THE NORTH SEA-RHINE-MEDITERRANEAN CORRIDOR ECONOMIC FORUM ON INLAND WATERWAYS

Boosting potential of IWW in the NSRM Corridor

12/10/2026 | Palais de la Bourse, Lille

Event Moderator: Bernard Piette | Managing Director, Logistics in Wallonia

09:00 - 09:30 **REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE**

Networking amont participants

09:30 - 10:00 **OPENING SESSION**

Welcome address

Prof. Paweł Wojciechowski | European Coordinator for the North Sea–Rhine–Mediterranean Corridor

Opening remarks

- **Xavier Bertrand** | President, Hauts-de-France Region
- **Jean-Gabriel Delacroy** | Secretary-General for Regional Affairs to the Prefect of the Hauts-de-France region

10:00 - 10:20 **STRATEGIC INTRODUCTION: INLAND WATERWAYS AS A KEY ELEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS IN EUROPE AND ALONG THE NSRM CORRIDOR**

Karin De Schepper | Director General, Inland Navigation Europe

10:20 - 10:50 **THE SEINE–ESCAUT PROJECT: A GAME CHANGER FOR THE NSRM CORRIDOR**

Developing the Seine-Escaut IWW network in France and Belgium

Gilles Ryckebusch | Director, Voies navigables de France (VNF) and Manager, Seine-Scheldt EEIG

Canal Seine-Nord Europe – closing a key missing link on the NSRM Corridor

Jérôme Dezobry | Chairman of the Executive Board, Société du Canal Seine-Nord Europe (SCSNE)

10:50 - 11:20 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:20 - 12:45 **PANEL N°1: FROM INFRASTRUCTURE TO MARKET: HOW TO TURN INFRASTRUCTURE INTO ACTUAL CARGO FLOWS? BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE NSRM CORRIDOR**

Moderator: Prof. Paweł Wojciechowski | European Coordinator for the North Sea–Rhine–Mediterranean Corridor

Keynote Speaker

Cécile Avezard | Director General, Voies navigables de France (VNF)

Panellists

- **Piet Dewitte |** Business Developper, Canal Roeselare-Leie
- **Eloi Flipo** | Head of Modal Shift Service, Voies navigables de France
- **Theresia Hacksteiner** | Secretary General, European Barge Union (EBU)
- **Stéphane Jaumot** | President of WALPORTS and Managing Director of EUROPORTS INLAND TERMINALS
- **Raf Van Dijck** | President, Contargo North France

12:45 - 14:15 **NETWORKING LUNCH**

14:15 - 15:15 **PANEL N°2: PORTS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES ALONG THE NSRM CORRIDOR**

Moderator: Pim Bonne | Flemish Ministry of Mobility and Public Works

Panellists

- **Turi Fiorito** | Director, European Federation Of Inland Ports (EFIP)
- **Claire Merlin |** Chair, French Association Of Inland Ports (AFPI) and Managing Director, Port Of Strasbourg
- **Arnaud De Chirée** | Chief Executive Officer, TMF Group
- **Christelle Kozak |** Director, PACO

15:15 - 16:15 **PANEL N°3: CROSS-BORDER IWW COOPERATION ALONG THE NSRM CORRIDOR**

Moderator: Perrine Lavelle | Head of EU Affairs, Voies navigables de France

Panellists

- **Dr Marie-Eve Reinert |** Director, EGTC Rhine-Alpine
- **Hester Duursema |** Secretary General, Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)
- **Ferenc Szilagyi |** Managing Director, Ports de Lille
- **Godfried Smit |** Secretary General, European Shippers' Council (ESC)

16:15 - 16:30 **CLOSING REMARKS**

Filip Boelaert | Director General, De Vlaamse Waterweg

Prof. Paweł Wojciechowski | European Coordinator for the North Sea–Rhine–Mediterranean Corridor