



European Parliament, Committee on Transport and Tourism

Public Hearing on the impact of Brexit on maritime transport

20th of February 2018

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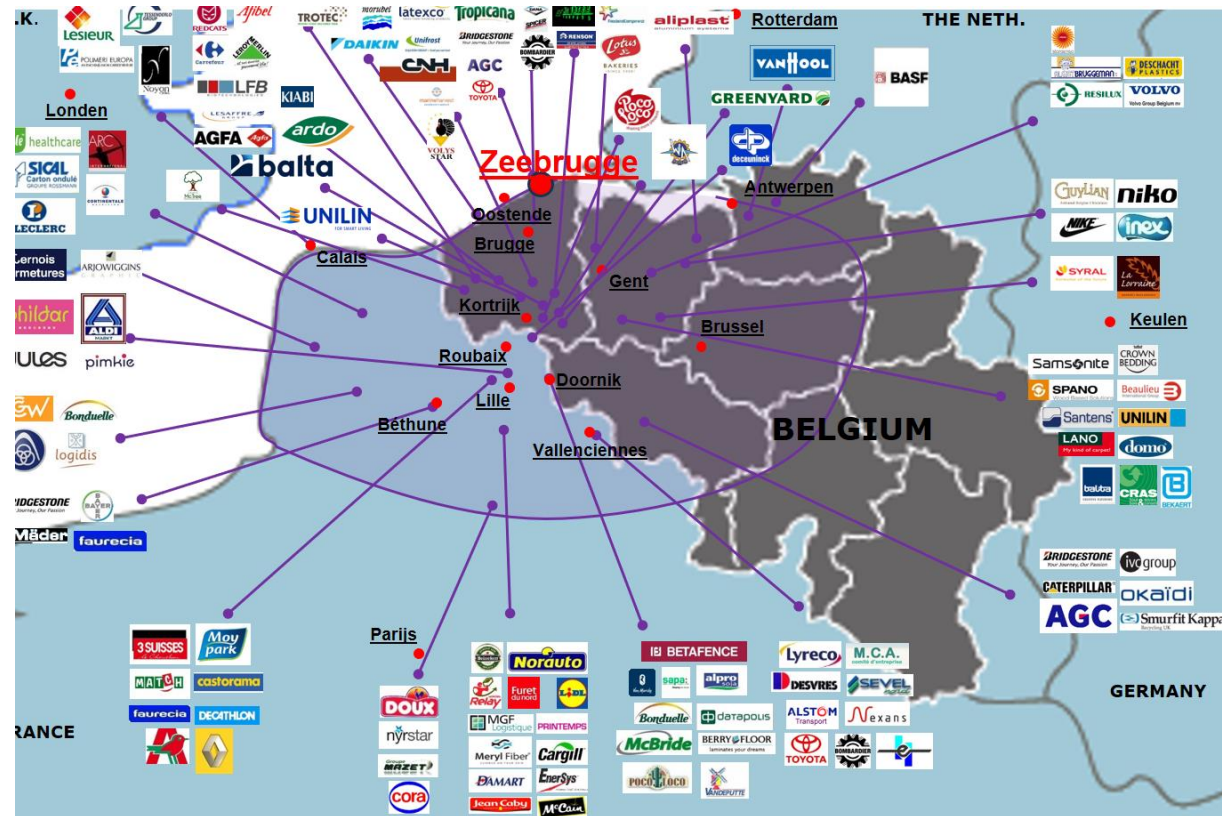
Historic link UK – Bruges



