

MARE Policy Day 2025

Ports and People: Navigating the future of inland and sea ports

Ports have, for centuries, played a key role in societal development. Many cities began as fishing settlements and evolved into bustling metropolises—for example, Amsterdam, whose origins trace back to a 12th-century fishing community. Historically, ample waterfront space allowed ports to transition into vibrant merchant hubs, laying the foundation of modern economic life. Today, however, port-city coexistence is increasingly challenged. The MARE Policy Day 2025 focuses on the North Sea region and its hinterlands, where competition for land and resources heavily impacts local communities and businesses.

Continuing a tradition of biennial policy reflections, the MARE 2025 Policy Day will explore three key dilemmas:

Waterfront Housing Development

1

Real estate expansion pushes port activities from city centers, as waterfront land grows more valuable for residential or office usage. Factors like noise and dust can hinder coexistence with port operations.

2

Cruise Tourism and Over-Tourism

Cruise ship arrivals, combined with other tourism flows, contribute to mass tourism in coastal cities. Many large port cities face the challenge of balancing and governing thousands of cruise passengers and their strain on local infrastructure and quality of life.

3

Ports as Energy Hubs

Ports are vital for fulfilling the Ostend Declaration's energy targets (120 GW by 2030 and 300 GW by 2050) through offshore wind and green-fuel production (Power-to-X). These energy hubs face unique safety and security needs.



The objective of MARE Policy Day 2025 is to improve port policies that effectively respond to these challenges, balancing spatial demands with socio-economic needs. We aim to bring together industry representatives, policymakers, and researchers to explore conflict mediation and future governance strategies for port areas.

More Information

See www.marecentre.nl, or write to info@marecentre.nl

Register through the QR code or via this link: <https://www.aanmelder.nl/mare2025/subscribe>

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Location Amsterdam
Date June 23rd, 2025



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AGENDA FOR THE DAY

- 9.00-10.00 **Registration and morning coffee**
- 10.00-10.10 **Opening:** Day chair: Dr. Luc van Hoof (Wageningen Marine Research)
- 10.10-10.30 **Setting the scene (1): Challenges in Port-City Relations**
Dorine Bosman (Chief Investment Officer, Port of Amsterdam)
- 10.30-10.50 **Setting the scene (2): Cruise Tourism Governance**
Turi Fiorito (Director, European Federation of Inland Ports)
- 10.50-11.10 **Setting the scene (3): Energy Transition**
Professor Jesper Raakjaer (Group Chief Visionary Officer, Port of Aalborg)
- 11.10-11.40 **BREAK**
- 11.40-12.40 **Plenary discussion** Professor Joyeeta Gupta (University of Amsterdam)
- 12.40-13.30 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13.30-14.30 **Break out groups (paralell sessions):**
§ Dilemma 1: Professor Carola Hein (TU Delft)
§ Dilemma 2: Dr. Machiel Lamers (Wageningen University)
§ Dilemma 3: Dr. Robert Bartłomiejski (University of Szczecin)
- 14.30-15.00 **Synthesis (plenary)** Professor Joyeeta Gupta (University of Amsterdam)
- 15.00-15.30 **BREAK**
- 15.30-16.30 **Acceleration groups:**
§ Moving ahead 1: Professor Carola Hein (TU Delft)
§ Moving ahead 2: Dr. Machiel Lamers (Wageningen University)
§ Moving ahead 3: Dr. Robert Bartłomiejski (University of Szczecin)
- 16.30-17.25 **Plenary panel:** Chairs of different sessions 17:25-17:30 Closing Day chair: Dr. Luc van Hoof (Wageningen Marine Research)
- 17:30-19:00 **Reception and networking**

