs activities. It is increasingly expected that these forwarders themselves also have the necessary basic knowledge and have internal procedures that provide controls on the customs process.

The best practice makes a number of concrete recommendations that shippers can use in their relationship with their customs representative.

Customs cooperation agreement

In 2023, regular discussions took place with the AAD&A on the development of FORWARD Belgium's cooperation agreement with customs.

This involves looking at the conditions for staging improvement processes, exchanging information and jointly training employees.



Review of Belgian customs legislation

In light of the review of Belgian customs legislation, FORWARD Belgium continues to push for the criminal law framework to be adjusted and converted to administrative treatment for offences committed in good faith.

In doing so, we continue to advocate the establishment of an expert committee on the thorough reform of Belgian customs criminal law. Talks on this are currently in full swing.

National Forum & Regional consultations

At the various meetings of the National Forum and regional consultations, FORWARD Belgium continues to raise all kinds of issues that have an impact on the functioning of the sector.



New European customs legislation

The European Commission has launched a proposal for a **new European customs law**. It will be introduced in stages.

FORWARD Belgium has analysed the potential impact on the role of the customs representative and will continue to monitor this during further discussions in cooperation with CLECAT.



Sustainability committee

GLEC Framework - ISO 14083-standard

The ISO 14083 standard - "Greenhouse gases - Quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from transport chain activities" was published by the ISO committee on 20 March 2023.

The new international standard is expected to support the logistics sector worldwide in its efforts to reduce CO₂ through the first universal method of calculating logistics emissions.



FORWARD Goals for sustainable development

In 2021, FORWARD Belgium launched the sustainability label 'FORWARD Goals for sustainable development'.

In this way, we want to encourage companies to develop sustainable policies - in a feasible and accessible way.

Currently, the following companies hold the FORWARD Goals GOLD label:

- ⇒ a.hartrodt Belgium
- ⇒ BDP International
- ⇒ Bolloré Logistics Belgium
- ⇒ Customs Support Belgium Holding
- ⇒ Deloitte Belgium
- ⇒ Embassy Freight Services Europe
- ⇒ Eutraco
- ⇒ Fast Shipping and Forwarding – Division of Fast Lines Belgium
- ⇒ FORWARD Belgium
- ⇒ Haeger & Schmidt Logistics Belgium
- ⇒ H. Essers
- ⇒ JAS Forwarding Worldwide Belgium
- ⇒ Logwin Air + Ocean Belgium
- ⇒ Manuport Logistics
- ⇒ Schenker
- ⇒ TCI Carriers
- ⇒ TMA Logistics
- ⇒ Van Moer Forwarding
- ⇒ Ziegler

Every year a **FORWARD GOALS Award** is presented to the company that submitted the most original project or file. For 2023, the evaluation committee decided to present this Award to Schenker not only for the original projects submitted but also because the file was submitted and supported by Young Schenker, a youth department within Schenker. We can only applaud young people putting their shoulders to the wheel in sustainability initiatives.

Are you a member or associate of FORWARD Belgium and would you also like to receive this label? Then be sure to check <https://forwardbelgium.be/FORWARD-Goals> or contact [the FORWARD Belgium](#) secretariat.

Would you like to win this label but lack inspiration? Then check out the '**inspirational guide**' which you [can download here](#). We hope it will inspire companies and help them follow a sustainable course.



Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

The regulation establishing a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) is one of the cornerstones of the European Union's Fit for 55 package. With CBAM, Europe aims to achieve a sustainable economy.



To encourage fair competition, a carbon tax in the form of CBAM is being deployed. In this way, the EU wishes to make the production of carbon-intensive products in third countries less attractive.

Meanwhile, the transitional regime of **CBAM** has entered into force. No later than 31 January 2024, companies, which fall within the scope of CBAM, have to submit initial reporting. This reporting obligation applies primarily to importers but customs representatives acting as indirect representatives may also be covered by this obligation.

FORWARD Belgium has developed 2 templates that can be used vis-à-vis clients:

- ⇒ CBAM Information document
- ⇒ CBAM reporting declarant notification

A working group is also active within FORWARD Belgium that follows up the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) file, shares information and is in contact with the competent authorities to discuss open questions.

