

# Welcome to the Joint Annual Conference 2011!

The event is the main annual event of the North Sea Region Programme and the North Sea Commission. It is arranged jointly by the two organisations. This year, the conference is hosted by the Province of West Flanders.

The Joint Annual Conference 2011 aims to position the North Sea Region in the developing visions for 2020 and deliver input to the ongoing discussions on future cooperation and negotiations for the next programming period.

## Perspectives for the Future of the North Sea Region

The Europe 2020 strategy launched last year is an initiative to lift Europe out of the economic crisis and introduce long-term structural changes that will secure future growth and tackle urgent environmental and social challenges.

Each European region should identify the actions that will give the greatest gain for the funding invested and

make a real contribution towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. General initiatives will need to be adapted to the situation in the North Sea area and need to be coordinated with ongoing activities. The conference aims to collect input from politics, academia and current projects in order to map out the main needs for future cooperation.

## Future Cafés

*The workshop sessions are organised around six themes:*

**Innovation - Climate change - Maritime resources  
- Transport - Communities - Sustainable tourism**

*Speakers will provide a snapshot of some of the main trends relevant to each theme.*

*The main part of the sessions will be given over to participants discussion, focusing on:*

- the role and content of strategy for the North Sea Region
- the outline of a new research agenda for the region
- a coordinated approach towards policies
- the role of future transnational cooperation

The aim is to try and build consensus on the relevance of new developments and their potential impact on the North Sea Region, areas for activity in future and potential actors at local, regional, national and EU level.

## Project Exhibition

A number of current projects under the Programme will exhibit their work, results and outcomes in the luncheon area of the venue.

### Study Tours

**Departure time: 13.30  
Back in Bruges: 17.30**

The study tours will introduce participants to some of the regional development actions currently underway in the Flemish region of Belgium. The tours are

thematically linked to the Future Café sessions on the second day of the conference and will provide background and inspiration for the workshop discussions.

Participants are asked to attend the study tour connected to the Future Café they signed up for in the registration.

### Transport

The transport group will visit the Port of Zeebrugge, the second largest port in Belgium. The port of Zeebrugge is a young seaport with modern equipment suitable for the largest vessels. The port has become one of the most important entry ports for the European market in only a few decades.

The Port of Zeebrugge is very active in European programmes, including Interreg, Marco Polo and TEN-T Motorways of the Sea. During the visit, the local activities in the ongoing Interreg IVB North Sea projects Food Port and Dryport will be shortly presented. After the presentations a tour of the outer port of Zeebrugge will be made by bus.

### Climate

The study tour on climate change will take the participants to site visits at the Port of Oostende and Greenbridge Incubator and Science Park, visiting a number of different organisations and businesses that have helped to transform the port and vitalise the science park and which have climate change aspects in focus.

The Port of Oostende, situated in Europe's busiest maritime area, is a versatile shortsea shipping port, accommodating all types of coastal maritime traffic. The port has recently been modernised in both infrastructure and organization.

Greenbridge is the West Flemish science park of Ghent University, located in the outer port of Oostende.

### Innovation

The study tour on innovation will feature multi-media presentations of projects and the region - Smart Cities, E-Clic and Howest - and a guided tour of the Week of Design in Kortrijk.

The Week of Design is the biggest exhibition of creations by graduates from design programs within Flanders. A mix of lectures and networking events bring design education and industry together in one location. Virtual design, marketing and communication are also part of the picture.

### Communities & Sustainable Tourism

The study tour on communities and sustainable tourism will visit the popular area around Knokke-Heist, near the Dutch border and Vuurtorenweide, a natural landscape area.

between the creation of exclusive holiday accommodations and second houses and the need to provide affordable housing for permanent residents.

The tour to Vuurtorenweide will include a visit to the High Lighthouse in Heist – a century old lighthouse which is now a tourist attraction. The tour will explore the tensions between conservation of the natural habitat and cultural heritage, and the interest to expand tourism.

### Maritime Resources

The study tour on maritime resources will include visits to Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) and the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO).

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) is the coordination and information platform for marine scientific research in Flanders. It is a focal point for marine and coastal-related research and serves as an international contact point.

At the ILVO the visitors will be given a tour of the premises and an introduction to the work of the institute.



Pre-Conference:

**NSC Meeting**

Provincial Court:  
Markt 3, Bruges

**Reception 21 june**

City Halls:  
Burg 12, Bruges

**Dinner 21 june**

Brewery De Halve Maan:  
Walplein 26, Bruges

Conference:

**Congress Center**

Oud Sint-Jan:  
Zonnekenmeers, Bruges

**Dinner 22 june**

Stadshallen:  
Markt 7, Bruges

**Day 1** Wednesday  
22 June

**08:30** Registration and Get Together  
in the exhibition area

**09:30** **PLENARY SESSION – Part 1**  
Welcome and introduction

**Bart Naeyaert**, Member of the Provincial  
Executive of the Province of West-Flanders  
**Bernard De Potter**, Administrator General  
of Enterprise Flanders  
**Christian Byrith**, Head of Secretariat,  
North Sea Region Programme  
**Gunn Marit Helgesen**, President,  
North Sea Commission

**Future European cohesion policy**  
**José Palma Andres**, European Commission,  
Directorate General for Regional Policy

**10:45** Coffee break in the exhibition area

**11:30** **PLENARY SESSION – Part 2**  
The North Sea Region from an  
international perspective

**Regional strategies**  
**Annelie Stark**, Vice-Chair of the Committee  
of the Regions Intergroup North Sea – English  
Channel, Region Västra Götaland, Sweden

