



Port of Antwerp Europe's leading integrated oil and chemical cluster

Investment guide



**Port of
Antwerp**

With this investment guide we seek to support your decision-making process.

The Port of Antwerp is home to the largest integrated oil and chemical cluster in Europe. Here you will find all the necessary partners for your enterprise: suppliers of raw materials and intermediates, technical contractors and logistical support, financial, legal and administrative services, and of course... customers. They all operate in a competitive environment, ensuring a free market and arm's length dealing.

Antwerp, your logistics hub

Antwerp is a deepwater port, accessible to liquid and bulk carriers of 160 000 tonnes and ultra-large container ships of 18 000 TEU. Uniquely it is located 80 kilometres inland, with excellent connections in all directions by road, rail, barge and international pipelines. All the main industrial centres of West and Central Europe lie within a radius of 1000 km, or a couple of days by truck. And to cap it all, Antwerp is only one hour away from Brussels, door-to-door. Within 60 minutes you reach the decision-making centre of the European Union with its 28 member states.

**ANTWERP
IN THE
WORLD**

**ANTWERP
IN WESTERN
EUROPE**

**ANTWERP
IN BELGIUM**





**CONNECTING
YOUR
INVESTMENT
TO THE WORLD**

AUSTRALIA/ASIA

Antwerp? Yes, Antwerp, a business-friendly city!



Bart De Wever

Dear Reader,

It is a great honour — and a great pleasure — for me as mayor of the City of Antwerp to welcome you to this investment guide. Your interest creates expectations we are eager to meet. Antwerp has much to offer. We provide triple-A performance in a triple-C area: Chemistry, Connectivity and Culture. Prepare to be amazed! Antwerp, the economic heart of Belgium and the largest city in the Flemish region, is open for business, and our City Council is a business-friendly government.

“We provide triple-A performance in a triple-C area: Chemistry, Connectivity and Culture.”

We treat entrepreneurs as partners. We work our assets to the maximum and adapt our city policies to attract new investments in the port area, the backbone of our prosperity. But we are also on the cutting edge of new developments: StartUpVillage harbours promising start-ups in the IT and advertising business, offering them an ideal business environment before they take off under their own steam. We also have a strong focus on city marketing which puts Antwerp on the radar of businesses, entrepreneurs and other globetrotters.

Antwerp offers every aspect of the good life: history, culture, fashion, sport, leisure, gastronomy... and last but not least welfare and prosperity. We are known as the museum centre of Belgium, the fashion centre of Europe, and the diamond centre of the world. Come and see for yourself!

The charms of Antwerp will seduce you and your personnel. From Antwerp you can reach all the main political, cultural and historical capitals of Europe in a few hours by road, rail or plane: Brussels, the European capital is just down the road from us. London, Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Berlin, Warsaw, Prague, Vienna, Rome, Madrid, Lisbon... are all within easy reach.

I invite you personally to be our guest at one of our laid-back pavement cafés. And while you are enjoying our famous specialities we will be glad to explain our business advantages. We are sure that they will be to your taste. Welcome to Antwerp!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Bart De Wever'.

Bart DE WEVER,
Mayor of Antwerp

Antwerp? Yes, Antwerp, an industrial heart!



Marc Van Peel, Eddy Bruyninckx

Dear Reader,

Our mayor has already invited you to enjoy our city. We for our part would like to familiarise you with what our industrial port centre has to offer. We can do a whole lot for you, and are confident that we can respond more than adequately to your questions, needs and requirements, whether big or small.

“We offer you a multimodal crossroads in the industrial heart of Europe.”

We offer you a multimodal crossroads in the industrial heart of Europe. Antwerp is a major seaport, yet lies a good distance inland. Our port is the gateway to Europe, and has been for more than 500 years. That is five centuries of experience and hospitality!

By choosing Antwerp you can literally sail into the heart of European centres of production and consumption. There you will find one of the largest integrated oil and chemical clusters in the world. Above all, there is plenty of space in our port. We can offer you a site immediately, “Plug & Play” and ready to use. We offer a cluster which excels in process and product integration, which provides connectivity that is unique on the European market, with unrivalled logistics expertise, all the essential supporting services and last but not least a technically sophisticated, strongly committed and productive pool of labour.

In short we are convinced that we can offer a tailor-made solution. Everything is possible in the Port of Antwerp. Getting things done is in our blood. Welcome to the Antwerp oil & chemical cluster!

Eddy BRUYNINCKX,
CEO, Antwerp Port Authority

Marc VAN PEEL,
Chairman, Antwerp Port Authority,
Deputy Mayor of Antwerp

10 good reasons to invest in the Antwerp oil and chemical cluster

5 hard facts:

1

In the centre of Europe

A central location in Europe with excellent infrastructure offering a suite of logistics advantages and market penetration in the industrial and commercial heart of Europe.

P 7

2

The leading European oil and chemical cluster

A highly integrated industrial environment with numerous partners — suppliers, contractors and customers — in the oil and chemical sector, with unrivalled connectivity throughout the process chain.

P 11

3

Supportive and favourable investment climate

Both Belgian and Flemish Governments have implemented a number of stimulating investment incentives ranging from tax-related schemes on to employment, training and R&D advantages.

P 15

4

Location where all technical services are available

The greater Antwerp region hosts a diversified range of technical support services like EPC companies, process optimisation, process control, automation & instrumentation, maintenance, heavy lifting, health, safety & environment (HSE), quality control, storage and dispatching of all products, in all aspects.

P 17

5

Financial and legal support just around the corner

You will find a large range of highly competent Belgian and international service providers, to deal with absolutely all financial, legal and taxation matters.

