



Reducing the Footprint of Freight

Driving down supply chain emissions with smarter transport solutions

Introduction

As a leading provider of sea, road and rail transport solutions, it is CLdN's responsibility to monitor and minimise any adverse impact of our activities on the planet and society.

The area in which our business can undoubtedly have the biggest impact is on CO₂ emissions and climate change (UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action). The movement of goods around the world has a significant carbon footprint. Freight transportation accounts for around 8% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, rising to 11% if ports and warehouses are included¹.

This document outlines the measures CLdN has already implemented to reduce GHG emissions across our business, the steps we are currently taking, and our plans for the future. As well as the environmental benefits being realised, our drive for greener transport solutions is helping our customers to gain a competitive advantage through a lower carbon supply chain.

For further information please contact us at:

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1. <https://climate.mit.edu/explainers/freight-transportation>



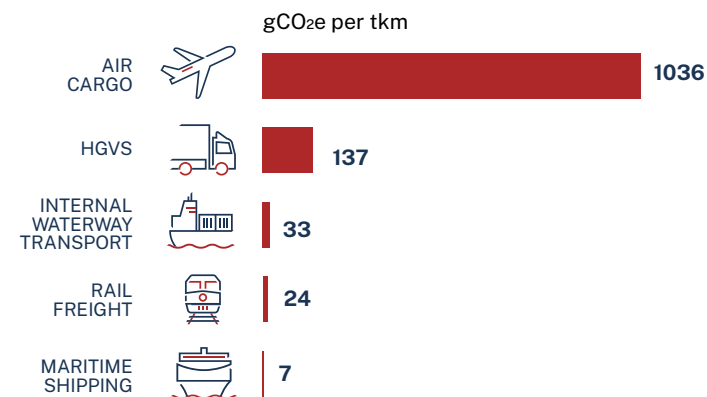
Shipping



Around 90% of the world's freight is moved by sea. And as global trade increases, so too does the number of vessels navigating our oceans, each using significant amounts of fuel.

Whilst shipping accounts for around 2.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, it is already the most energy-efficient form of freight transport.

Average GHG emissions by motorised mode of freight transport EU-27, 2014-2018



Source: Fraunhofer ISI and CE Delft, 2020

The extension of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to include maritime transport is designed to incentivise improvements in energy efficiency and low-carbon solutions, and to reduce the cost of alternative, lower-carbon fuels for shipping. CLdN has been preparing for the introduction of more stringent emission norms for close to a decade and is already leading the way in lower carbon solutions for its customers.



How CLdN measures up

To reduce fuel consumption and emissions, for the last decade we have been investing in larger, more fuel-efficient ships. That strategy is already paying off.

A comparison of CO₂ and fuel consumption data of CLdN and its seven main peers reported under the European Commission's Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (EU-MRV) Regulation revealed the following:

- With a weighted average emission for our fleet of 36 g CO₂/tonne-km, CLdN emitted 17% less greenhouse gas per tonne of cargo carried than our nearest competitor.
- CLdN operates the youngest fleet with an average vessel age of 12.7 years compared to the peer group average of 17.2 years.
- Our average CO₂ emissions per vessel declined every year despite a 25% increase in transport work² over the same period.
- CLdN operates the second most technically efficient fleet (from a vessel design standpoint) and leads the average Annual Efficiency Rating per vessel for the peer group.
- We also had the leading average Energy Efficiency Operating Index per vessel by a significant margin – indicating the most efficient operation of its fleet among the peers.

Access the report here 

2. Figures referring to transport work (and EEOI, of which transport work is a factor) refer only to ro-ro vessels due to differences in the way that ro-pax vessels calculate and report transport work.



Driving Operational Efficiency

We take a range of measures to optimise the fuel and emissions performance of our fleet. This includes:



a systematic programme of propeller and hull inspection and cleaning to reduce drag



the application of premium hull coatings, also to reduce drag



the fitting of sensors and utilisation of information systems to continuously monitor the performance of every ship in our fleet



providing our captains and crews with data to monitor and optimise sailing speeds

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Cleaner power

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is a clear, colourless and non-toxic liquid formed when natural gas is cooled to -162°C. Ships powered by LNG can reduce their Carbon Intensity Indicator significantly.