**Discussion round: The North  
Sea Region in 2020**  
Moderated by Christian Byrith

**12:30** Lunch in the exhibition area

**13:30** **STUDY TOURS**

- Innovation
- Climate change
- Maritime resources
- Transport
- Communities and sustainable tourism

**19:00** Dinner

Pre-conference  
activities

Tuesday 21 June

**09:00 – 13:00** NSC Annual Business Meeting  
– NSC members only

**14:00 – 17:00** NSC Executive Committee  
Meeting  
– NSC members only  
Venue: Provincial Court

**13:45 – 17:00** NSRP 7th Call Seminar and  
Partner Search  
Venue: Oud Sint Jan  
Conference Centre

**19:00** Joint dinner

**Day 2** Thursday  
23 June

**09:00** **FUTURE CAFÉS**  
– Parallel thematic sessions

- Innovation
- Climate change
- Maritime resources
- Transport
- Communities
- Sustainable tourism

**10:30–** Coffee break in the  
**11:00** exhibition area

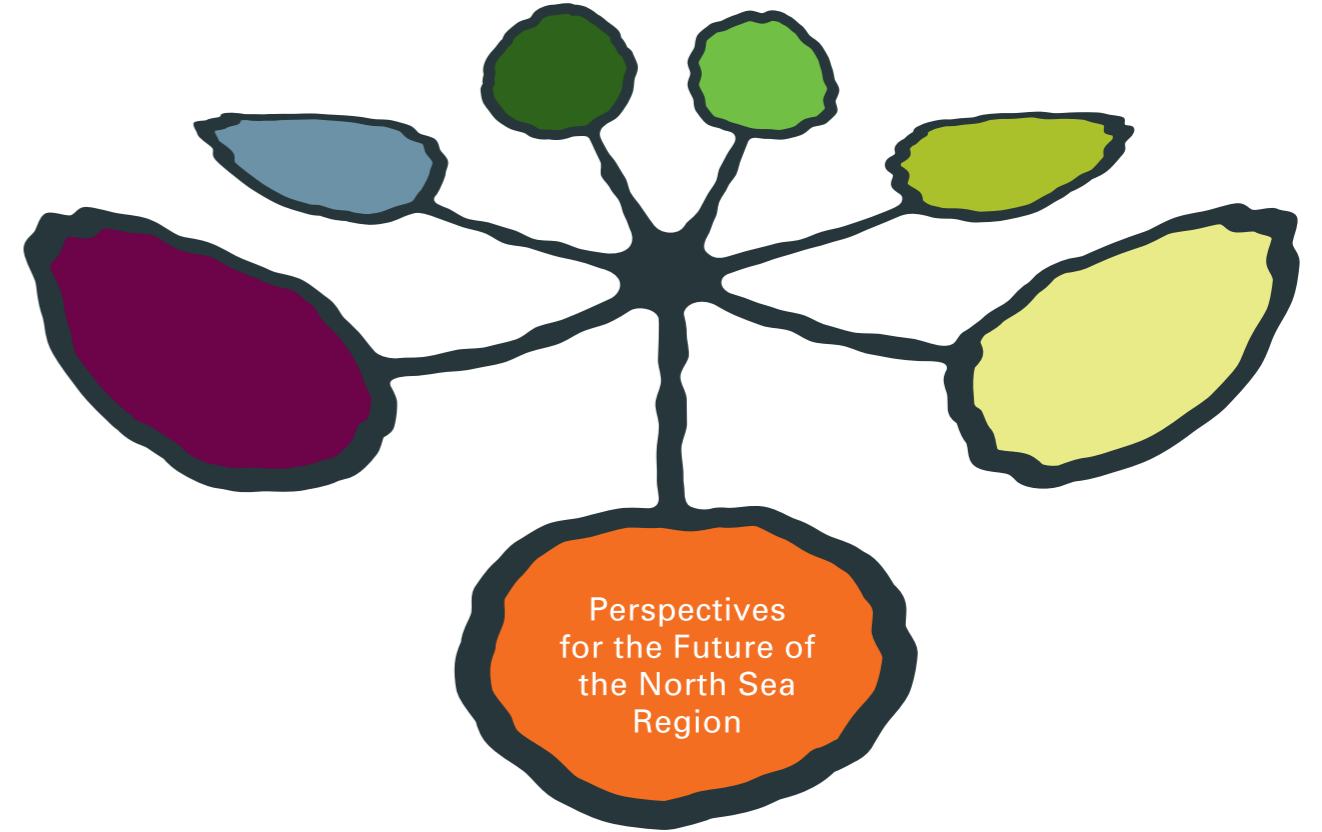
**13:00** Lunch in the exhibition area

**14:00** **FINAL PLENARY SESSION:**  
Key Challenges and Opportunities  
for the North Sea Region until 2020  
– Presentation and discussion of  
outcomes of Future Café Sessions  
Moderated by Gunn Marit Helgesen,  
President, North Sea Commission

**15:00** End of conference

[www.northsearegion.eu](http://www.northsearegion.eu)  
[www.northseacommission.info](http://www.northseacommission.info)  
[www.west-vlaanderen.be](http://www.west-vlaanderen.be)

The Conference has been arranged with logistic support of the City of Bruges.



JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

22–23 JUNE 2011 BRUGES, BELGIUM



The North  
Sea Region  
Programme  
2007–2013