P 19

5 supporting arguments:

1

Qualified and committed workforce

A unique labour market. The Flemish region is renowned for its highly educated, multilingual and productive workforce. The greater Antwerp region offers a high level of education including universities and vocational colleges. You will find a large pool of qualified, motivated personnel in and around Antwerp.

P20

2

Personal one-stop-shop support

You can rely on a direct, personal one-stop-shop support from Antwerp Port Authority to ensure smooth administrative handling of your project. Official bodies and administrative departments are willing to listen and are open to discussion.

P22

3

Innovation and R&D

A dynamic, creative environment where production, innovation and R&D all go hand-in-hand. Belgium has 7 highly reputed universities with experienced specialists in oil & chemical activities and business administration. In addition the Flanders region has a series of platforms that offer practical, intellectual and financial support for R&D.

P24

4

Decision makers in Brussels

In Brussels, literally within one hour you can reach all policy and decision-makers at Flemish, Belgian or European level.

P26

5

A good life for your expats

Arts and entertainment, leisure and sports, culture and history, schools and education, town and country, eating and drinking: Belgium and Antwerp score highly in all respects. Your personnel will appreciate it. Your expats will love it!

P28

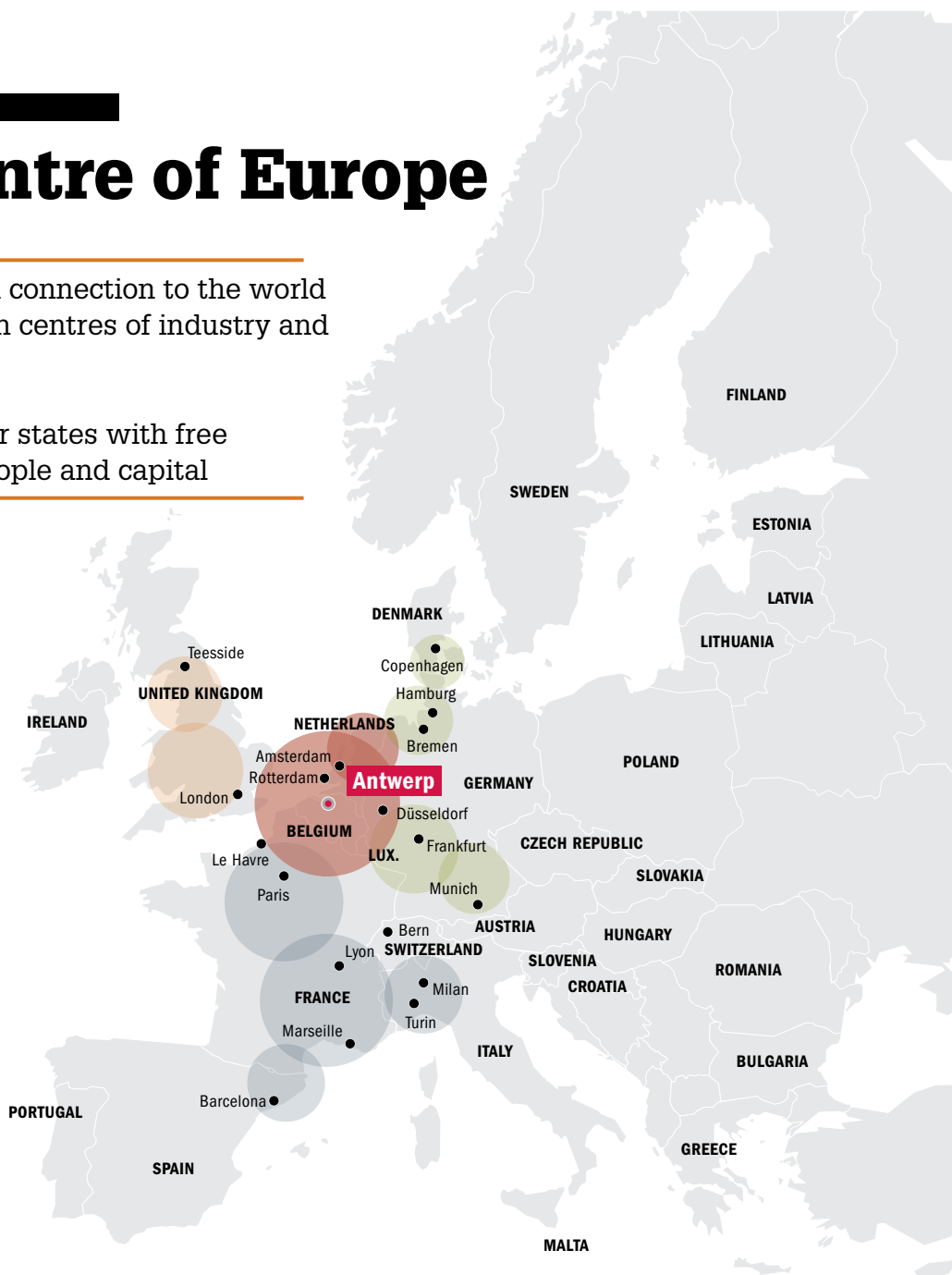


In the centre of Europe

- ▶ Gateway to Europe and connection to the world
- ▶ In the heart of European centres of industry and consumption
- ▶ Excellent infrastructure
- ▶ Euromarket: 28 member states with free movement of goods, people and capital

EUROPEAN CHEMICAL CLUSTERS

- ARA region (Antwerp-Rotterdam-Amsterdam)
- East of the Ruhr region, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland Palatinate, Munich
- South of the Paris region, Le Havre, Dunkirk, Lyon, Marseille, Milan, Turin, Barcelona
- West London, Teesside



“The location of BASF in the Port of Antwerp with **direct access to road, rail, deep sea and inland waterways** as well as an extended pipeline infrastructure and **sufficient tank storage facilities**, is definitely a key differentiator for our Antwerp site.”