At CLdN, the latest ships in our fleet can be powered by LNG via 320 cubic metre tanks located on the main deck. Our two newest vessels on order will be LNG-ready. We are currently setting up an LNG supply chain in Rotterdam and Zeebrugge.

CLdN's newbuild vessels that will be commissioned in 2025 will be equipped with two conventional main engines as well as two electric propulsion motors of 6MW each.

If converted into full electric mode, the ship would have the potential to achieve a cruising speed of 16–17 kn. Both vessels will also allow the integration of new fuel and/or battery technology.

CLdN will continue to investigate and pilot alternative fuels and propulsion systems, including wind power (see opposite).



Piloting rotor sail wind propulsion

To explore the potential of wind power for our fleet, CLdN's MV Delphine was recently fitted with a rotor sail wind propulsion system comprising two 35m x 5m sails.

The ship, which has a cargo capacity of over 8,000 lane metres and operates between the UK, Ireland and Europe, is already one of the most fuel-efficient short sea roll-on/roll-off vessels in the world, emitting just 21g of CO₂ per ton of cargo shipped per km travelled. When activated, the rotor sails will help MV Delphine to reduce emissions by up to 10%.

We are working with the Maritime Technology Division at Ghent University in Belgium to study the performance of the newly installed rotor sails. MV Delphine is our first vessel to be fitted with the system. If successful, rotor sails will be installed on other ships in our fleet.

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Intermodal Transport



To reduce the environmental impact of our logistics solutions, we have always focussed on a workable balance between ferry, rail, barge and truck.

By limiting truck transport to the first and last mile of a journey, we help relieve highly congested roads and decrease CO₂ emissions.

By using a combination of road and rail transport, instead of road-only, significant CO₂ savings can be achieved:

Route	CO ₂ Saving
Amsterdam - Katowice	80% (1.4 tonnes)
Antwerp - Parma	70% (1.1 tonnes)
Bruges - Dijon	50% (0.4 tonnes)

Calculations based on a container / trailer of approx. 20 tonnes, and a rail ratio of approx. 75% electric and 25% diesel.

We have developed a calculation tool that enables us to accurately estimate GHG emissions for all routes, and to continuously map and minimise the number of empty kilometres travelled.

To cut emissions in our supply chain, we actively engage with our hauliers with regard to vehicle efficiency and driver training.



Renewable Energy

In 2021, five new wind turbines were installed at CLdN's facilities in Zeebrugge as part of Port of Antwerp-Bruges' goal to become the 'green energy gateway of Europe'.

Standing 150 metres high, the turbines have a combined capacity of 18MW, producing up to 50 GWh of green electricity per year. Some of the energy is used locally to charge CLdN electric terminal vehicles and cars. We are also exploring the potential to use electricity from the turbines to charge batteries installed on our ships when docked.

In 2022-23 a similar wind farm was installed at CLdN's port terminal in Vlissingen.