Now: intermodal hub and gateway for the EU market



From Europe to UK – via Zeebrugge: Belgium and neighbouring countries



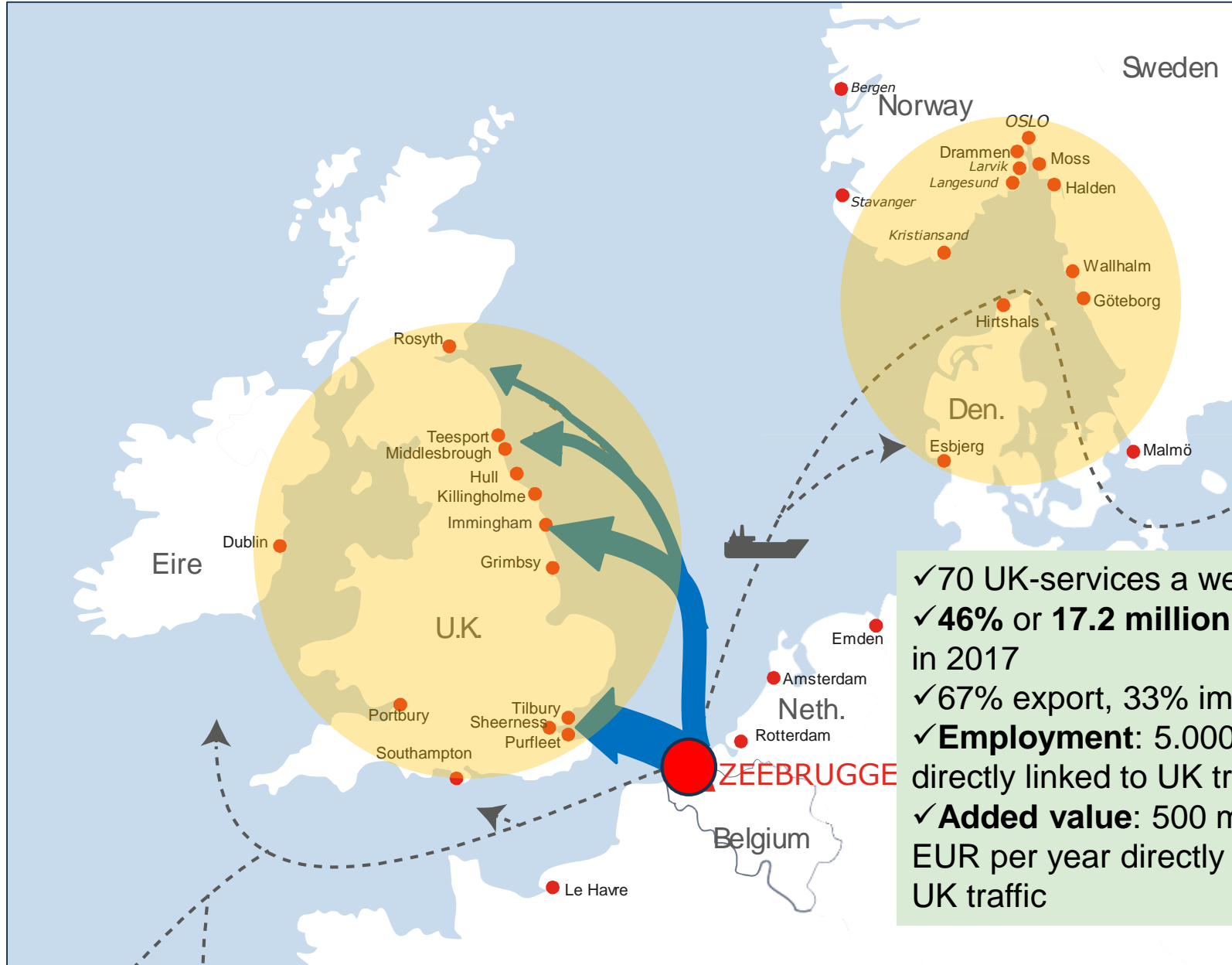
Main product categories:

- Textiles, floor carpets,...
- Food industry
- Automotive industry: new cars, components
- Pharmaceuticals and chemicals
- Synthetics
- Machinery

