

## Abstract

One of the strengths of the port of Antwerp is the size of its hinterland. With the development of intermodal, the transport corridors and the strengthening of its links with the hinterland, Antwerp's influence extends beyond Flanders and Belgium. But how far does this hinterland extend? Does it extend to Paris?

Part of the French economy's export flows are captured by Antwerp. The Antwerp port's sphere of influence extends to the north of France and as far as the Ile-de-France region and competes with Le Havre in container transport. Indeed, despite its advantageous position on the Seine estuary, which links it to Paris, the Norman port is lagging in certain areas such as modal shift which makes it less competitive.

However, the construction of the Seine-Nord Europe Canal and its opening in 2030 could boost inland waterway transport in Ile-de-France and benefit to French and Belgian ports.