Wouter DE GEEST, *Managing Director*
BASF ANTWERPEN

All the main West European centres of industry and consumption lie within a radius of 1000 km. 60% of European purchasing power lies within a radius of 500 km, giving you unrivalled market coverage.

Single customs union

The Euromarket is a unified market: the market conditions in all 28 member states are identical, with free movement of goods, people and capital throughout the EU. The EU is a single customs union: all goods go through import/export formalities only once, at any one of the borders, after which they are free to move anywhere in the EU.

Centres of industry

If you opt for Antwerp you will find yourself in the top environment for the European petrochemical industry. In Belgium alone there are more than 500 oil and petrochemical companies together employing 150,000 people and generating 25% of the industry added value, twice the average of the EU.

If you opt for Antwerp, you will find yourself in the gateway to Europe and you will be connected to the world. Its central location close to major industrial and consumer centres and its excellent multimodal transport network make it an ideal base to invest.

Optimal quadrimodal access

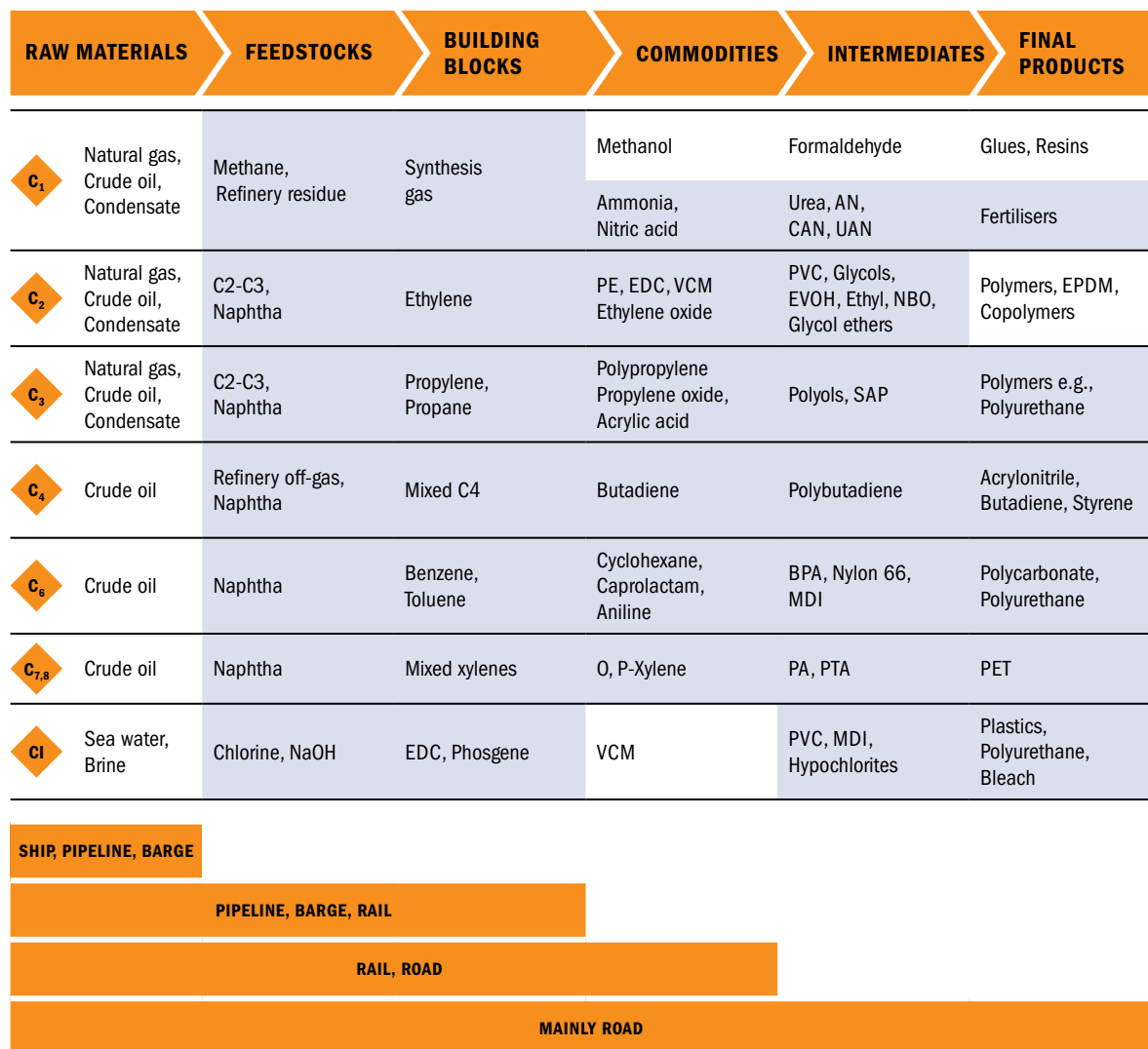
Flanders has the densest network of roads and highways in Europe, as well as extensive networks of railways and waterways. It also lies at the centre of pipeline networks transporting various kinds of products to and from the rest of Europe.


Despite its small area, Belgium plays an important role in worldwide trade. The openness of the Belgian and Flemish economies reflects their geographical position and the vital importance of foreign trade.

“After considering different options across Europe and the United States, Antwerp emerged as the **perfect investment location**. The **positive investment conditions** and the **strong industrial** policy of the government of Flanders were certainly key to our decision making process. Furthermore, the advantages of Antwerp as the largest integrated chemical cluster in Europe means that the Port of Antwerp provides **excellent logistics** for goods in and out making it an excellent location to ship worldwide. The Port of Antwerp has a very well educated and experienced pool of people from which we have been able to quickly build a world class team. The fact that we could also establish **strong raw materials integration with short supply lines** with major companies within the port obviously played a key role too.”