From Europe to UK – via Zeebrugge: By rail from many European countries

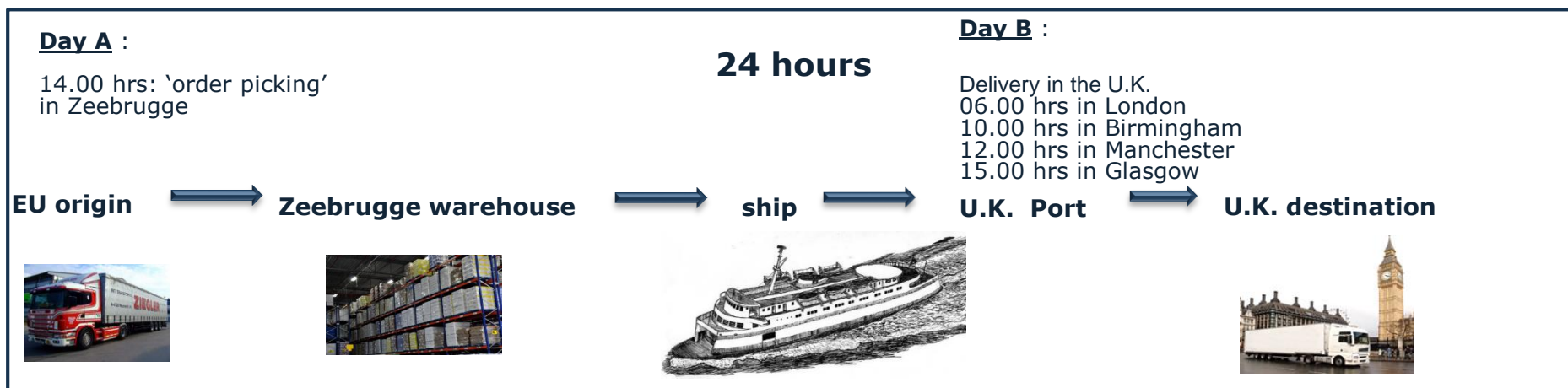


UK is our main trade partner. We provide tailormade solutions for all traffic to UK.



- ✓ 70 UK-services a week
- ✓ **46%** or **17.2 million tonnes** in 2017
- ✓ 67% export, 33% import
- ✓ **Employment:** 5.000 jobs directly linked to UK traffic
- ✓ **Added value:** 500 million EUR per year directly linked to UK traffic

Zeebrugge bridgehead for the U.K. distribution



- Well developed and high qualitative logistic chains
- JIT business models
- Impact soft or hard Brexit: customs formalities, veterinary checks, ...
- Advantage: mostly unaccompanied transport = time gain

WTO scenario – possible consequences

Cliff edge scenario: possible WTO duties

Passenger cars	10%
Car parts	4%
Orange juice	12 – 25%
Other drinks (incl water)	10%
Chocolate	8%
Carpets	8%

Impact on Belgian Economy:

	Belgische BBP	Belgische jobs
'hard Brexit'	- 2,35%	- 42.000 jobs
'soft Brexit'	- 0,58%	- 10.000 jobs

How do we prepare?

