

2024

Union des Ports de France :

**European
priorities**

29



Tackling climate and environmental challenges

Contributing to a safe, smart, efficient and sustainable supply chain

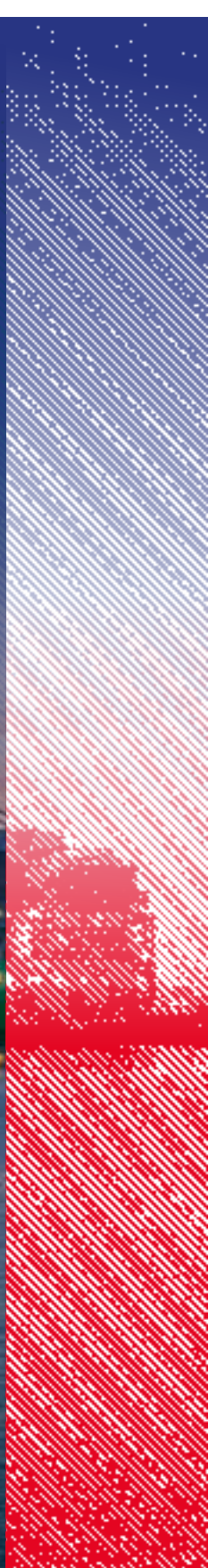
Strengthening strategic industrial and energy autonomy

Guaranteeing sufficient financial resources



**FRENCH
PORTS**

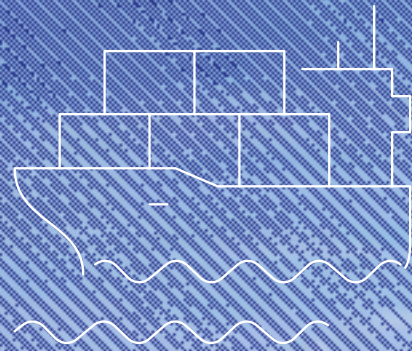
UNITED IN A CHANGING WORLD





Ports, sustainable drivers of the European economy

A port is a set of infrastructures that allows cargo or passenger ships to berth safely. It is also an authority that organises the services expected by the shipowner and implement security measures as well as a value-creating ecosystem that contributes to the French and European strategic autonomy. It is intertwined within an urban environment, an economic base and sensitive natural areas.



As **strategic infrastructure and true logistical, industrial, energy and digital** hubs, ports are at the crossroads of the ecological and energy transition and meet major challenges:



➤ They develop **platforms for logistics, energy and industrial activities** while taking into account urban planning and the environment.



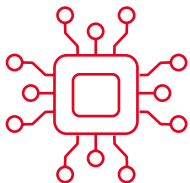
➤ They create **jobs** and **added value** for their territories and the European economy as a whole by hosting and supporting the development of an industrial and service ecosystem organised around large businesses and high-performance SMEs.

➤ They also embody **current and future challenges** facing the European Union.



- They are party to **decarbonation of maritime transport and value chains**.

- They are key players in **industrial strategic autonomy**, especially in relation to energy and ecological transition.



- They serve **as drivers of innovation** by integrating digital technologies and data to boost their economic, logistical, and environmental performance, all while enhancing resilience to climate change and ensuring security.

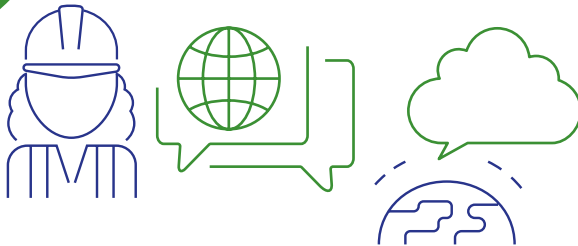


➤ As such, they contribute to the objective of **sustainable, smart and inclusive blue growth**, as well as **social, economic and territorial cohesion**

Tackling climate and environmental challenges



French ports make a critical contribution to the implementation of the EU's climate objectives for 2030, 2040 and towards carbon neutrality by 2050. They are developing a strategy to reduce air pollution and preserve the environment.



Union des Ports de France believes that the climate and environmental transition must be brought to the next level by:

- implementing the rules of the Green Deal, offering a **long-term vision** and **regulatory stability** to economic and institutional players in order to achieve the EU ambition from an operational point of view;
- taking into account the **voice of ports** and the **reality in the field** in the forthcoming implementation of the EU regulatory framework;
- **acknowledging the environmental responsibility of ports** which are fully committed to the protection of habitats in synergy with economic development. This can be delivered through dredging and a renewed approach to environmental compensation;
- getting strong support from public authorities **to adapt to the consequences of climate change.**