Marc LEBEL, *President and CEO*
FRX POLYMERS

THE HIGH LEVEL OF INTEGRATION AND DIVERSITY ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN IS UNIQUE IN THE WORLD



 items produced in the Antwerp cluster

Source: EPCA, Results of the Think Tank Sessions, Aug 07

2014 KOF GLOBALISATION INDEX

1	Ireland	92.17	6	Denmark	87.43
2	Belgium	91.61	7	Sweden	87.39
3	Netherlands	91.33	8	Portugal	87.01
4	Austria	90.48	9	Hungary	85.91
5	Singapore	88.63	10	Finland	85.87

◀ The high level of openness is illustrated by the KOF Index in which Belgium is ranked N° 2 on a worldwide scale of most globalised countries in the world

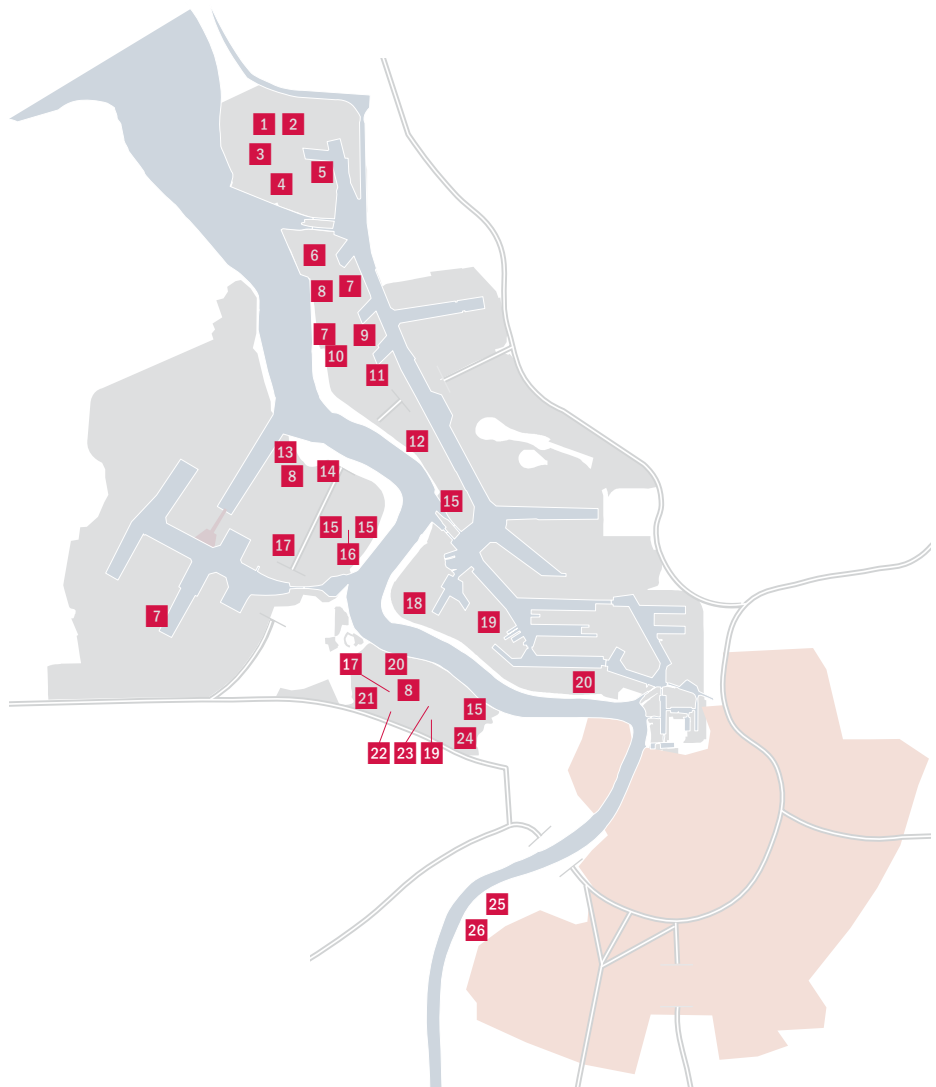


The leading European oil and chemical cluster

- ▶ Largest integrated European oil and chemical cluster
- ▶ Guarantee of stable supply of feedstock, raw materials and intermediates
- ▶ Opportunities for integration of products and energy create mutual beneficial synergies
- ▶ Outstanding pipeline connectivity, tank storage and product handling
- ▶ Green, brownfield and co-siting sites available

COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE OIL AND CHEMICAL SECTOR

- 1 DOW Chemical
- 2 BASF
- 3 Styrolution
- 4 Air Liquide
- 5 Eurochem
- 6 IBR (Refinery)
- 7 Solvay
- 8 Ineos
- 9 Monsanto
- 10 Eastman
- 11 Evonik Degussa
- 12 Bayer
- 13 Ashland
- 14 Monument Chemical
- 15 Lanxess
- 16 Lubrizol
- 17 Borealis
- 18 Total (Refinery)
- 19 ExxonMobil (Refinery + Petrochemicals)
- 20 Total (Olefins + Polymers)
- 21 Nippon Shokubai
- 22 Kuraray
- 23 Praxair
- 24 3M
- 25 Kuwait Petroleum (Q8)
- 26 BP



Refining more than 40 million tonnes of crude oil a year and home to Europe's —and one of the world's— most integrated oil and chemical clusters, the Port of Antwerp is the cornerstone of the European petrochemical industry.

