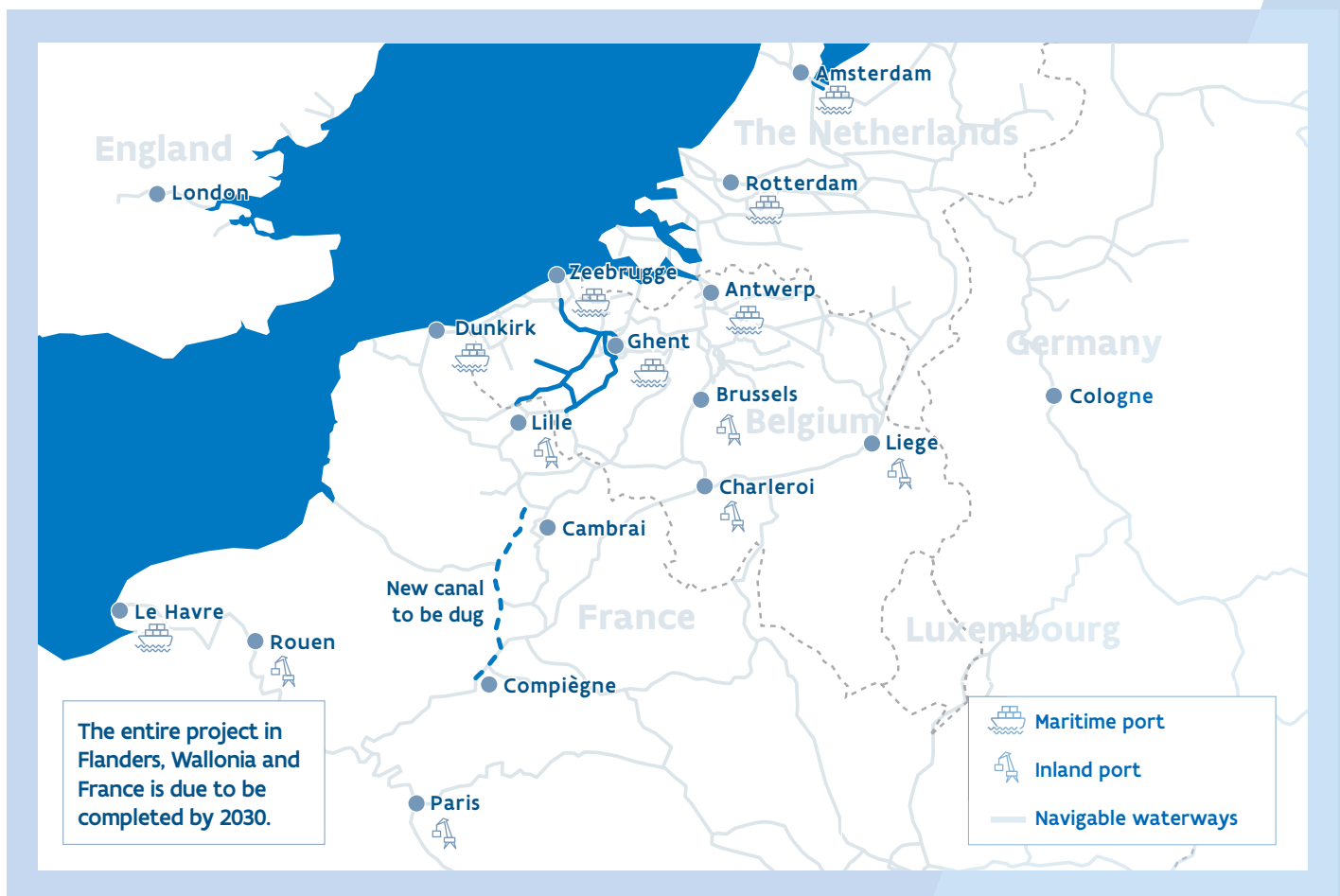


SEINE SCHELDT FLANDERS ENVISAGES A GREAT AND GREEN FUTURE

Seine Scheldt Flanders is the largest inland shipping project in Europe. And thanks to our efforts through both innovations and investments, inland shipping is growing further every day. That is necessary too! Because in order to tackle the increasing congestion problem on our roads and the general climate problem, inland shipping is our best ally. So it's time to give the water space again and use it to its full potential.

Our mission: the best possible connection between Flanders and Paris. Smooth, safe and future-oriented in terms of both transport and nature. Because transport by water is **affordable, reliable and, above all, sustainable**: a modern three-layer inland vessel can transport much larger loads with considerably lower emissions than transport by road.

Inland shipping can therefore become a game changer. But that requires scaling up. Higher bridges, bigger locks... We look at the entire route through the lens of the future and envisage it **bigger and greener than ever, from the Seine to the Scheldt**.



