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## HAROPA – Port of Le Havre: 500 years of history serving the future!



From 1517 to the present day, the port of Le Havre has always been a gateway to the world. Created by François 1, in particular to meet the new outlooks for international trade, it is the historical link with the Greater Paris area. Today more than ever, it participates in the development of the Seine valley. Through the HAROPA alliance, it ranks 5<sup>th</sup> among the major North-European ports ... Here is a review of a past leading us to the future.

### 1517: Birth of a harbour

On 7 February 1517, visionary King François 1 ordered the creation of a haven (hence the city's name) to protect all the warships and merchant ships he had ready to conquer the world. The port developed over the centuries. As sea trade grew, the docks increased in number, size and depth, before moving away from the city centre.

- **1884:** creation of Vauban Docks: 285,640 sq. m of covered floor area are built
- **1887:** opening of the river basin that connects the port of Le Havre to Tancarville
- **1909:** inauguration of the ferry terminal of the Escale dock to berth the new Transatlantic liners
- **1926:** construction by the Compagnie Industrielle et Maritime of a dock to berth the first tankers

By 1930, the oil age enabled the development of new port activities. In WWII, after D-Day, the city was razed by allied bombing. It was then completely rebuilt.

### 1966/2000: the container revolution

Since the 20s, goods were loaded into "frames", the ancestors of the containers, used by trains, trucks and horse-drawn carriages. In 1956, under the leadership of an American contractor, containers first appeared.

As globalization has slowly taken place, the revolution caused by containers to shipping has permanently changed the port...

In Le Havre, the priority is to promote industrial development of the port, allow its adaptation to new cargo handling techniques, and cope with the increase in capacity of oil supertankers.

- **1959:** Opening of Tancarville Bridge ... A new solution for crossing the Seine
- **1966:** first unloading of a container ship in the port of Le Havre: McLean, an American road haulage company had the idea of putting boxes of the same size from its trucks onto the decks of old tankers (containerization was born)
- **1968:** opening of the Atlantic Terminal, the 1<sup>st</sup> container terminal in Le Havre,
- **1971:** commissioning of the François 1 Lock : the largest in the world (643,000 m<sup>3</sup>)
- **1976:** inauguration of the port of Antifer at the same time as the maiden voyage of the *Batillus*, a super-tanker of 550,000 tonnes deadweight. The event was nicknamed "Giants Day"
- **1994:** launch of the Port 2000 project to berth the world's largest container ships

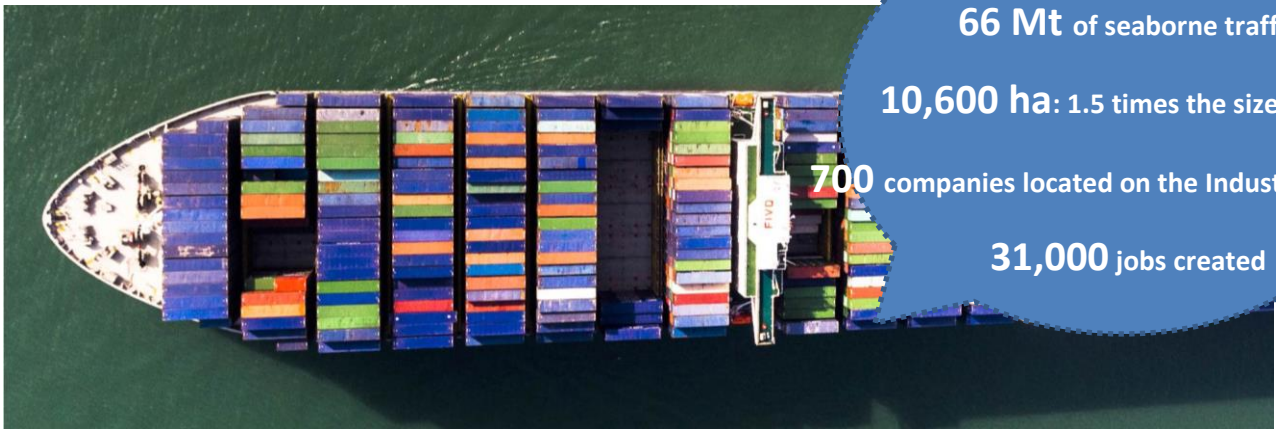
## 2017 and the future ... A Great European port

With all of these developments, Le Havre retains its position as a strategic port. Over and above its local relevance, Le Havre is the leading French port for foreign trade. Since 2012 it has been part of the HAROPA alliance uniting the ports of Le Havre, Rouen and Paris. Connected worldwide thanks to international shipping services, this strategic alliance has now become the largest port complex in France and the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in Europe. The three ports of the Seine corridor are now all on the same heading.

- **2006:** inauguration of Port 2000
- **2008:** French Port reform: The Port of Le Havre becomes a 'Grand Port Maritime' (Main Seaport)
- **2012:** creation of HAROPA, the acronym resulting from Le Havre, ROuen, PARIS, but also the "HARbours Of Paris"

### 500 After its creation, HAROPA - Port of Le Havre has become the ...

- **#1 container port for foreign trade in France:** 2.5 million TEU
- **#1 port** worldwide for imports / exports of wines and spirits: 1 billion bottles a year
- **# 1 French port** for imports / exports of new vehicles
- **#2 supply port** for crude oil for the French domestic market: 40% of French imports
- **#5 port in northern Europe** in terms of TEU



The Port of Le Havre means...

**66 Mt** of seaborne traffic

**10,600 ha:** 1.5 times the size of Paris

**700** companies located on the Industrial Port

**31,000** jobs created

It also means:

- **Connections to 600 ports** worldwide
- The only North-European port capable of berthing fully-loaded ultra large container carriers **24/7**
- **6,000 port calls / year** including 2,500 container ships
- 35 km of quays, 24 bridges, 150 km of roads, 200 km of railways

#### **About HAROPA**

*HAROPA, the 5<sup>th</sup> largest port complex in Northern Europe, is a joint venture between the ports of Le Havre, Rouen and Paris. It is connected to every continent owing to a first-rate international shipping offer (linking 600 ports worldwide). It serves a vast hinterland the centre of which is the Seine valley and the Paris region which together form the biggest French consumer marketplace. With around 10 Normandy and Paris area partner ports, the "one-stop" hub now forms in France a global transport and logistics system, capable of providing a comprehensive end-to-end service. HAROPA generates sea and river traffic of over 120 million tons each year. HAROPA business represents 160,000 jobs.*

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