

Dutch Fever

*T*hroughout the Netherlands' history, the sea did not drip – it drained – into Dutch culture. With this Netherlands-dedicated issue of *Ports & Shipping Industry*, you get to view the industry through the eyes of a Dutchman.

For centuries, the sea was a blessing and a curse in Holland. It made life, exploration and lucrative sea trade possible – but it also flooded the seaside country at will, sparking a fierce battle for land. The nautical nation pressed on with dikes and clever engineering. The country's language is even ingrained in the port world – English terms such as 'ship', 'dam', 'dock', 'dike' and even the word 'port' all come from Dutch.

This tangled past evolved into a lively port future. This issue features the ports within the region buzzing with innovation and sustainable efforts. The Port of Rotterdam made remarkable progress with higher than expected throughput growth this year. We detail the port's Maasvlakte 2 land reclamation project – which extends the Dutch coastline 3 km into the sea, a clear point of pride for the country.

In a port safety feature, security expert NEN gives an insightful analysis of Europe's plan to thwart shipping

terrorism. In a companion article, we uncover inspection specialist SGS' passion to not only detect faulty or unsafe goods, but also to check for social injustices, such as child labour. These companies, alongside many others in this issue, work hard to better the industry's sustainability, efficiency and social responsibility.

Port authorities and shipping companies are the backbone of the maritime industry – so if change and high standards take root here, the ripple effect will be powerful. I hope the Dutch knowledge from this issue floods you with resources for your own business. Word of caution, though – if you start to crave raw herring and feel the need to slip on some wooden shoes – you might have Dutch fever.

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Cover photo: The Port of Amsterdam is the fourth largest port in Europe and the largest petrol port in the world. The port's new bio-based activities prove she is more than just a pretty face. Photo Courtesy of Mirjam Terpstra. More on page 12.

Contents background photo: Zeeland Seaports, the Netherlands' third largest port, is known more for its chemical and bulk handling expertise than container business. However, the port authority has ambitious plans for a serious deepwater container port. Photo Courtesy of Dennis Vinkoert. More on page 20.



At Yellow & Finch Publishers, owners of Ports & Shipping Industry, we navigate the globe to bring back the latest maritime news. Find out what the 'Word on the Sea' is with Dennis Vinkoert.

The Beat Goes On

Yellow & Finch's Dennis Vinkoert in Vlissingen

Since I happen to live in Holland's ultimate sunshine province Zeeland – from the early seventies when I graduated from the Maritime Academy in Vlissingen – I consider myself an insider when it comes to port and terminal developments in the area. Every time I hit the road here in Zeeland, I face silhouettes of intense port activity on the horizon – no matter which direction I drive. This pulsating scene proves **Zeeland Seaports** really is an area where the beat goes on.

Ovet, for instance, recently opened a new quay in the Kaloothaven in East Vlissingen, which thrust Zeeland Seaports ahead as a bulk port. In

addition, the Dutch group **Supermaritime** is building a new breakbulk terminal in the Scaldiahaven port basin in Vlissingen. This terminal will add a flurry of new activity to Supermaritime's package of services. **Oiltanking Terneuzen** signed a contract with **Valuepark Terneuzen** for the extension of a jetty in the Braakmanhaven to welcome 275m long vessels. In addition, Vlissingen-based **Continental Stevedoring Company** secured fruitful deal, quite literally, that will increase throughput in the Zeeland ports by around 100,000 t – asserting a strong

position for fruit storage and handling.

Logistics service provider **Kloosterboer** reached an agreement with a number of container shipping companies – including **Maersk Shipping** – to start a reefer container depot in Vlissingen. The depot will operate under the name **Kloosterboer Container Logistics** at the Kloosterboer site in Vlissingen. In the container shipping world, Kloosterboer alone puts Zeeland on the map.

Just before I moved to the sunshine province, I heard the hit song 'The Beat Goes On' by Sonny and Cher. Back then, I would never have guessed that song would remind me

of the port activity here in Zeeland, but decades later, it does. With 35 million t transhipped annually, Zeeland Seaports is the Netherlands' third largest port and certainly tops my chart of fastest growing ports.

"...silhouettes of intense port activity..."

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