From Flanders to Paris: this is how

Seine Scheldt Flanders is the Flemish puzzle piece in the European project Seine Scheldt. Together with the European Union, Flanders, Wallonia and France are supporting this cross-border inland shipping project. How? By improving more than 1000 kilometres of navigable waterways.

The centre of gravity of the project is in France, where a new canal is being built between Compiègne and Cambrai. But also here with us, major infrastructure changes are also taking place. In this way we contribute to the international objective of a balanced distribution of freight transport by road, water, rail and air.

The subsidy programme TEN-T, which stands for 'Trans-European Network for Transport', oversees this.



Did you know ...

The shift from road to water – and other ecological modes of transport – is called the modal shift and is a daily driver for Seine Scheldt Flanders. Because the economic and ecological profit is great if we continue to sail this course.

It starts with ... better inland shipping

Via the Seine Scheldt, Flanders, Wallonia and France are fully committed to a smoothly connected international waterway network, on which more and larger shipping is possible. Inland vessels with three layers of containers are the future in this respect.

We are raising bridges, enlarging locks and widening the waterway to accommodate these larger class Vb vessels (loading capacity of up to 4,500 tonnes). A sizeable adjustment! But one that really has an impact for everyone who is stuck in traffic and everyone who cares about the environment. After all, each ship will take about **220 lorries off the road**. Thanks to the extensive waterway network in our region, transporting more by water is the best way to achieve climate-conscious logistics.

Driven by the **modal shift**, we are not only adapting the waterways by widening and improving them, but we are also increasing transshipment capacity. To this end, we are expanding the existing transshipment platform in Wielsbeke and constructing an additional River Terminal in Roeselare. This makes it easy to switch between modes of transport: from water to road or rail, and vice versa. As a result, companies will more often opt for inland shipping as a priority mode of transport, which makes sustainability objectives easier than ever. Being environmentally conscious is a must!

*Each ship removes about
220 lorries from traffic jams!*

Ship class Vb (tonnage 4,500 tonnes)



220 lorries



Munkenbrug, Ooigem & Desselgem



Kortrijk

Leisure time for all on the water, that's fun!

During today's frequent heat waves, it quickly becomes clear: humans naturally crave the proximity of water. When a river or canal flows through a city, this has a cooling and therefore climate-friendly effect, but also in terms of experience, we notice that people keep returning to water for relaxation and sports.

You can relax or be active on the waterways. This makes it the perfect place for a dose of leisure! Together with municipal and

city authorities, the provinces and local stakeholders, we are providing **touristic added value** as often as possible within the Seine Scheldt Flanders project: where possible we are completing and renovating the towpaths, we are building comfortable bicycle and pedestrian bridges over the canal, we are providing jetties for pleasure and passenger boats... And for fishing enthusiasts, new fishing spots are appearing here and there too. There is something for everyone on and alongside today's waterways.

Through river restoration, nature prospers

As a manager, we want to improve all aspects of the waterways. The capacity of inland shipping? Of course. But offering nature maximum chances of recovery is also high on our list of priorities. We are therefore performing extensive river restoration at all locations where we work on inland shipping.

Over the years, much of the natural backbone of our rivers and canals has been lost. Today we want to restore this nature to its former glory. For example, old meandering offshoots of the Leie are being reconnected and we are constructing **nature-friendly banks** where possible. After all, an ecological network of aquatic

nature not only ensures more biodiversity in Flanders, it also creates a buffer for flooding. That is something that we will all benefit from in the future.

No animal is too small to be considered in our approach. Seine Scheldt Flanders therefore routinely builds **fish passages** at locks, so that fish can swim smoothly from one water level to another. Fauna exit points are provided on steep banks so that animals can easily get out of the water and swallow walls ensure that even this bird species finds a place near the water. After all, these brand new experience points created in the middle of the greenery will allow everyone to enjoy the new nature.

Urban renewal: welcome back to the water

Many waterways cross a city centre. This is logical, because the presence of a river or canal used to mean economic prosperity for everyone who settled there. Water was an asset to trade and elevated the status of the city. Time for a comeback, as far as Seine Scheldt Flanders is concerned!

Over the years, many cities and municipalities have completely turned away from the water. The roads became king. But now the traffic jam is increasingly ruling us ...

This must and can be done differently, both for people and for the environment. That is why, thanks to the 'urban renewal' pillar, Seine Scheldt Flanders guarantees that cities and municipalities along the water, such as Kortrijk, Harelbeke and Menen, will once again be proud of their place next to a canal or river. Through the most beautiful bridges, the nicest banks, extra green zones... In short: we are giving waterways a central role in the city centre again by giving the entire area a new and attractive look. Worth exploring!

EVERYONE ON BOARD

SEINE SCHELDT FLANDERS
INVESTING IN A SMOOTH INLAND
WATERWAY CONNECTION WITH PARIS



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