Diversity and inclusion in the workplace

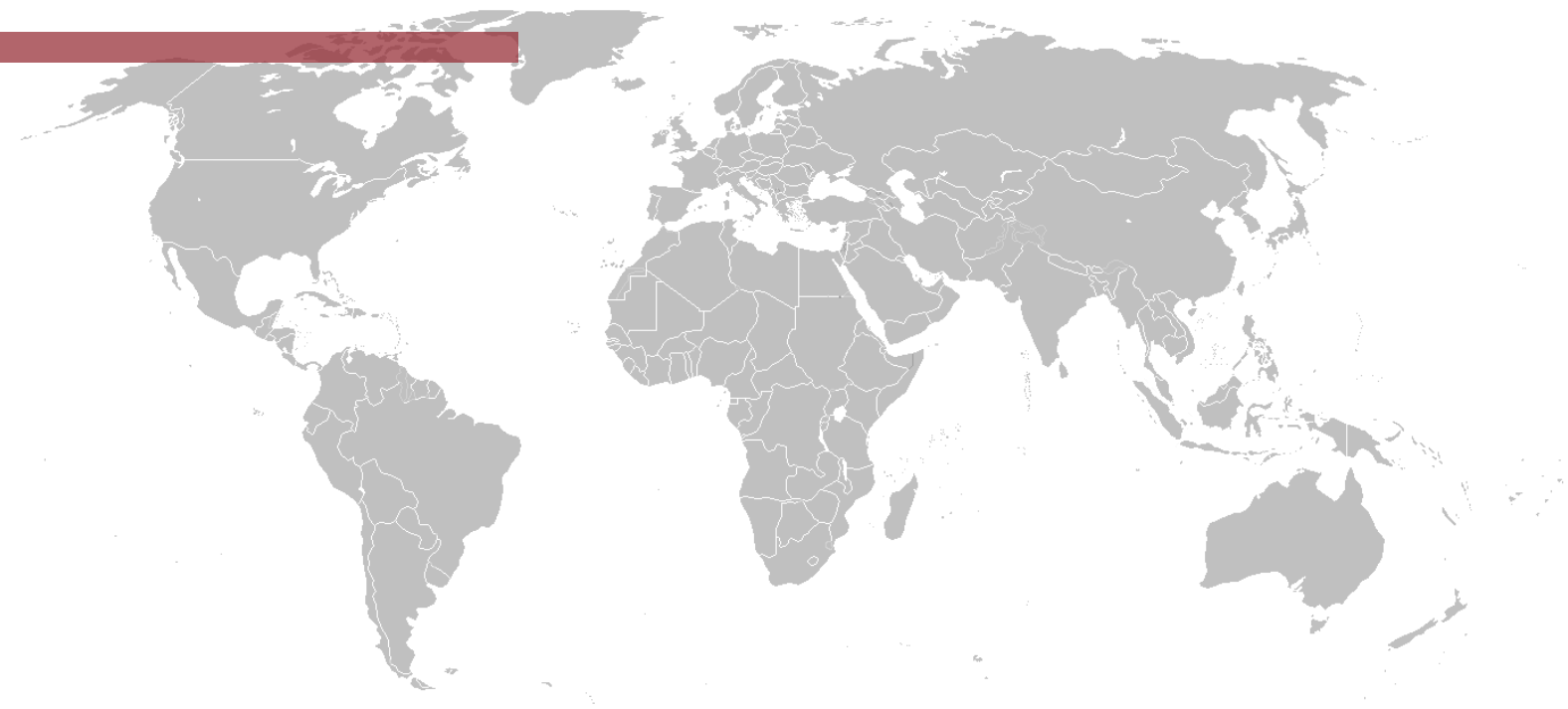
On Thursday 1 June, the sustainability committee organised the info session 'Diversity and inclusion in the workplace'. Guest speaker Bart Moens answered questions such as:

- What is diversity and inclusion?
- What does 'belonging' mean?
- How does inclusion help your business grow and prosper?

How do you organise an inclusive business?

The presentation can be downloaded [here](#).





External relations committee

CLECAT / FIATA

FORWARD Belgium remains actively committed to representing the Belgian freight forwarding sector on the international stage through various representatives.

