

FINAL PROGRAMME | THEMATIC WORKSHOP

24 JUNE 2026

Herman Teirlinckgebouw (Vlaamse overheid), Havenlaan 88, Brussels, Belgium

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT IN EUROPE'S ENERGY AND CIRCULAR TRANSITION

In partnership with the European Commission, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) carries out **regular market observation reports** about the development of inland waterway transport (IWT) in Europe. Its publications consist of annual, semestrial and thematic reports. In the context of its market observation activities, the CCNR also organises **thematic workshops**.

In this context, the CCNR is organising a thematic workshop on the topic “**Market opportunities for IWT in Europe's energy and circular transition**” on **24 June 2026** in Brussels (Belgium).

The objective of this workshop will be to **identify the challenges and opportunities triggered by the energy and circular transition**, in particular the new and promising markets which IWT could capture.

For this purpose, the workshop will address how the energy transition of energy intensive industries and ports,

as well as the development of new energy sources and means to reduce emissions could create new potential for IWT. In addition, with the promotion of the transition to a circular economy at European and national levels, there is a growing importance for the valorisation of waste and material reuse. In this framework, discussions will be held on the efficient logistics options IWT could offer, and more generally the role it could play in this system.

This workshop will also be the occasion to seek the **views of actors from different backgrounds**: stakeholders stemming from energy intensive industries (chemical and steel industries, construction sector), energy producers, transport operators, public authorities and ports.

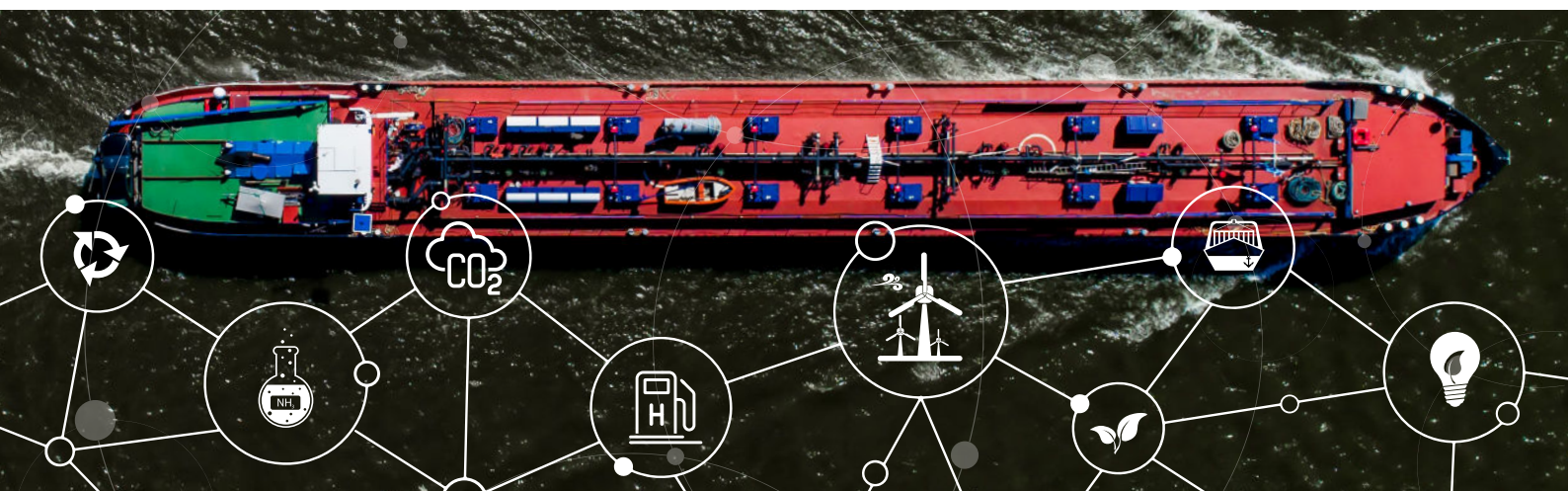
The workshop will be held in **English** and **exclusively on-site**.

