



EUROPEAN ENERGY TRANSITION CONFERENCE 2019 : D-5 !

Dunkirk: an industrial and port area turned towards innovation, which has succeeded in taking up the energy transition challenge!



DUNKIRK: STRONG LOCAL INDUSTRIAL AND PORT DYNAMICS

Dunkirk is intimately linked to the sea. A fishing port, a commercial port, an industrial port, a Cross-Channel port, a marina... over the course of time, the economic and social life of the area has been shaped by the successive development of these various sectors of activity. The 3rd ranked French seaport, the 9th ranked port in the Northern Range which extends from Le Havre to Hamburg, the leading energy platform in Europe, Dunkirk, at the heart of a conurbation of 17 communes and 200,000 inhabitants, combines an industrial tradition with a port tradition.

Located only 90 minutes sailing time away from the busiest sea passage in the world, and thanks to an advantageous geographical situation opposite Great Britain, in contact with the Benelux and industrial and agricultural North West Europe-, Dunkirk is a privileged platform for freight consolidation and deconsolidation in Europe. In 2017 the port of Dunkirk thus accommodated 6,383 ships and thereby transited 50.4 million tonnes of goods.

Thanks to these numerous assets, the big names in industry have chosen to set up in Dunkirk. The Dunkirk Urban Community therefore has major industrial clusters of groups of world ranking (Arcelor, Rio Tinto, Glencore Manganese, Comilog, Befesa Valera ...), associated with a fabric of high performance small and medium-sized industrial maintenance firms. In all there are XXX industrial firms employing XXX people. (??)

OVER 25 YEARS SINCE THE TRANSITION CHALLENGE WAS TAKEN UP

Since its creation 50 years ago, the Dunkirk Urban Community has pursued its ambition of offering its citizens an area where well-being and solidarity combine with sustainable industrial and port development, as testified by the drawing up of an Industrial Environment Scheme in 1993 and the signing of the Aalborg Charter of Sustainable European Cities and Towns in 1996.

The Dunkirk Urban Community has launched numerous pioneering initiatives: the 1st urban community in France to set in place selective sorting of waste (1989), the 1st also to endow itself with an air quality monitoring network (1976), to accommodate a very powerful wind farm (1996) or more recently the 1st to accommodate in its area a Power-To-Gas demonstrator for the development of Hydrogen. Dunkirk has on numerous occasions been rewarded for these initiatives as a whole – 1st European Sustainable Cities Prize in 1996 or Cit'ergie Gold label awarded by ADEME in 2013, repeated in 2018.

AN ENERGY HUB OF EUROPEAN DIMENSIONS

Dunkirk is today an energy hub of European magnitude. The Dunkirk area supplies the Hauts de France region (6 million inhabitants) with energy. Connected up with its European neighbours, exchanges take place in particular with the UK and Belgium. Among its installations, the area has:

- The leading European nuclear power station for the production of electricity in Gravelines, operated by EDF (9 % of the electricity of nuclear origin in France)
- The biggest methane terminal on the Continent of Europe (EDF, Fluxys, TOTAL) with a storage capacity representing 20 % of the annual consumption in France and Belgium.
- DK6: the leading combined gas cycle power station in France, operated by GDF SUEZ
- The landing of one of the biggest submarine gas pipelines in the world
- A wind farm operated by TOTAL, in particular the 1st installed in France in 1991
- The biggest French urban heating network installed on a recovery system for residual industrial heat, operated Dalkia
- Production sites for biofuels and an industrial pilot for second generation biofuels (BioTfuel)
- One of the biggest French strategic reserves of diesel oil and oil terminals with the Total Group's Côte d'Opale Oil Depot,
- The leading coal port in France

The Dunkirk Urban Community moreover supports major energy transition projects such as the establishment of an offshore wind farm near Dunkirk or again the project for a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) refueling station piloted by the Great Seaport of Dunkirk. It is also involved in two innovative projects linked to the possible applications of hydrogen:

- The GRHYD, (Management of Networks through the injection of Hydrogen to decarbonize the energies) project: demonstration of the use of hydrogen for transport and housing
- The hydrogen road: the development of the use of hydrogen electric and thermal vehicles, as well as the establishment of hydrogen service stations-.

In addition to these demonstrators, Dunkirk accommodates in its area the Regional Excellence Cluster ENERGIE 2020 and the Technological Institute of Refrigeration Innocold.

TO BE NOTED

Fortified by its industrial and port history and its capacity to innovate, the Dunkirk area has officially been selected for the «Innovation Area with a Great Ambition »(TIGA) national call for projects launched by the Government and could be one of the winners of the national development support package, intended for French industrial areas, provided for in the National Plan national for the digital transformation of industry.

>> To find out more during the Energy Transition Conference, go to the co-organizers stand or the stand dedicated to « Dunkirk – Innovation Area with a Great Ambition, TIGA » In the Exhibition Hall of the Kursaal – Convention Centre.