FIATA World Congress 2023



From 3 to 6 October 2023, FORWARD Belgium organised the FIATA World Congress at the Square Convention Center in Brussels. The theme of the congress was 'The Changing Climate of Logistics'.

Nearly 700 participants from 80 different countries attended the event.

Besides the congress itself, several networking events took place as well as a trade fair.

Relive the FIATA Congress 2023 in Brussels and watch the aftermovie [here](#). You can watch the long version of the aftermovie [here](#).

A photo report of the conference can be found [here](#).



Human resources committee

Founding of human resources committee

The logistics sector is facing a major labour shortage. Staff turnover is high, many vacancies remain unanswered. Many HR departments are at a loss. To assist the sector, the human resources committee was set up within FORWARD Belgium to bring HR people together and give them the opportunity to exchange best practices.

Logistics working group

Through the **Logistics Working Group** (replacing Talentenstroom), there are structural consultations on the labour market situation and promotion of the sector.

On 25 April 2023, the joint info session **Inclusive hiring: strategic choice or strategic necessity?** was organised at the Provinciehuis Antwerpen.

Port Xpert Shipping

FORWARD Belgium co-supported the development of the **Port Xpert Shipping** game, an initiative of the Port Centre. This game is aimed at 17-18 year-olds and is linked to an educational day trip for schools.



Promotion of the sector

FORWARD Belgium continues to work closely with the various colleges and universities to bring our sector to the attention of young people.

Young FORWARD Belgium regularly sends out its representatives to give practical testimonials for students. These engaging presentations are always enjoyed by the students.

International trade and logistics - 3rd grade

Secondary schools can now offer International Trade and Logistics in the 3th degree.

Together with Logos, we are looking at which schools have offered to offer this training. The intention is to support the schools in this by offering course material, offering company visits to teachers, ...

Intermodal committee

Steering group VIA VIA

FORWARD Belgium is part of the steering committee of VIA VIA, a project of the VIL related to zero emission in freight transport.

Physical Internet Living Lab

On behalf of FORWARD Belgium, we are around the table in the Physical Internet Living Lab (PILL) project led by imec.

The results of a first project were delivered.





Legal committee

Model conditions in the Freight Forwarder-Way Carrier relationship

FORWARD Belgium has published **model conditions** that can be used by freight forwarders and logistics service providers in relation to the road hauliers they use.

FORWARD Belgium and the various transport federations have worked in joint dialogue towards a text that is acceptable to all and that balances relations between transporters and their principals.

However, it is advisable not only to refer to the conditions in your transport order.

In order to avoid discussions about the opposability of these conditions, it is better to lay down these conditions by means of a contract between forwarder and carrier.

Such contract is made available to its members by FORWARD Belgium in several languages.



Suspicious shipments reporting point FORWARD Belgium

Following a recent fraud case in which several Antwerp freight forwarders were defrauded, FORWARD Belgium once again highlighted the **suspicious consignments reporting point**.



SUSPICIOUS SHIPMENTS REPORTING POINT

Report any suspicious activity
info@forwardbelgium.be



Given the resourcefulness of criminal organisations, it is not always easy for logistics service providers to spot suspicious shipments. We also note that these rogue companies often "shop around" among different logistics service providers until they find a victim.

Based on the idea that you achieve more together, FORWARD Belgium has launched an anonymous reporting point for its members.

Through this reporting point, FORWARD Belgium members can report suspicious situations / shipments and member companies are kept informed within this private network.

ADR regulations

On 1 January 2023, the ADR regulations were amended. Every party involved in shipping goods must have a **safety adviser**.

FORWARD Belgium has shared its views on the new obligations surrounding the appointment of a **safety adviser to freight forwarders**. The new texts of ADR leave open different interpretations in some cases.

The fight against international (drug) smuggling

FORWARD Belgium and ASV organised a joint info session on 9 May 2023 on 'Optimising your HR policy in the fight against international (drug) smuggling'.

Further discussions are ongoing with the FGP (Federal Judicial Police) to see how the sector can better cooperate in the context of combating fraud and drugs.

A brochure specifically targeting white-collar workers within our sector will be released.

FORWARD Belgium - in collaboration with ASV - provided training to a delegation from the Federal Judicial Police of Antwerp on 21 December. During this session, participants obtained an explanation of the duties of a freight forwarder in the logistics process.