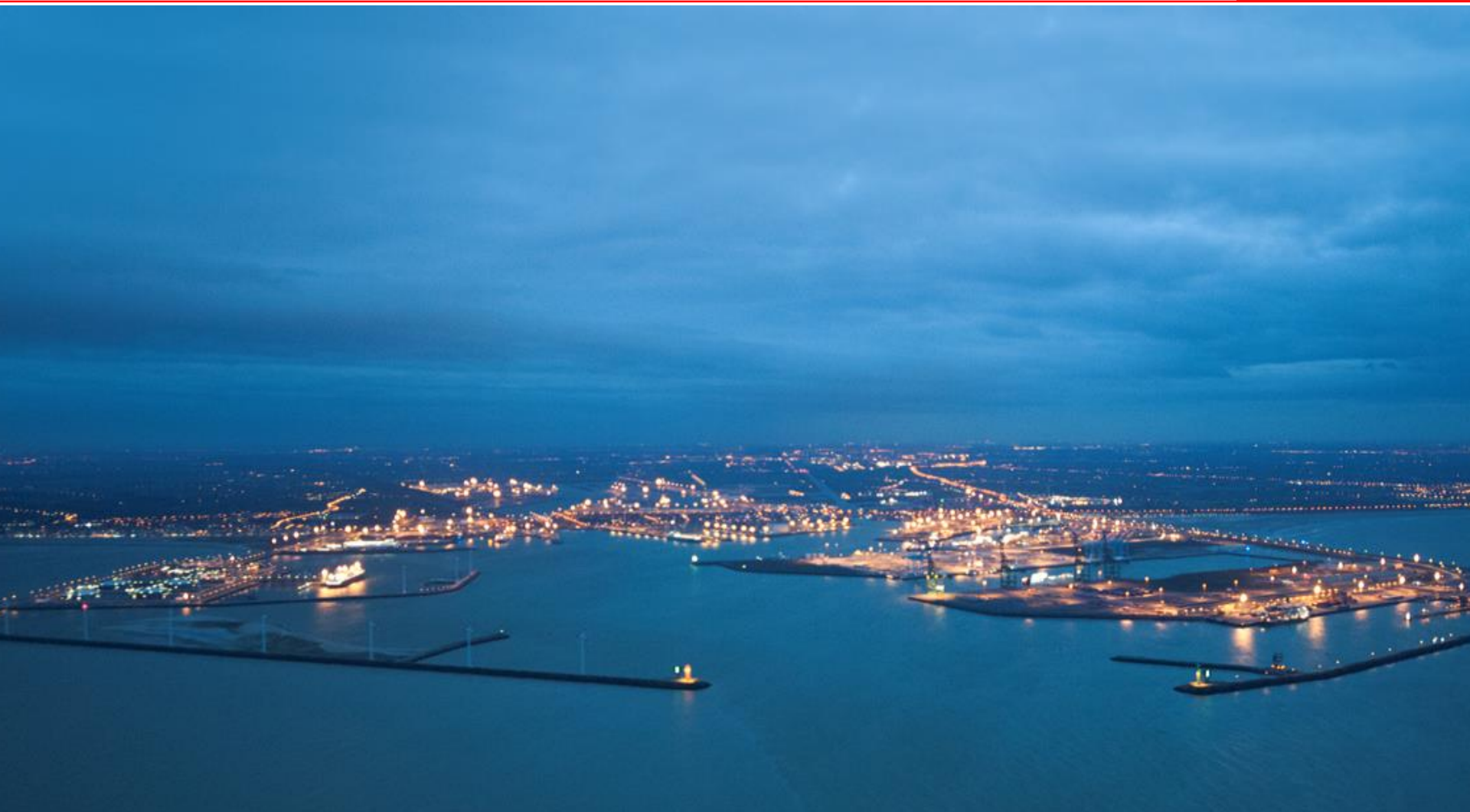
- Soft or hard Brexit: amount of customs declarations will increase sharply (estimation for Belgium: increase of export declarations +47%, import +14%). The Port Community of Zeebrugge intends to set up of a Central Information Platform to interconnect all players exchanging data.



- Contacts on different levels
 - F.ex. MoU with ABP

Main message

- Clarity about transition period is needed asap. Tackling uncertainty is a priority.
- A good and comprehensive trade agreement EU-UK is needed
 - Preserve current free movement of goods as much as possible.
 - Efficient and fast transit of - European and international - goods through the port should be guaranteed after Brexit
 - WTO scenario should be avoided (no import duties – minimal non-tariff barriers)
 - Port of Zeebrugge should be able to maintain its position as hub for new cars. Efficient solutions needed for:
 - New cars from 3rd country via transit to UK
 - Added value to new cars – no extra administrative burdens!
- EU and UK customs administrations need to start preparing and cooperating asap
- Facilitate/support initiatives of Port Authorities and companies to tackle possible consequences
- Future policy on transmigrants: cooperation necessary
- Ensure the level playing field for all EU27 (Sandhurst Treaty?)



THANK YOU