



ANTWERP PORT AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

Collaboration agreement with Moroccan port cities

Port alderman Marc Van Peel and APEC-Antwerp/Flanders Port Training CEO Paul Verkoyen paid a working visit to the Moroccan port cities of Tangiers and Casablanca from 7 to 9 July. An important result of this visit was the signature of a collaboration agreement with the *Agence Nationale des Ports* (ANP). It was also agreed that representatives of the Tanger Med port authorities and the *Agence Spéciale Tanger Méditerranée* would visit Antwerp later this year to discuss further collaboration possibilities.

The first two days of the working visit were spent in Tangiers. This coastal city on the Strait of Gibraltar began construction of the Tanger Med port in 2002. The latter has been operational since 2007 and is now developing very rapidly. Construction of Tanger Med 2 began last month. With this expansion the port city will eventually have an annual handling capacity of 8 million standard containers. Marc Van Peel and Paul Verkoyen were given a guided tour of the port, with explanations about the infrastructure work being carried out. There were also meetings with representatives of various local authorities. Port companies in Antwerp will be able to follow up this meeting later this year, during the trade mission to Casablanca and Tanger Med planned for November.

On the last day of the working visit Marc Van Peel and Paul Verkoyen visited the port city of Casablanca, farther to the South. There they met among others a deputation from the *Agence National des Ports*, an umbrella organisation representing the Moroccan port cities. On this occasion a collaboration agreement was signed with ANP, in which among other things APEC-Antwerp/Flanders Port Training declared its intention of exchanging know-how more intensively with counterparts from the *Institut de Formation Portuaire*.

APEC-Antwerp/Flanders Port Training is a subsidiary of Antwerp Port Authority, and since 1978 has played an important role in transferring knowledge on all aspects of port activity. More than 9,300 people in all parts of the world have already made use of the standard seminars, tailor-made courses and study visits offered by the centre. So far 280 Moroccan alumni have followed courses at APEC-Antwerp/Flanders Port Training.

The working visit to Morocco was made possible by collaboration with the federal government's Directorate-General for Development Collaboration and Belgian Technical Cooperation.

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