

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STUDY TOUR
THURSDAY, 16th JUNE 2005**

PROGRAMME

It is proposed that the North Sea Commission 2005 General Assembly Economic Development Group Study Tour will investigate Zeeland's success in changing from a traditional agricultural and fishing area into a region with a modern, industrial, tourism and logistics based economy.

The Study Tour will investigate work that has been undertaken in Zeeland in

the implementation and development of policies for SMEs and innovation. Delegates will have the chance to meet and hear from successful local entrepreneurs. The Study Tour return journey will include a guided visit, by bus, to see the successful development of Zeeland's deep water ports. The Tour will include a visit to the location of the proposed new Westerschelde Container Terminal.



- 13:00 Depart by bus from the Golden Tulip West Duin Hotel, Vlissingen
Joost Douma, Project Leader for Zeeland Innovative Actions
Programme will be on the bus and accompany the group for the Study
Tour. He will give a description of the local economy and the agenda
for the afternoon.
- 13:30 Arrive at the Landlust Restaurant near Nieuwdorp.
Lunch served Restaurant Landlust Landlustweg 1
4455 TK Nieuwdorp tel: +31 113 61 25 89
fax: +31 113 61 27 26 email: info@landlust.nl
- 14:30- 15:15 **SMEs and Innovation in Zeeland**
Joost Douma, Project Leader for Zeeland Innovative Actions
Programme will give a talk on the policy for SMEs and Innovation
- 15:15- 15:45 **Meet the entrepreneurs**
Joost Douma will introduce 2 successful local entrepreneurs who have
been involved in the programme. Each will have approximately 15
minutes for their presentation and questions.
- 15:45- 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00 **Zeeland Seaports visit**
Depart from the Landlust Restaurant and return to the Hotel by bus via
the Zeeland Seaports - including a possible stop at the location of the
proposed new Westerschelde Container Terminal
- 17:00 Arrive at the Golden Tulip West Duin Hotel, Vlissingen

Note: Maximum number of delegates for the NSC EDG Study Tour will be 45
people (one bus required). Presentations will be in English.

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NOTES

The Zeeland Innovative Actions Programme

The European Commission has recently approved 2.4 million Euros for a regional programme of innovative actions for the region of Zeeland. The 'Zeeland Innovative Actions programme' aims to provide a concerted regional effort to give the area an extra impulse to create innovation and knowledge driven economic development, closing the gap with national innovation performance. The Innovative Actions programme also aims to turn ICT policy related to economic development into real action (with ICT used as a driver for growth and to help overcome geographical disadvantages).

Zeeland is a peripheral region with a relatively traditional production structure, an over-representation of very small non-innovative SMEs and relatively low levels of knowledge-driven and ICT focused activities. In the past five years, however, two substantial projects have been developed to provide an extra impulse to innovative growth in the region: 'Innovation in the Region' and the ICT-plan 'Bits and Bytes'. For more information visit:

www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/innovation/index_en.htm

Zeeland Seaports, Port Authority of Terneuzen and Vlissingen

Zeeland Seaports represents the ports of Terneuzen and Vlissingen, which rank among the best located deep-sea ports in North-Western Europe. Situated right in between Rotterdam and Antwerp on the Western Scheldt River, they provide an open connection to the North Sea, with a sailing time of about one hour only. Vessels up to 150,000 tons (capesize) with a draught of 16.50 metres can be accommodated.

Hinterland connections are excellent due to a congestion-free motorway network and the new Western Scheldt Tunnel which links directly with France, by-passing all congestion around Antwerp and Brussels. Moreover, there are comprehensive railway-tracks into Europe and various inland shipping and shortsea services, e.g. to the U.K. and Scandinavia.

Together, the two ports have an annual seaborne cargo turnover of 28 million tonnes, and an extra 25 million tonnes move in by barges. They are specialised in the (petro)-chemical and industrial sector, as well as in the logistical handling and distribution of a wide variety of cargoes like dry and liquid bulks, metals, cars, forest products, fresh produce, etc. In total the ports cover around 4,400 hectares. Terneuzen and Vlissingen are home to many leading multinationals, including Dow Chemical, Cerestar, Yara Sluiskil, Outokumpu, Total, Vopak, Petroplus, Pechiney, Thermphos and Atofina. For more information visit www.zeeland-seaports.com



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