There are only a few places left so do not hesitate to register using the following online form:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CCNRworkshop24062026>

Please respond to the invitation **before 10 June 2026**.

This invitation is not exclusive and may be shared with others.



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9:00 *Registration and coffee*

9:30 **Welcome address**

Willem Vuylsteke, Flemish department of Mobility and Public Works, Belgian commissioner to the CCNR

9:40 **Opening speeches**

Torsten Klimke, Head of Unit Inland Waterway Transport and Ports, DG MOVE

9:50 **Overview of the possible new/promising markets linked with the energy and circular transition**

Edwin van Hassel, Professor at the Department of Transport and Regional Economics, University of Antwerp

Presentation and Q&A

The energy and circular transition of energy intensive industries as an opportunity for IWT

10:10 **Case study 1: Perspective of the steel industry**

Daan Sabbe, Contract Manager, Barge, Outbound Logistics, Tata Steel Netherlands

Case study 2: Inland navigation and chemical energy transition: threat or strategic advantage?

Tanja Merckx, Logistics and Customs Advisor, Essenscia

Presentation and Q&A

11:00 *Coffee break*

11:30 **Case study 3: Perspective of the construction industry**

Pim van Baaren, Director, Van Nieuwpoort Group

Case study 4: Perspective of the cement industry: a focus on CO2 transport

Carlos Terres, Senior Manager for Strategy and Projects, CO2 Logistics, Holcim Group

Presentation and Q&A

The use of IWT for transporting energy related products

12:15 **Roundtable**

Moderator: Laure Roux, Administrator for economic affairs, CCNR Secretariat

Stanislas Demeestere, Policy Officer, Hydrogen Europe

Claudia Beumer, Founder C4 Fuel,

Jan Sebastian Donner, Project Manager Supply Chain Strategy & Optimization, Enercon

13:00 *Lunch break*

Challenges and opportunities from the point of view of IWT operators

14:00 **Case study 1: Changing dry bulk flows for IWT: perspective of NPRC**

Arno Treur, CFO, NPRC

Case study 2: Innovative IWT concepts enabling and supporting Europe's industry in decarbonization and the energy transition: perspective of HGK

Tim Gödde, Managing Director, HGK Shipping

Case study 3: Success conditions for capturing new markets: perspective of Sogestran

David Patron, Sales Director, fuels, chemicals & gases, Sogestran

Case study 4: New and growing market opportunities on the Danube: perspective of DDSG

Balazs Hlavacska, Managing Director, DDSG

Presentation and Q&A

15:15 *Coffee break*

Energy and circular transition projects at the level of ports and the role of IWT

15:45 **Roundtable**

Moderator: Turi Fiorito, Secretary general, EFIP

Janneke Pors, Senior Advisor Circular Economy, Port of Rotterdam

Alexander Garbar, Head of Corporate Development, Digitalization and Strategy, Port of Duisburg