General Belgian Forwarding Conditions 2024

FORWARD Belgium announced the General Belgian Forwarding Conditions 2024 at the end of 2023.

Because of the changed Belgian civil law or law of obligations, the economic law with the B2B legislation and the changed economic conditions in which forwarders, customs representatives and logistics service providers operate today, a revision of the General Belgian Forwarding Conditions 2005 was imminent.

A number of adjustments were made to liability provisions and limits, force majeure and imprecision clauses, anti-fraud provisions and data protection, hedging for additional costs such as demurrage & detention, ...



In order to invoke the new general terms and conditions, they must be made opposable to the customer.

Publication in the Belgian Official Gazette is no longer possible and has no legal value.

All information can be found on the FORWARD Belgium website:
<https://forwardbelgium.be>

Young FORWARD Belgium committee

New board of Young FORWARD Belgium

A new board was elected within Young FORWARD Belgium on 22 June 2023:

- Cédric Peeters (Customs Support) - Chairman
- Cynthia Clauwaert (Haeger & Schmidt Logistics Belgium) - Vice president
- Nicolas Lens (Antwerp Cargo Movers) - Vice-chairman



Cédric Peeters



Cynthia Clauwaert

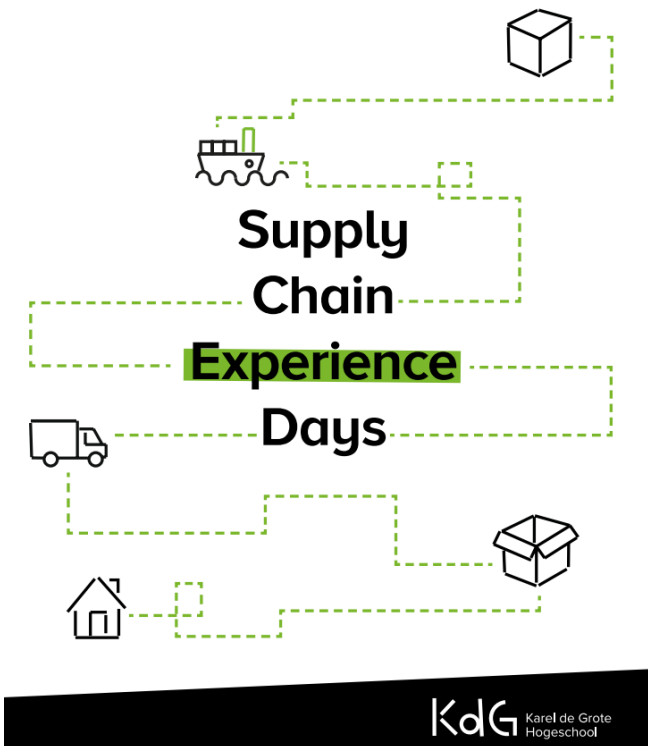


Nicolas Lens

FORWARD Academy 'A journey around the Blue World'

On Thursday 2 February, the first FORWARD Academy of 2023 took place at Antwerp Port House. During the Academy 'A journey around the Blue World', [Christian Clauwers](#) - Photographer. Explorer. Expedition guide - took the participants on a journey through his wonderful expeditions and photographs.





'Supply Chain Experience Days'

On 9 March and 27 April, Karel de Grote Hogeschool and Havencentrum organised a 'Supply Chain Experience Day' to which ASV TNG and Young FORWARD Belgium contributed.

FORWARD Academy 'Timeless investment strategies'

'Timeless investment strategies: Best practices in challenging times' was the theme of the second FORWARD Academy that took place on 15 March. Guest speaker Joël Schols gave participants an engaging talk on sustainable investment strategies, the key pitfalls and how to avoid them.

6th FORWARD Cup 'afterwork edition'

On Friday, 5 May, the 6th edition of the FORWARD Cup took place. Maersk got to take home the challenge cup after a final match against PSA-MPET. The 3rd place was for H. Essers. Polytra (FC Fracht) won the Best Support Prize for the 2nd year in a row.



FORWARD Academy 'Don't fall into the trap of fake news!'

