



The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme



European Union  The European Regional Development Fund

PRESS RELEASE

European Food Port Project officially launched Edinburgh 29-11-2010

The European Food Port project will be launched officially in Edinburgh on Monday, November 29th 2010. This transnational project aims to optimize and coordinate food logistics chains in the North Sea Region. 14 partners are collaborating in the project: regional authorities, ports and knowledge institutions from Belgium, UK, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

The project wants to improve the accessibility and transport logistic systems of different food clusters in the North Sea Region. Food Port wants to strengthen the food industry by developing practical solutions, which enhance the efficiency and sustainability of logistic chains. For example, the potential of bundling certain transport flows; e.g. for fresh, chilled and frozen products, will be investigated. By doing this, a modal shift from road transport to more sustainable ways of transport; like rail, inland waterways or short sea shipping; can be obtained.

In addition, Food Port stimulates technological innovation in the food supply chains. Research will be undertaken to develop new packaging methods, which prolong the shelf-life of fresh products, like fish and shellfish.

The total cost of this project, which is lead by the West-Flanders Development Agency, is 4,4 million euro. The European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF) finances half of the project; the other half is co-financed by the project partners. The project started on September 1st 2010 and runs until 31st August 2013.

Project partners are the West-Flanders Development Agency, the Port of Zeebrugge, the Port of Oostende and VOKA – Chamber of Commerce West-Flanders (Flemish partners); South East Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran) and the University of Hull (UK partners); University of Southern Denmark, Port of Esbjerg, Port of Odense, Development Council of South Jutland (Danish partners); Port of Kristiansund and Nordmore (Norwegian partner); Region Västra Götaland, Chalmers University and Port of Göteborg (Swedish partners).

**The Food Port project is officially launched in Edinburgh on Monday, November 29th 2010
in the Royal Terrace Hotel, 18 Royal Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5AQ, UK.
A press moment is foreseen at 12.30 p.m.**

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