Gerhard Gussmagg, Managing Director, Rhenus Donauhafen Krems

Gilles Decan, Program Manager Energy Transition, Port of Antwerp-Bruges

16:45 **Conclusions and closing speech**

17:00 *End of the workshop*

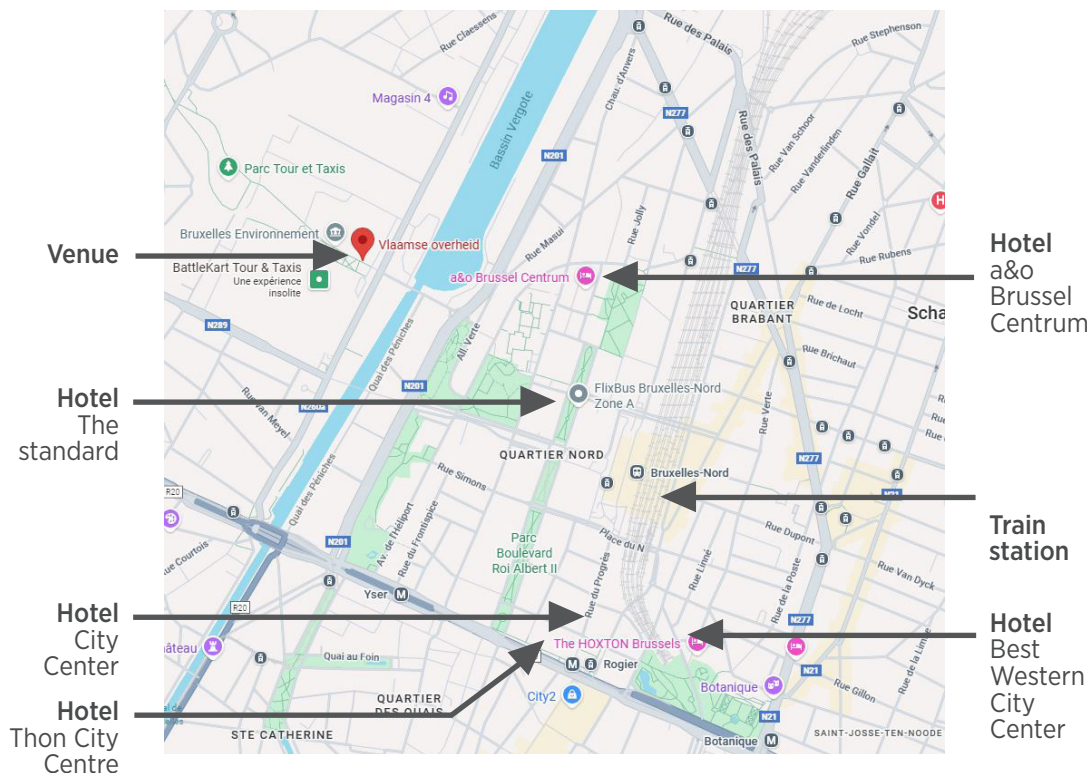
Hester Duursema, Secretary General, CCNR

PRACTICAL INFORMATION | THEMATIC WORKSHOP

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT IN EUROPE'S ENERGY AND CIRCULAR TRANSITION

Venue:

Herman Teirlinckgebouw (Vlaamse overheid)
Havenlaan 88 | 1000 Brussel



ACCESS & PARKING

Herman Teirlinckgebouw (Vlaamse overheid) is part of the “Tour & Taxis” site.

Please find more information about **how to access** “Tour & Taxis” and the venue via the following links:

<https://tour-taxis.com/your-visit/> (available in EN, FR, NL) or <https://www.vlaanderen.be/intern/werkplek/kantoor-en-gebouwen/gebouwen/overzicht-gebouwen/herman-teirlinckgebouw/van-en-naar-het-herman-teirlinckgebouw> (available in NL)

Information about **parkings** can be found here:

<https://tour-taxis.com/your-visit/#venir-en-voiture> and <https://www.interparking.be/nl/parkeren/brussel/zin/>

ACCOMMODATION

THE STANDARD, Bd. Roi Albert II 30, Brussels, <https://www.standardhotels.com/brussels/properties/brussels>

A&O BRUSSEL CENTRUM, Boulevard du Roi Albert II 44, Brussels, <https://www.aohostels.com/house/brussel-centrum/>

BEST WESTERN CITY CENTER, Sq. Victoria Régina 9, Brussels, <https://www.citycentre.be/fr/>

HOTEL CITY CENTER, Rue du Progrès 7, Brussels, <https://www.hotelcitycenter.be/>

THON HOTEL BRUSSELS CITY CENTER, Avenue du Boulevard 17, Brussels, <https://thonhotelbrusselscitycentre.be-belgium.com/en/>