

Press kit

**Launch of the European Ports Alliance Public-Private
Partnership
24 January 2024
Havenhuis, Antwerp**



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Agenda commented with press opportunities

24 January 2024: Launch of the European Ports Alliance Public-Private Partnership (Antwerp)

14:00 – 14:40	Arrival of press representatives <i>Zaha Hadidplein 1, 2030 Antwerp</i>
15:00 – 16:00	Arrival to the Antwerp Port Authority Building <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Handshake</u>• <u>Doorstep interviews</u>
16:00-16:30	<u>Keynote speeches</u> Accredited media will be able to follow the three keynote speeches, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Ylva Johansson, EU Commissioner- Ms. Annelies Verlinden, Belgian Minister of Interior- Mr. Jacques Hubert Vandermeiren, CEO of the Port of Antwerp
16:30 - 18:15	Launch of the European Ports Alliance Public-Private Partnership Not accessible to media
18:15	<u>Family photo</u>
18:30	<u>Press Conference</u> Accredited media will be able to attend the press conference with the Belgian Minister of the Interior, Annelies Verlinden and European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson. The press conference will also be broadcast on the official channels of the Belgian presidency.

Background information

The European Ports Alliance Public-Private Partnership

As set out in the EU roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime, the European Commission, in cooperation with the Belgian Presidency, intends to establish a European Ports Alliance to strengthen the resilience of logistic hubs against the threats posed by organised crime. Based on a better understanding of existing gaps and vulnerabilities, the European Ports Alliance aims at mobilising the customs community to enhance risk assessments and targeted controls. Secondly, the Alliance aims to reinforce coordinated law enforcement investigations into the criminal groups behind large scale drug trafficking. Thirdly, a public private partnership will be set up, to help developing and implementing concrete actions against criminal infiltration in ports. The event under the Belgian Presidency on the 24th of January in Antwerp is the launch of the public private partnership. This partnership will bring together all relevant stakeholders in the EU to join forces.

Under the public private partnership, the Commission and the Belgian Presidency will bring together Member States, local authorities, law enforcement authorities, including customs, EU agencies, port authorities and private associations operating in the ports making use of their unique expertise and experience to jointly address concretely vulnerabilities to the ports' security. This partnership will provide for a platform to exchange strategic and operational information and to develop and support the implementation of best practices.

A reinforced cooperation between public authorities and private companies at regional and local level is already in place in some ports, such as in the Northern seaports of Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg. The proposed partnership does not aim at replacing existing cooperation mechanisms but builds on such cooperation elevating it to the European level where concerted action at EU level brings added value.

Website and sources

Website	www.belgium24.eu
WhatsApp	Join us on https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaFqS8T4yltFsRomvU2m
X	https://www.x.com/EU2024BE
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