



Newsletter December 2025

FORWARD Belgium activities

New members

We recently welcomed the following companies as **new members**:



Customs HB

Allée de Salmonsart 1
7090 Braine-le-Comte
Tel.: +32 (0)485 48 34 62
Email: info@customshb.com
Website: <https://www.customshb.com>



ECDC Logistics SA

Rue de l'Aéropostale 15
4460 Grâce-Hollogne
Tel.: +32 (0)493 42 46 10
Email: operation@ecdc-logistics.com
Website: <http://ecdc-logistics.com>



FORWARD Magazine | 23rd edition

The ^{23rd} edition of **FORWARD Magazine** has now been published. [You can read the online edition here.](#)

If you would like to receive a printed copy (in Dutch and/or English), please contact the [FORWARD Belgium secretariat.](#)



Looking back on the 2025 'Magic Ocean' annual event

On 27 November, FORWARD Belgium celebrated **120 years of representing freight forwarders' interests** in the unique setting of Antwerp ZOO. During his speech, chairman Wim Gijbels emphasised how challenges from the past remain surprisingly relevant today and how freight forwarders continue to be the magic link in the logistics world.

The event also focused on **sustainable entrepreneurship**: 30 freight forwarders have already been recognised for their commitment to nature and animal welfare with the FORWARD GOALS Label. As a symbol of this ambition, FORWARD took on the **sponsorship of the seahorses** at the Zoo – an animal that braves the turbulent waters with a straight back and proud head.

An evening full of history, inspiration and connection, which makes us look forward to the next 120 years with confidence.

GOLD sponsors 2025



FORWARD Belgium Gold sponsors 2025

The following companies are **GOLD sponsors 2025** of FORWARD Belgium:

- ✓ [BDO Belgium](#)
- ✓ [Van Breda Marine](#)
- ✓ [Van Doosselaere & Partners](#)
- ✓ [SSC Consolidation](#)
- ✓ [KTL Benelux NV](#)
- ✓ [Customs Support](#)

FORWARD Belgium



Digitalisation

Looking back: Lunch & Learn – Efficiency in logistics with practical AI tools

On 20 November, FORWARD Belgium and The Beacon organised an inspiring Lunch & Learn on how AI and smart logistics tools enhance efficiency, accuracy and sustainability in daily activities.

During the session, **Mbarq**, **Cnext** and **Dockflow** provided concrete examples: from GenAI applications and fraud detection to autonomous quotation and order processing and intelligent container tracking with CO₂ reporting. This gave participants a clear picture of how digital solutions make logistics processes faster, smarter and more resilient.

Customs



Inbound Release Platform - FAQ

To support the further roll-out of the **Inbound Release Platform (IRP)**, we are pleased to provide the **FAQ – version 1.0.0 (23 October 2025)**. This document was created thanks to the collaboration between **Alfaport Voka**, **NxtPort** and the **Port of Antwerp-Bruges**. It provides clear answers to the most frequently asked questions from logistics service providers and freight forwarders about how the IRP works. An important part of the FAQ is the explanation of how to establish a **handshake with the ship's agent**. We invite you to read this FAQ thoroughly and share it within your organisation, especially with colleagues involved in the **operational and customs handling of import shipments**.

[FAQ IRP](#)



A modern customs sanctions policy: towards greater confidence and legal certainty

Belgian customs legislation is in urgent need of renewal. It dates back to 1822, a time when trade and control were organised in a completely different way. Today, you live and work in a European context where cooperation, trust and efficiency are key. That is why the University of Antwerp, together with the University of Liège, is working on a modern customs sanctions policy that is more in line with that reality and with your daily practice as a logistics professional.

[Read more](#)



Migration to the new PN/TS application and phasing out of PLDA

The **PN/TS application** must be put into use by **31 January 2026 at the latest**; in order to support this special situation as much as possible, AAD&A will introduce a temporary and limited 'grace period' until 31 March 2026 at the latest.