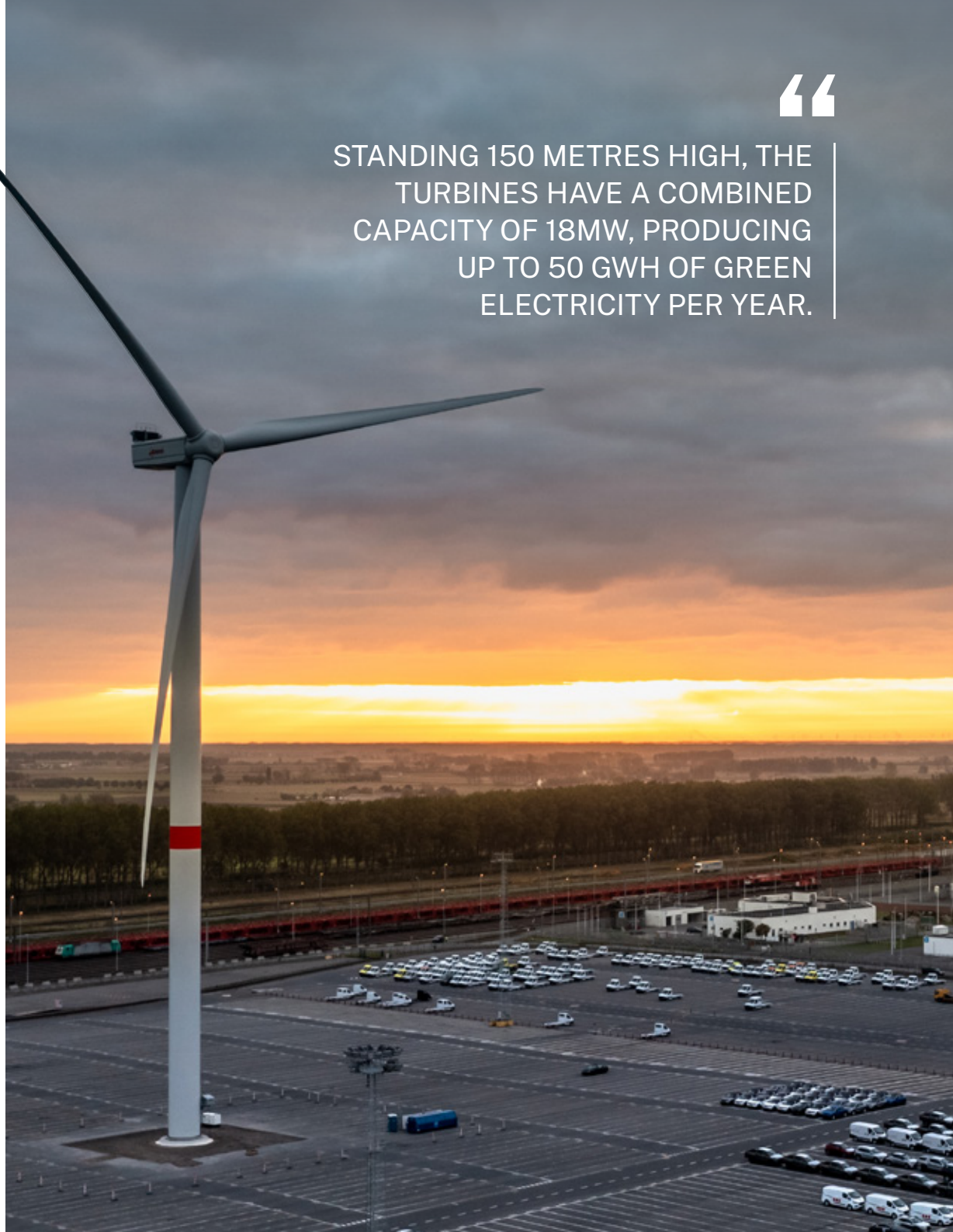
Our CO₂ Ambition

CLdN's ambition is to ensure that our fleet retains its leadership position in terms of CO₂ emissions per tonne-km of cargo carried (as defined by the annual EU-MRV rankings).

We will also consolidate our fleet emissions with emissions from our ports and cargo activities, and will report a baseline for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions as from 2023.

Based on this baseline CLdN will investigate further ways to support the EU goal of reducing CO₂ emissions by 55% by 2030.

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Founded in 1928, CLdN is a leading provider of integrated quay-to-quay and door-to-door logistics solutions.

We provide reliable, cost-effective transport that links the major economic areas of Europe. With 30 ships and more than 200 sailings per week, we operate shortsea RoRo connections between the European continent, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iberia and Scandinavia. A sharp focus on environmental performance means that CLdN offers the lowest CO₂ footprint of all Western European RoRo operators.

Our cargo and multimodal services have a Europe-wide reach, using CLdN's extensive network of ships, terminals and equipment, whilst our 3,000 employees ensure that we always deliver on our mission: to excel as an integrated provider of maritime links.