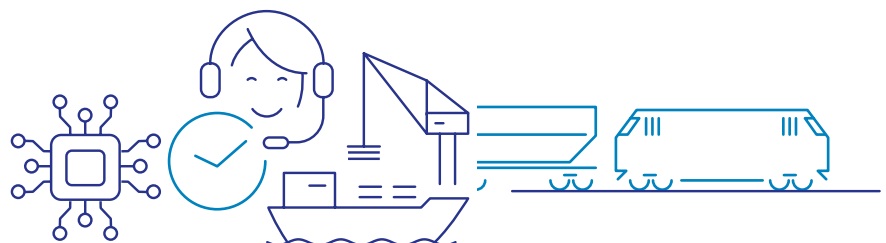
Contributing to a safe, smart, efficient and sustainable supply chain

French ports have demonstrated their core role in the EU supply chain and their ability to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic, since the beginning of the war in Ukraine and the crisis in the Red Sea. They are nodes in EU's transport networks.



Union des Ports de France:

- reaffirms the **strategic role of French ports** as a gateway to the European Union at the service of industries and territories;
- calls for the integration of **the ports of outermost regions** into the overall European transport policy, ensuring the development of logistics chains with mainland Europe and within their geographical areas at the service of the overseas economies;
- encourages the EU to further develop **multimodal logistics**, especially within the Greening Freight Package introduced in 2023, by endorsing the shift from road transport to rail, inland waterway, and short-sea shipping for both pre- and post-shipment movements;
- supports **synergies and complementarities** over heightened competition among ports and transport modes, advocating for a holistic approach to transport policy development;
- calls on the EU to massively support the **development of Smart Ports**, both in its Research and Innovation policy and in the large-scale digitalisation in ports.



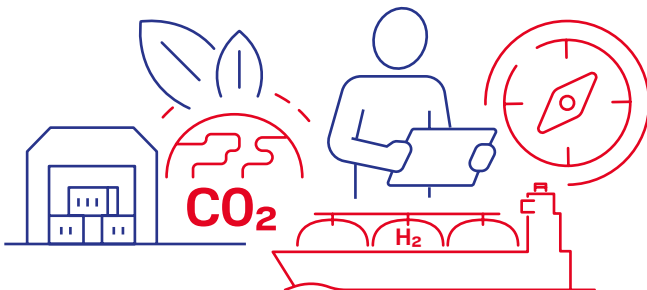
Strengthening strategic industrial and energy autonomy



The recent crises have been a wake-up call for the European Union: it is now acting swiftly to guarantee its strategic autonomy in the industrial and energy fields. French ports play a central role in this strategy. Their transformation towards a low-carbon economy focused on low-carbon and renewable energies is essential. At the forefront of industrial revolutions, they pave the way to a more sustainable and resilient future.

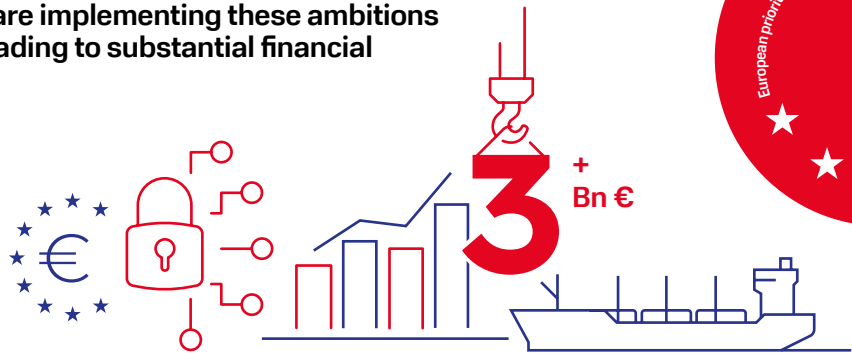
Union des Ports de France:

- calls for prioritising ports for the development of **low-carbon industrial facilities** based on specific land development, efficient infrastructure and access to the quay open to the world;
- recalls that ports are production, storage and transport hubs of **low-carbon energies and energy carriers**;
- therefore calls for ports to be fully integrated into the **Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E)**, in particular for hydrogen and carbon;
- advocates a concerted approach to maintain the **land capacity of ports** in order to meet all low-carbon mobility, logistics and industry needs.



Guaranteeing sufficient financial resources

French ports are due to invest more than €3 billion between 2023 and 2027. The Green Deal is a tipping point for the European Union's ecological and energy transition. Ports are implementing these ambitions on the ground, leading to substantial financial requirements.



Union des Ports de France calls for:

➤ Boosting the European budget, with a priority to the Connecting Europe Facility, Horizon Europe, LIFE, the Innovation Fund, the ERDF and the EMFF, vital for backing port projects. (infrastructure, multimodality, land preparation for reindustrialisation, etc.).

- Not substituting grants **with financial instruments**;
- Reviewing the regulatory framework of **the ERDF and the EMFF** to enable port modernisation and improve local population's quality of life (noise, pollution, CO2, etc.).