On Wednesday 28 June, the 3rd FORWARD Academy of 2023 took place at Spéciale Belge Taproom. During this FORWARD Academy, Tim Verheyden looked for causes and answers to avoid falling into the trap of fake news. The presentation ended with a networking drink.

YOUNG LOGISTICS CHALLENGE

"The changing climate of logistics"

3 October 2023

Young Logistics Challenge | October 3, 2023

The Young Logistics Challenge - an initiative of Young FORWARD Belgium - took place on the 1st day of the FIATA World Congress 2023 in Brussels.

This youth day was opened by Cédric Peeters, Chairman of Young FORWARD Belgium. The welcome speech was followed by an introductory keynote by Kristof Cuadros Perez, who gave the participants plenty of inspiration on the theme 'Climate change & the logistics sector'.

For the rest of the day, the young people got to work on the various business cases:

- ⇒ Help your logistics company become more sustainable
- ⇒ Help achieve climate goals
- ⇒ Innovation in logistics

At the end of the day, a winning team for each business case was chosen by an expert jury. Two teams from Thomas More and 1 team from Odisee were awarded prizes.



Breakfast at city hall with Antwerp alderman Els van Doesburg

100 young people experienced an exciting start to the day on Tuesday 21 November.

The young people gathered at the renovated Antwerp City Hall for a Jong Voka Breakfast Club, an initiative of Jong Voka Antwerpen-Waasland with the cooperation of Young FORWARD Belgium, ASV The Next Generation, Young Ship Belgium and Young UPSI.

After breakfast, participants were invited to an interesting keynote by Els van Doesburg on young people's views on politics.



10th FORWARD Belgium quiz

On Thursday 23 November, FORWARD Belgium and Young FORWARD Belgium organised the 10th FORWARD Belgium Quiz. No fewer than 300 quizzers gave everything to win the FORWARD Belgium challenge trophy.

After 10 rounds of questions and 1 round of tables, MSC Belgium eventually became the winner of this 10th edition. The Port of Antwerp-Bruges, Van Doosselaere Advocaten, Nacora International Insurance and CMA CGM were also awarded 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th prizes respectively.

Then again, with "ESS-(t)-ER(S) still beer?", H. Essers could take the prize for most original team name.

FORWARD Academy 'How China is shaping our future'

The FORWARD Academy 'How China determines our future' took place on 20 December 2023 at Antwerp City Hall. Stefan Blommaert, former Flemish news anchor and journalist took participants on a journey through China, a country that is increasingly emerging as a world power and making its mark on the global economy.