An integrated cluster

Home to both base chemicals and fine chemicals production, the Antwerp oil and chemical cluster can offer great integration possibilities. More than 7 million m³ of third-party liquid storage solutions, 2 top 10 refineries, 4 steam crackers and no fewer than 30 companies operating in the oil and chemical sector, including at least 10 top world players, are located in the port area. They are followed by world players in the contracting and logistics sectors.

Tank storage specialists

There is a wide range of logistics companies specialising in tank storage and product handling (storage and transport). 10 specialist firms —all working according to the highest HSE standards and present in the main European ports and industrial areas— offer 16 third-party tank terminals with a total storage capacity of more than 7 million cubic metres.

Extensive pipeline network

The Port of Antwerp has over 1000 kilometres of intra-port pipeline infrastructure at its disposal, transporting over 100 products permitting the exchange of substances with a very high degree of reliability. All this makes Antwerp the most important node in Europe's pipeline network.

Value chain of the chemical cluster

The experience in the oil and chemical sector built up in the Port of Antwerp is your guarantee of a stable supply of feedstock, raw materials and intermediates, together with smooth transport of finished products to a continental market that stretches from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean, from the UK to the Caucasus. But also overseas markets are within reach of your Antwerp production plants, thanks to the port.

Is there still room for you in the cluster?

Yes, there certainly is. There are possibilities for co-siting on both the right and left-bank areas of the port, with lots of opportunities for synergies (integration of production, energy and/or services). Optimised sharing of costs and services features prominently. Finally there are sites totalling 1000 hectares (greenfield and brownfield) throughout the port available for further development of the oil & chemical sector.

“The large cluster of chemical companies ensures the availability of many, often pipeline delivered, raw materials and utilities. In our case, we also benefit from close collaboration with BASF which includes services like site security, a fire brigade and central infrastructure like a waste water treatment plant. Existing logistical infrastructure with connections by water, road and rail also delivers a strong logistical advantage for supplying our solid raw materials (phosphate and potassium) and distributing our fertilisers to customers in Europe and overseas.”

Filip DE JONGH, *Managing Director*
EUROCHEM ANTWERPEN NV



EUROPEAN PIPELINE NETWORK

- Naphtha, Condensate
- Liquid hydrocarbon
- Ethylene
- Propylene
- Fuel oil, Diesel
- Crude oil
- Hydrogen
- Nitrogen
- Oxygen

▲ The pipeline network is not limited to the Antwerp cluster alone but also connects neighbouring clusters in the Netherlands, France and Germany



Supportive and favourable investment climate

- ▶ Active contribution from European, Belgian, Flemish and local Antwerp city authorities
- ▶ Investment support related to taxes, employment, training and R&D
- ▶ Permit policy guaranteeing certainty

Investment and permit climate

In order to maximise the synergy effects the Port of Antwerp aims to continually expand the oil and chemical cluster. We therefore actively seek new investment projects.

We have created an investment and permit climate in which all administrations actively contribute: EU institutions, the Belgian federal government, Flemish regional government as well as the Antwerp city council.

Investment stimulating incentives

Both the Belgian and Flemish governments have implemented a number of investment stimulating incentives. These range from investment incentives through tax-related schemes on to employment, training and R&D advantages.

Belgium has a favourable tax environment for innovative companies and offers a number of specific tax incentives – this guide mentions just a few. There is the notional interest deduction (deduction of risk capital) which means that companies can deduct a notional interest based on their equity from their taxable income. In addition an advance tax ruling between the company and the tax authorities is possible. This agreement determines the tax obligations the company shall fulfil in the future. In the case of companies for which taxation may be a significant factor in deciding on a possible investment location, the advantage is that it is possible to obtain clarity and certainty in advance.

Supplementary subsidies

In addition to the favourable tax environment, there is also the possibility to benefit from subsidies and non-tax-related incentives such as subsidies for training and environment-friendly technology. Furthermore, the Flemish government can, through its state-owned company PMV, invest in equity or provide credit guarantees in excess of 1.5 million euros to SMEs or large enterprises, thus facilitating access to bank credit.

In addition to this investment support a permit policy has been crafted to help investors make the right decisions and implement them quickly and accurately. A permit policy that moreover guarantees certainty for your project.

“Based on our extensive experience, the Antwerp petrochemical cluster is very attractive because of general, non-tax features such as location, transportation, workforce etc. and certain Belgian tax features such as **unique R&D tax incentives** and the possibility to obtain **binding advance rulings** from the Belgian Ruling Commission.”

Bart VERHELST, Partner Global Business Tax/Managing partner
DELOITTE ANTWERPEN



Location where all technical services are available

- ▶ Presence of specialist technical contractors
- ▶ Storage facilities for liquids, gases and solids
- ▶ Laboratory facilities and services
- ▶ Waste processing

Diverse storage facilities

Within the Antwerp cluster there are plentiful and diversified storage facilities for gases, liquids and solids. So you do not necessarily have to invest in your own facilities from the early start onwards, but you can spread these over time as the need arises.

Chain of technical contractors

The entire chain of technical contractors is available in the proximity of the Antwerp cluster. This goes from EPC companies over process optimisation specialists to heavy lifting and periodic or daily maintenance (MRO, asset integrity management).

Mechanical, piping, electrical & instrumentation and safety equipment; risk analysis, environmental control and waste processing; every specialism is present.

