

# Press Release

22 April 2024

## **HGK Shipping launches its Belgian business under a new flag**

**Duisburg.** The business activities of HGK Shipping in Belgium have been operating under a new business name – HGK Logistics Antwerp BV – since April. The company, which is being managed by Dirk Verstraeten and Simon Lucas, will fulfil customer requirements, particularly in the tanker shipping sector, and also offer logistics services at the extremely busy Port of Antwerp-Bruges, which is an important business centre for the HGK Group. The newly named company has its office located on the Campus Lt. Coppens, which is very close to the seaport in Antwerp, and it is gradually aiming to become a valuable partner for industry and therefore improve production supplies and deliveries of goods to Hinterland destinations.

On the one hand, the Port of Antwerp-Bruges is planning to reorganise its operations at its terminal structures as part of the energy revolution – for example, by providing extensive storage capacity for hydrogen or its derivatives. On the other hand, the world's second-largest chemicals port still offers a great deal of potential for Hinterland traffic services using inland waterway vessels – and not least for transport services to top-performing German business regions. The managers of the renowned inland waterway shipping company believe that there is a great deal of growth potential for HGK Logistics Antwerp in these fields. The company is building on the shipping company activities previously provided by Navitank in Belgium and is aiming to further expand them in future.

“We're using the sale of our holding in DGA Shipping BV to reorganise our operations and we want to continue to play an important role in an attractive market such as Belgium. We're offering our regular customers an extensive range of services for logistics tasks locally and transport services to Hinterland destinations from this central hub for European cargo handling. Our new office is a clear expression of our strong commitment both to the Port of Antwerp-Bruges and our aspiration to integrate sustainable supply chains along inland waterways to and from the major North Sea ports even more strongly into the mix of modes of transport in our business activities within the HGK Group,” says Steffen Bauer, the CEO of HGK Shipping.

Dirk Verstraeten, who has moved from DGA Shipping to HGK Logistics Antwerp, and Simon Lucas, who has already been shouldering responsibility at the inland shipping company “Royal” Wijnhoff & Van Gulpen & Larsen B.V. (Wijgula), are the managing directors of the newly organised HGK Shipping subsidiary. While Simon Lucas will largely manage the tanker shipping activities, Dirk Verstraeten brings with him many years of expertise in chemical logistics – particularly for those kinds of business, where HGK Logistics Antwerp acts as the port agent for shipping companies and their customers from all over the world.

#### Photos:



**Caption:** With Managing Directors Simon Lucas (left) and Dirk Verstraeten (right), HGK Shipping will be driving its Belgian business forward under the name HGK Logistics Antwerp BV. The new office is located very close to the seaport in Antwerp. (Source: HGK Logistics Antwerp BV)

#### Contact details:

Would you like some more information? You can contact the HGK spokesperson, Christian Lorenz, on +49 221 / 390 11 90 or send an e-mail to: [lorenz@hgk.de](mailto:lorenz@hgk.de).

#### About the HGK Group:

Häfen und Güterverkehr Köln AG (HGK) is the logistics company within the City of Cologne's public utilities group. Formerly just a port operator, HGK has developed into a group that provides integrated transport and logistics services with operations across Europe. Structured in five divisions, Logistics & Intermodal, Shipping, Rail Operations, Infrastructure & Maintenance and Real Estate, the HGK Group operates the largest inland waterway port network in Germany, one of the largest private railway companies for transporting cargo, specialist logistics firms and terminals as well as its own railway network and workshops for railway goods traffic through its subsidiaries and holding companies. HGK Shipping GmbH is the largest inland waterway shipping company in Europe.

**About the HGK Shipping division:**

HGK Shipping is part of Häfen und Güterverkehr Köln AG. Its fleet comprises about 350 vessels, including owner-operated ships. The spectrum of goods transported ranges from liquid chemical products and liquefied gases to dry goods and even break-bulk cargo.