Maritime transport committee

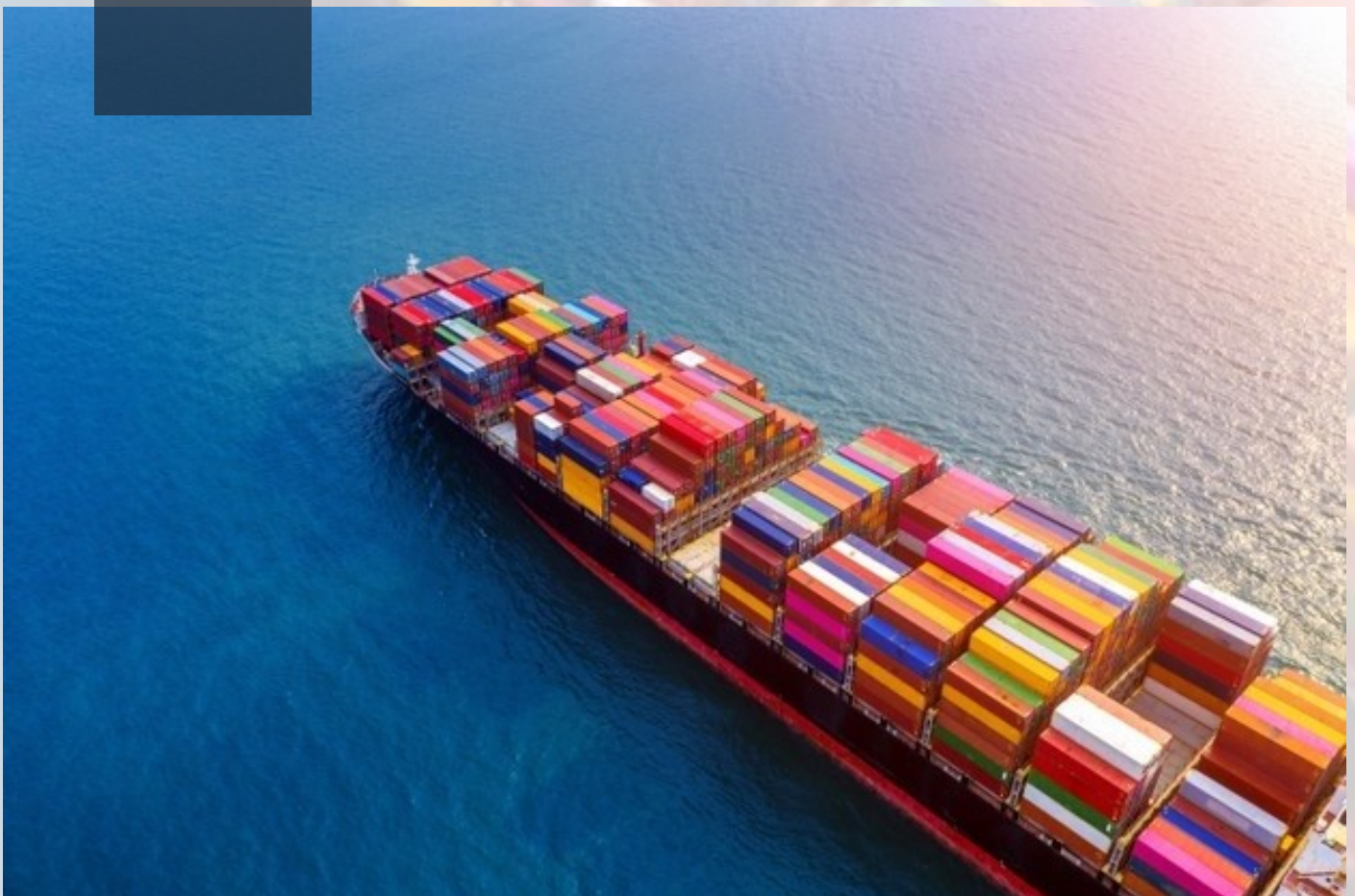
Consortia Block Exemption

In October 2023, the European Commission decided not to renew the Consortia Block Exemption.

From April 2024, the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation (CBER) will come to an end and shipping companies will be subject to ordinary competition rules.

In previous years, both shippers and forwarders advocated the abolition of benefits under this CBER and the creation of a level playing field with

application of applicable competition rules for all parties in the logistics chain.



FORWARD MAGAZINES

FORWARD Magazine | 18th edition

The 18^{de} edition of the FORWARD Magazine was released in summer 2023. You can read the online edition [here](#).



FORWARD Magazine | 19th edition

The 19^{de} edition of the FORWARD Magazine was released in autumn 2023. You can read the online edition [here](#).

If you would like to receive a printed copy (Dutch and/or English) of these magazines, you can request one from the [FORWARD Belgium secretariat](#).

FORWARD AWARD

FORWARD Belgium Award ceremony

Optimisation of waste streams. From costs to revenues

From the theses submitted to compete for the FORWARD Belgium Award 2023, it was decided to award the prize to Arthur Demey for his bachelor's thesis '*Optimisation of waste streams. From cost to revenue*' with Steven Claus as supervisor and Jef Van Tricht as external supervisor.



The work was submitted to obtain a bachelor's degree in business management, majoring in Supply Chain Management at Thomas More Mechelen.

Optimalisatie van afvalstromen Van kosten naar opbrengsten

Student: Arthur Demey

Promotor
Steven Claus - Thomas More
Externe promotor
Jef Van Tricht - H. Essers

Bachelor in Bedrijfsmanagement
Afstudeerrichting: Supply Chain Management

Academiejaar 2021-2022
Campus: Thomas More Mechelen

MERCY SHIPS

FORWARD Belgium supports Mercy Ships



FORWARD Belgium has been supporting [Mercy Ships](#) for some time. We will continue this collaboration.

We would like to put Mercy Ships in the spotlight and hereby make a warm appeal to also support Mercy Ships.