➤ **Dedicated funding solutions** for port resilience, including to:

- **Adapt to climate change**;
- Ensure **safety and security**;
- Back the **European Port Alliance against drug trafficking** and implement the action plan to combat drug trafficking and organized crime;
- **Adapt port infrastructure and equipment** to the regulatory framework regarding European border controls.

➤ Reviewing the **taxonomy** of sustainable financing to better recognise the environmental value of ports, including the legitimacy of dredging port access channels.



Membership

Union des Ports de France (UPF), the French ports association represents 48 active members bringing together commercial and fishing port managing bodies, both in mainland France and Overseas regions.

French ports are spread over four major EU maritime areas: the Mediterranean, Atlantic, the Channel-North Sea and Overseas Regions.

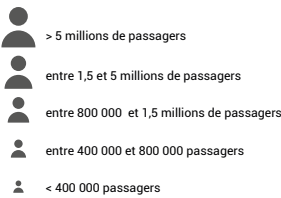
200 000 DIRECT JOBS

TONNES OF CARGOES:



TOTAL CARGOES: 350 million tonnes, equivalent to **10%** of the traffic of all EU seaports.

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS

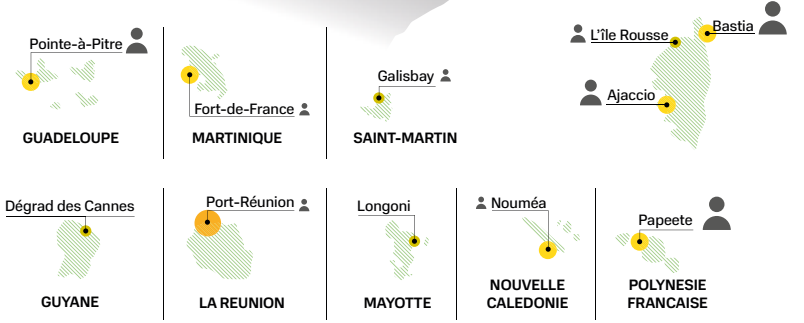
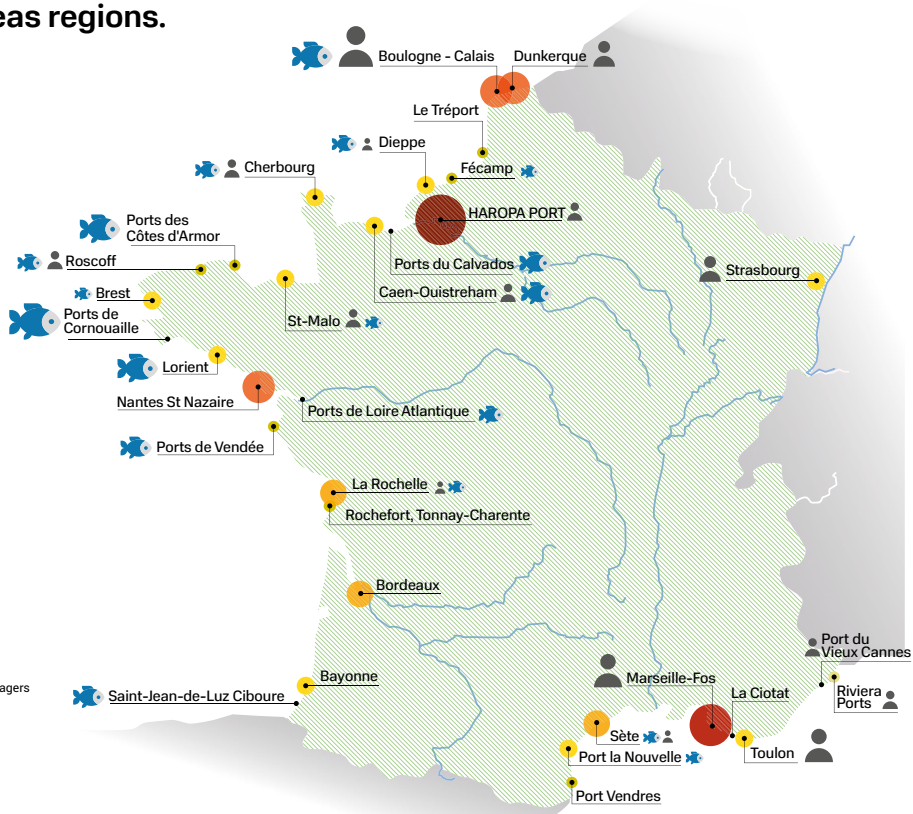


TOTAL PASSENGERS: 25 million passengers, equivalent to **6%** of the traffic of all EU seaports.

FISHERIES



TOTAL FISHERY PRODUCTS: 180 000 tonnes



These data are sourced from UPF, compiled from information provided by the Ministère de la Transition Ecologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires, French ports, FranceAgriMer and Eurostat.