SHE and product compliance partners

As for safety, inspection, verification, testing and certification, you will find well known international names and experienced, well-equipped local companies in the Antwerp oil & chemical cluster. Large surveyors offer extensive laboratory facilities and associated services, such as:

- Bureau Veritas
- AiB/Vinçotte
- DNV
- SGS
- Intertek
- Saybolt/Core Lab

Last but not least you also need to cover the end of the process chain, i.e. waste processing. Here too the Antwerp cluster is home to European leaders in the field, including among others

- Indaver
- Veolia
- SITA-GDF-Suez.

World renowned companies present in Antwerp

Technip, Fluor, Amec Foster Wheeler, Jacobs, UOP, Bilfinger ROB, Stork, Cegelec, Cofely Fabricom, G&G International, Verwater, Ivens, Sarens, Mourik, Hertel, Actemium, HP, Foxboro, Siemens, ABB, Egemin, Aton, GE...

“The world class industrial cluster, competent technical services and consequent potential in the Antwerp area prompted Amec Foster Wheeler’s decision to increase our local footprint and invest in a newly established regional office. This move enables us to build on our 40 year legacy in order to **deepen client relationships** and deliver connected excellence to our local stakeholders.”

Alain RUYS, General Manager
AMEC FOSTER WHEELER BELGIUM



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Financial and legal support just around the corner

- ▶ Simple procedures to set up a business
- ▶ Presence of international banks
- ▶ Presence of leading consulting companies

Simple procedures

Setting up a business involves relatively simple procedures. Official bodies and our dedicated Oil and Chemical team are more than willing to listen to you and are open for any queries you might have. In any case there is plenty of financial, legal and fiscal support available in Belgium and certainly within the immediate Antwerp / Brussels area.

EU administrative departments close by

Antwerp's central location in the heart of Europe generates even more win-win situations. For financial, administrative, legal and taxation services, for instance. Brussels is only 45 km away from Antwerp, so you are very close to the EU. In Brussels all major consulting companies have a strong presence. These service providers have very good contacts with the European decision makers. And of course they have very good knowledge of the EU and Belgian regulatory environment.

International banks

In Belgium you also have the international banking world at your fingertips, with a very wide range of services and a dense network of branches. From Antwerp you are only a mouse click away from both the City of London and Frankfurt, the European financial hub.

“Its central location with an integrated petrochemical cluster, the high productivity and the access to world markets make the Port of Antwerp the beating heart of the European petrochemical industry.”

Joost VAN ROOST, *President*
EXXONMOBIL BENELUX

Qualified and committed workforce

- Large and varied pool of qualified people
- Highly educated, multilingual and productive workforce

Leading universities within 300 km

In the greater Antwerp area you will find a large and varied pool of highly qualified employees. The region has a wide range of institutes covering all economic and technical disciplines. Moreover, Antwerp is conveniently located for graduates from universities and colleges in the European hinterland. Leading universities in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany are located within a radius of 300 km. Not surprisingly, engineering and business studies are well represented in this heavily industrialised part of Europe!

Top ranking for education system

The Belgian education system has an excellent reputation and is ranked 7th in the world according to the Global Competitiveness Report 2014–2015 (World Economic

Forum). The Flemish are among Europe's most multilingual people, due partly to the region's location at the meeting point of Europe's three major language groups — Anglo-Saxon, Germanic and Latin.

Specialist platforms

Furthermore the Antwerp oil and chemical cluster has its own specialist platforms set up by the industry in collaboration with the world of education to supply additional training for its operational personnel. A good example is ACTA. It is the process industries' partner for technical training: mechanical, electro-technical, instrumentation and automation as well as process engineering.

Highly qualified and productive workforce

The region of Flanders is renowned for its highly educated, multilingual

and productive workforce. Furthermore the employees are famous for their hands-on attitude, customer and quality focus, technical knowledge, eagerness to learn and reliability, not to mention diplomatic empathy and stress-resistance.

In the oil and chemical sector especially Belgian employees are also known for their strong work ethic, wide sharing of knowledge and high standards for safety, quality and the environment. Combined with their easy-going language abilities and their tolerance for other cultures, Belgian members of personnel at all levels and in all disciplines are frequently chosen by multinational petrochemical companies to supervise and start up international investment projects in other parts of the world.

“We are convinced the Antwerp petrochemical cluster is one of the strongest in the world, which translates, for example, into a well-trained, productive and multilingual workforce.”

Toon VAN MELCKEBEKE, *Site Manager*
STYROLUTION BELGIUM NV



Personal one-stop-shop support

- Dedicated oil and chemical team ensures one-stop-shop approach
- National and international industry federations located in Brussels
- Foreign companies supported by Flanders Investment & Trade

Openness, accessibility and service-minded

Some of the main advantages offered by Belgium in general and by the Antwerp Port Authority in particular are openness, accessibility and service. Not only will you find great openness for discussion among local, regional and federal governments, you will also obtain direct support from Antwerp Port Authority with its one-stop-shop approach.

European industry federations

In addition to this direct support, you as an investor can call upon the specialist expertise of industry federations such as CEFIC (European chemical federation), essenscia (Belgian federation of chemical, life sciences & plastics industries), Fuels Europe (European oil federation) and FBP (Belgian petroleum federation). All these industry federations are headquartered in Brussels. They have experts for dealing with personnel matters (HR),

SHEQ, energy and sustainability, and are available for all your “licence to operate” questions. For the chemical and petrochemical industry in particular they offer specialist, in-depth advice on REACH (European registration system for chemical products) and CLP (labelling).

Foreign petrochemical companies with investment projects in the Port of Antwerp can obtain support from Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT) with its many years of experience in this area, in full confidentiality.