Download the digital corporate brochure [here](#).

You can watch an interesting video on the history of Mercy Ships [here](#).

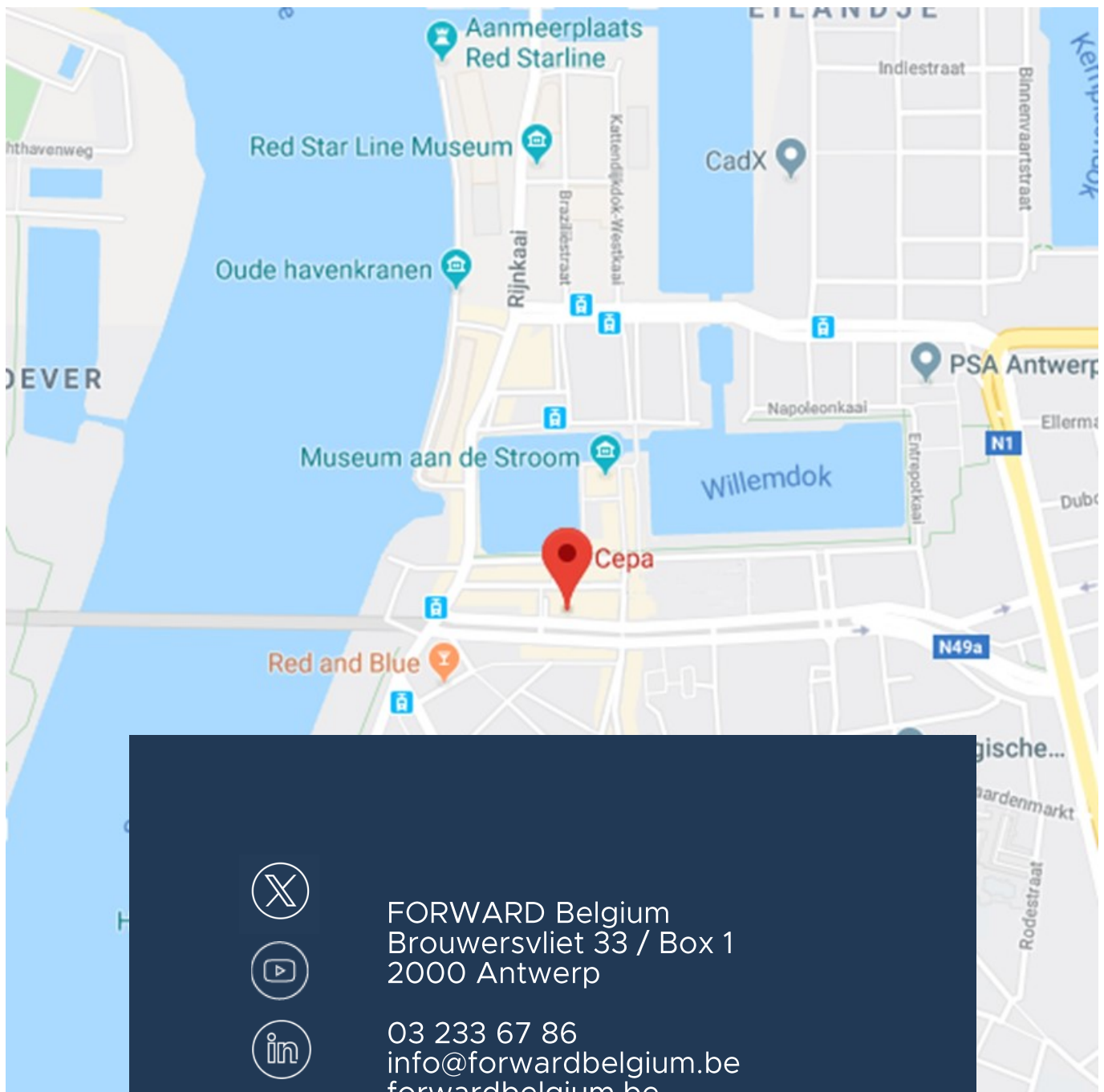


Bringing hope
and healing

HOSPITAL SHIPS TO
TRANSFORM LIVES

Partner with us

CONTACT DETAILS



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