

DEURGANCKDOCK OPEN AROUND THE CLOCK DURING WEEKDAYS



20 March 2017 | Trucks coming to load or unload containers in the Deurganck dock in the port of Antwerp will also be able to call at night as of today (20 March 2017). The container terminals MSC PSA European Terminal (MPET) and DP World Antwerp Gateway, both located in the Deurganck dock, are due to extend their opening hours so that fetching or delivering containers by truck can carry on around the clock on weekdays. With this measure the operators seek to spread the flow of trucks on their terminals more efficiently.

Thanks to the extended working hours, quays 1700 (Antwerp Gateway) and 1742 (MPET) – the largest container terminals in the port of Antwerp – will be open non-stop from 0500 hours (Antwerp Gateway) and 0530 (MPET) on Monday morning to 0530 on Saturday morning.

More efficient truck flows

By operating around the clock in this way the terminals seek to increase their capacity and spread out their handling volumes. DP World Antwerp handles some 1700 trucks per day and MPET around 2600. Analysis has shown that the handling time at both terminals tends to get longer from 1100 onwards, with a peak at 1700. After 1900 the number of trucks drops considerably, and so calling later in the day yields significant time savings. Permitting deliveries and collections at night also will further extend this quiet period.

At MPET, Medrepair (S11) will also adopt the extended opening hours as of 1 April. Global Container Services, the empties depot for Antwerp Gateway, is holding back for the moment but is already open from 0500 to 2130. At Antwerp Gateway on the other hand the block stack (park 3 on quay 1700) will also be open around the clock so that trucks can call there for empty containers. Since the Customs desk will not be open at night, at least for the timebeing, it is very important for the necessary administrative arrangements for containers to be settled, such as pre-registration and clearance.

Mental shift

The initiative for the measure comes from the terminal operators, along with MSC, and is supported by the wider port community. However, in order to make a success of the 24/5 opening it is essential for everyone to cooperate. Support from the shippers and logistics service

providers is crucial, for example by also extending the opening hours of warehouses both inside the port and beyond it. It is hoped that shipping operators too will show more flexibility.

Therefore, on 15 March, the first Roundtable 24/5 took place on which various parties were present. During this Roundtable, bottlenecks for the 24/5 opening were determined and possible actions were discussed. There was a lot of support for the initiative, but discussion proved that a mental shift will be needed in order to make the extended opening hours a success. Supply chains are often set up during office hours, creating an additional burden on intensely used roads. In order to really make a change, cooperation is often a prerequisite. Therefore, all participants signed an memorandum of understanding in which they 'acknowledge to maximally support and facilitate the initiative by adjusting their own operations, and to promote the initiatives with customers, suppliers and other stakeholders'.

After six months, a first evaluation of the initiative will follow.

You can download the text of the MoU via the following link:

<http://www.havenvanantwerpen.be/transfer/file.php?fn=8Z4APerQ3DM57hE-Intentieverklaring.zip>

You can download a group photo of the signing via the following link:

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