Dedicated oil & chemical team

Our dedicated oil and chemical team with its specialist Key Account and Business Development Managers will guide you through topics like:

- SHEQ regulation
- Permits
- Employment related aspects
- Fiscal regime and incentives
- Business facilitation
- Trade facilitation

“**The excellent location and the interconnectivity between the industrial companies, combined with the support provided by the Port Authority, makes this chemical cluster in Antwerp an ideal place to invest.**”

Dan YANKOWSKI, *President*
PRAXAIR EUROPE



Innovation and R&D

- ▶ Strong focus on innovation and R&D
- ▶ R&D incentives available
- ▶ Oil and chemical-related centres of excellence
- ▶ Platforms for exchanging expertise and know-how

Knowledge-intensive economy

The Flemish region has a strong focus on innovation and R&D. A dense network of universities, complemented by market-driven strategic research centres in selected fields, drives the knowledge-intensive economy. Leading competence centres collaborate closely with industrial companies.

It is clear that R&D and innovation are major items on the government's agenda and special provisions and incentives have been developed in order to further stimulate innovation and a knowledge-based economy.

Multiple centres of excellence

In the oil and chemical sector there are various product-related centres of excellence, and the sector also has its own platforms for expertise

and know-how. The following in particular are relevant to the oil and chemical industries:

FISCH (*Flanders Innovation Hub for Sustainable Chemistry*) The mission of FISCH is to identify, stimulate and catalyse innovations for sustainable chemistry in Flanders. It is the first chemistry knowledge centre in Europe that has sustainability as the main criterion for the assessment and implementation of projects. FISCH creates a forum where small, medium and large enterprises from all Flemish industries implement sustainable (bio)chemical solutions, through open collaboration for a positive contribution to the current and future societal challenges. Specifically, FISCH strives for the creation of new value chains based on the application of sustainable chemistry.

VITO (*Flemish Institute for Technological Research*) is a leading European independent research and consultancy centre in the areas of clean-tech and sustainable development, elaborating solutions for the large societal challenges of today. VITO provides innovative and high-quality solutions, whereby large and small companies can gain a competitive advantage, and advises industry and governments on determining their policy for the future.

VIB (*Flemish Institute for Biotechnology*) is world class over the entire range of modern biotechnology. VIB is a collaboration between all the Flemish universities and various private research centres in all life sciences. It centralises the renowned research expertise that is available within the Flemish universities.

“Our Antwerp site hosts the **worldwide competence centre** for the production of MetAMINO(R) (DL-methionine) in the Evonik group. It is for this reason that we chose Antwerp as the first location worldwide to produce on a commercial scale AQUAVI® Met-Met, an innovative feed additive for the cultivation of shellfish and shrimp in aquaculture.”

Dr. Emmanuel AUER, Head of Animal Nutrition Business Line
EVONIK INDUSTRIES



Decision makers next door

- Brussels, capital of Belgium and of Europe
- All main Belgian and European authorities are located in Brussels
- Contacts with decision makers are free, easy and pragmatic

Belgian and European decision makers at 45km

Contacts with decision makers are an easy matter, both at Belgian and at European level. All the main Belgian and European authorities are located in Brussels, the capital of Belgium and of Europe and only 45 km away from Antwerp. The Belgian federal ministries and the Flemish regional ministries are similarly located in Brussels.

EU administrations nearby

Here you will also find the EU administrations, the European Commission and the European Parliament. The NATO headquarters too is located in the greater Brussels area. The European industry associations CEFIC and Fuels Europe can introduce you to the European bodies. And many international organisations (including the UN, UNESCO and many more besides) have branch offices in Brussels.

Pragmatic approach for decision-making

In Belgium contacts with decision makers at all levels are free and easy. This applies even more so in Antwerp with its long maritime tradition. Lines of decision-making are short and direct, and matters are dealt with in a pragmatic way. And should you need advice on dealing with officialdom, there are experts to help you at all levels.

“**The proximity of Brussels is beneficial for the Antwerp based chemical industry as it facilitates the dialogue and exchange of expertise between the sector and policymakers. Both Essenscia and Cefic, the representatives of the chemical industry at the regional, national and European level are Brussels-based, close to the institutions.**”

Frank BECKX, *Managing Director*
ESSENSCIA VLAANDEREN



Good life for your expats

- ▶ Excellent quality of life
- ▶ International schools
- ▶ Rich history but still one of the trendiest cities
- ▶ Crossroads of Europe
- ▶ Gastronomy, art, fashion and diamonds

Excellent housing possibilities

First things first! Antwerp is a great place to live. If you want to live in or near the old city centre there is a wide range of town houses, apartments and lofts available. Just outside the port and city centre you will find a variety of housing options in a more urban setting. Belgium in general and Antwerp in particular is known for its excellent quality of housing at affordable prices.

Architectural history of Europe

Antwerp, a bustling international port city, simultaneously manages to keep in touch with its history while remaining at the forefront of developments. The entire architectural history of Europe can be discovered here, as well as cutting-edge international developments in culture, fashion and cuisine.

Multicultural environment

Antwerp offers a truly multicultural environment with an ingrained mix of nationalities. There are several international schools (with dedicated school transport) and a good choice of English-speaking clubs and societies. Add to that the fact that the majority of Dutch speakers speak English, and Antwerp becomes an attractive place to settle.

Green countryside

Around the city is a green belt for those who prefer things calmer and more countrified, with a wide range of sports and leisure facilities.

In fact there's an embarrassment of choice!

Cultural highlights

Renowned art museums display the rich baroque past with painters such as Rubens and Van Dyck, as well as challenging modern artists such as Fabre and Panamarenko.

Antwerp, 'trendiest city'

Antwerp's focus on fashion and cultural tourism has also paid off, earning it the title of 'trendiest city' in many travel articles. There are also a high number of business establishments owing to the port and industrial development, plus a young population that is drawn to the university facilities and rising job opportunities.