[Read more](#)



Information session on MASP customs projects for non-customs specialists

On Friday 21 November, The Way Forward (Eric Verlinden) organised an **online information session for non-customs specialists** (C-level or other). During this information session, the entire **MASP programme** was explained in broad terms. The emphasis was on the impact on the operational process and the role that the various parties must play.

[A recording of this MASP meeting can be requested from the FORWARD Belgium secretariat.](#)



Sustainability

FORWARD Goals for sustainable development

During the most recent meeting of the evaluation committee for the FORWARD Goals, it was decided to award the **FORWARD Goals for sustainability GOLD label** to [Polytra](#) and [Steelduxx](#).

The certificates awarded to companies are valid for two years. The evaluation committee also gave a positive recommendation for the re-evaluation of the GOLD label for the following companies: [H.Essers](#), [Fast Shipping and Forwarding – Division of Fast Lines Belgium NV](#), [TMA Logistics](#), [Van Moer Logistics](#), [Customs Support Belgium Holding](#), [TCI Carriers](#) and [Embassy Freight Services Europe](#).

Would your company also like to obtain this prestigious label? Then be sure to visit our website: <https://forwardbelgium.be/FORWARD-Goals> or contact the FORWARD secretariat directly for more information.



EUDR update – General Administration of Customs & Excise

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR – Regulation 2023/1115) will enter into force on **30 December 2025**. The AAD&A webpage and practical guide have been updated with information on the use of a 'conventional' reference number for due diligence statements. On **21 October 2025**, the European Commission proposed simplifications, which are currently being discussed with the Council and Parliament. The outcome is still uncertain. The AAD&A will announce new legal developments via its website. In the meantime, it is recommended that you prepare your **DDS numbers or Y TARIC codes** for customs declarations for goods listed in Annex 1 of the Regulation.



Human Resources

Call for action: share your insights on digital skills in the supply chain

The **Professional Bachelor's programme in Supply Chain Management (KdG)** is currently working on updating its digital learning pathway. In order to optimally align this with practice, they are surveying the professional field about relevant digital competencies and the use of software tools within supply chain functions.

KdG would like to hear from you:

- Which digital skills are indispensable today?
- Which tools and software are used effectively in your organisation?
- What do you expect from starting professionals?

Your input will help them to better prepare students for the challenges of today and tomorrow. The survey will only take **10 minutes** of your time.

[!\[\]\(3a9e77fc60554e54e5412caa0cfeb534_img.jpg\) Complete the survey here.](#)



Legal

Update 3 - Circular on security checks PC 226

Update 3 of Circular 2025-05 on security checks in PC 226 has been distributed. It contains two additional clarifications:

- a clarification of which databases are consulted in the context of security verification;
- the addition of the new concept of positive security advice with individual warning and the associated consequences.

The full text of the circular can be requested [from the FORWARD Belgium secretariat](#).

Agenda

FORWARD Belgium will be represented at:

- ✓ 5 December | Night Logistics Working Group
- ✓ 8 December | Port World Advisory Council
- ✓ 9 December | Antwerp Maritime Circle
- ✓ 12 December | BITO governing body meeting
- ✓ 12 December | BITO General Meeting
- ✓ 16 December | Alfaport Voka Management Committee
- ✓ 17 December | Steering group chair

FORWARD Belgium partner events:

- ✓ New! 3 December, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., BDO Antwerp training centre: Non-Fiscal Measures Training
Discover the important non-fiscal measures and their impact on your organisation.
- ✓ 5 December, Dialogue session Port Accessible (FREE) | Voka
- ✓ New! 14 January 2026 – 25 February 2026, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Novotel Antwerp, Luihagen: From basic customs knowledge to DMS expert
During this six-day training programme, we combine basic customs training with AES and IDMS.

[Full agenda](#)

This newsletter was sent to you by:



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