Up and coming areas include the redeveloped museum area ('t Zuid) and parts of Berchem with its grand Art Nouveau houses and slightly bohemian feel. Another rising neighbourhood is 't Eilandje (little island), surrounded by the docklands in the north and close to Antwerp's giant contemporary museum, MAS. The urban set favour apartments in the area known as St Andries, which has the feel of a village within the city, between the river and Nationalestraat.

In theatres, concert halls and open-air museums the Latin, Germanic and Anglo-Saxon cultures come together in a true melting pot. Ballet performances and classical, jazz and pop concerts all vie for attention in Antwerp. Belgium lies at the crossroads of Europe, and Antwerp is one of the main crossroads of Belgium. Did you know that Belgium is the N° 1 place for summer music festivals?

“Antwerp offers everything an international city should have – it is a great place where tradition and innovation go hand in hand.”

Kentaro MORIKAWA, Secretary General
NIPPON SHOKUBAI EUROPE NV



Contact details



ANTWERP PORT AUTHORITY
Investments department
oil and chemicals

**Our dedicated oil and chemical
team with its specialist
Key Account and Business
Development Managers is at
your service:**

Port House
1 Entrepotkaai
2000 Antwerp
Belgium
T +32 3 205 20 11
E oilandchemical@portofantwerp.com
www.portofantwerp.com/en

Governmental organisations

• EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Wetstraat 170
1040 Brussels
T +32 2 295 38 44
COMM-REP-BRU@ec.europa.eu
www.ec.europa.eu

• FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM

Paleis der Natie
Natieplein 1
1009 Brussels
T +32 2 501 70 70
www.belgium.be

• FLEMISH REGIONAL GOVERNMENT Government of Flanders

Martelaarsplein 19
1000 Brussels
T +32 2 553 1700
E www.flanders.be/en/send-e-mail
www.flanders.be

• CITY OF ANTWERP / INVEST IN ANTWERP Work and Economy

Francis Wellesplein 1
2018 Antwerp
T +32 3 338 65 20
E ondernemen@stad.antwerpen.be
www.ondernemeninantwerpen.be
www.visitantwerpen.be

Sector and investment organisations

- **ESSENSCIA**
Belgian Federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences Industries

Diamond Building
Boulevard Auguste Reyers 80
1030 Brussels
T +32 2 238 97 11
E info@essenscia.be
www.essenscia.be

- **ENTERPRISE FLANDERS**

Koning Albert II-laan 35, bus 12
1030 Brussels
T +32 0800 20 555
E info@agentschapondernemen.be
www.agentschapondernemen.be

- **PMV**

Oude Graanmarkt 63
1000 Brussels
T +32 2 229 52 30
E info@pmv.eu
www.pmv.eu

- **EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CEFIC)**

Avenue E. van Nieuwenhuyse, 4 box 1
1160 Brussels
T + 32 2 676 72 11
www.cefic.org

- **FUELS EUROPE**

Boulevard du Souverain 165, 3rd Floor
1160 Brussels
T +32 2 566 91 00
E info@fuelseurope.eu
www.fuelseurope.eu

- **FLANDERS INVESTMENT AND TRADE**

Vlaams Agentschap voor Internationaal Ondernemen
Koning Albert II-laan 37
1030 Brussels
T +32 2 504 87 11
F +32 2 504 88 99
E info@investinlanders.com
www.investinlanders.com

- **BELGIAN PETROLEUM FEDERATION**

Kunstlaan 39, bus 2
1040 Brussels
T +32 2 508 30 00
E info@petrolfed.be
www.petrolfed.be

- **ANTWERP HEADQUARTERS**

Port House
Entrepotkaai 1
2000 Antwerp
T +32 3 229 67 85
E info@antwerpheadquarters.be
www.antwerpheadquarters.be

Training, Research & Development

- **ACTA vzw**

Ruiterijschool 9
2930 Brasschaat
T +32 3 620 23 00
E acta.info@acta-vzw.be
www.acta-vzw.be

- **FISCH**

Diamond Building
Auguste Reyerslaan 80
1030 Brussels
T +32 2 238 97 64
E jvanhavenbergh@fi-sch.be
www.fi-sch.be

- **VITO NV**

Boeretang 200
2400 Mol
T + 32 14 33 55 11
www.vito.be

- **VIB**

Rijvisschestraat 120
9052 Ghent
T +32 9 244 66 11
E info@vib.be
www.vib.be

Antwerp Port Authority is an independent municipal company responsible for day-to-day management of the Antwerp port area. It is the first point of contact for anyone wishing to settle in the Antwerp cluster. The Port Authority is headed by a CEO and has around 1600 employees. Thanks to its accumulated expertise as a pro-active facilitator and stimulator it is able to offer a one-stop-shop approach for potential investors.

essenscia is the employers' organisation for the chemical and life sciences industry in Belgium. It represents and brings together more than 700 companies. With a turnover of € 62 billion and 90,000 direct employees, the sector is the largest in terms of industrial value added created. The sector exports 80% of its production and generates a trade surplus of € 25 billion. The sector is very innovative with annual R&D expenditure of € 3 billion.

FIT (Flanders Investment & Trade) is a Flemish Government agency that offers companies in Belgium and abroad a wide range of specialist services. Companies that are already located in the region can turn to Flanders Investment & Trade for advice and guidance on a variety of themes such as export services, financial support or help with their foreign investment. Companies looking for high-quality suppliers of products and services from Flanders can also turn to Flanders Investment & Trade.

Foreign companies looking for a new investment in Flanders can count on free, expert advice on all aspects of their investment: financial and tax benefits, help with finding the right location, recruitment of personnel and establishing the right contacts.

