Ensuring pipeline connectivity

pipelink
sustainable transport solutions

Pipelink is the asset owner and asset integrity manager of 750 km of high pressure (underground) pipelines serving the chemical industry.

Mission

Pipelink is the long-term partner for DBFM* pipeline projects in Europe. Our passionate team focuses on providing a hassle-free service to its customers and is at the service of all its stakeholders.

DBFM = Design, Build, Finance and Maintain

Vision

Building on its many years of expertise, Pipelink will further expand its pipeline asset base by taking initiatives in future-oriented pipeline infrastructure projects in Europe. In this way, Pipelink is contributing to the modal shift and the transition to a low-carbon society.

Pipelink history

1970-1979

1970
The Belgian Government declares its intention to set up a company responsible for the development of pipelines in Belgium for the transportation of chemical products

1978
Incorporation of NMP by Nationale Investerings-maatschappij (NIM)

1980-1989

1980
Right of first refusal is granted to NMP

1988
Joint venture with Air Products (Napro)

1990-1999

1992
Joint venture with Praxair* (Nitraco)

1994
Privatisation NMP 75% Ackermans & van Haaren / 25% Engie Electrabel

2000-2019

2003
Abrogation right of first refusal

2017
NMP taken over by Port of Antwerp

2020-today

2020
NMP rebrands as Pipelink to accelerate the modal shift and the transition to a low-carbon society, and to become the leading European pipeline infrastructure company

* Praxair today is Nippon Gases

Pipelink ambition

Pipelink's ambition: as a neutral party (not being the owner of the molecules transported) Pipelink aims to take on a leading role in the project development, construction and operation, and asset integrity management of cross-border pipeline networks.

Observations

- The development of such cross-border pipeline networks can play a significant role in fulfilling Europe's energy transition and modal shift ambitions.
- Despite the presence of the ARRR mega-cluster in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, we currently observe that only the (regulated) national natural gas grids are interconnected across borders.
- With the exception of one ethylene network, we see that there are no real cross-border "multi-user/multi-access" pipeline grids for non-regulated molecules

Which products are eligible?

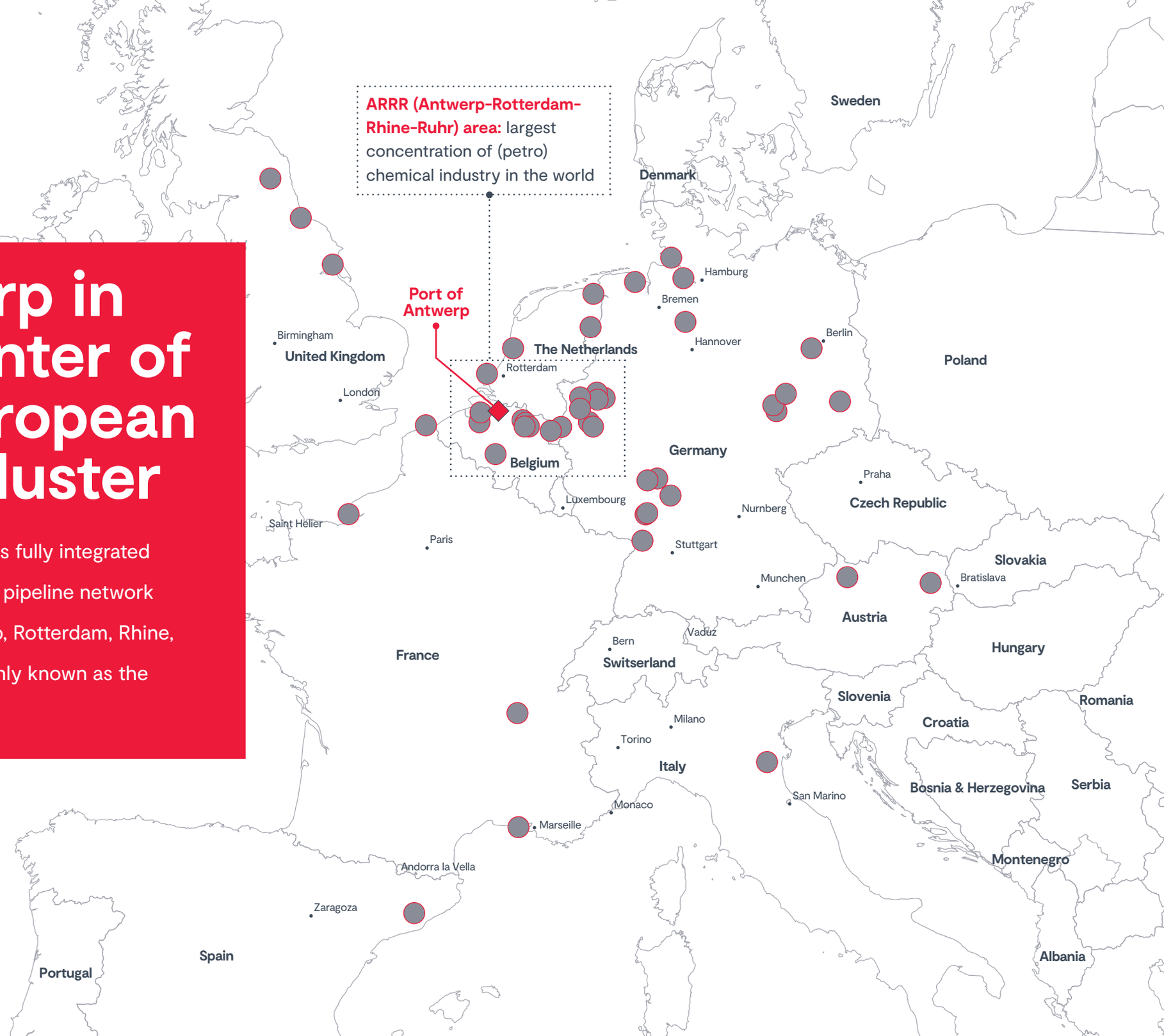
- Hydrogen and hydrogen carriers such as methanol and ammonia
- Carbon dioxide (CO2)
- Olefins (ethylene, propylene, butadiene) and their future green (synthetic or bio) versions
- Feedstock (methanol, LPG, naphtha) and their future green (synthetic or bio) versions
- Fuels (kerosene, diesel, gasoline) and their future green (synthetic or bio) versions
- Aromatics (benzene, toluene, xylene) and their future green (synthetic or bio) versions

Why is this not happening today?

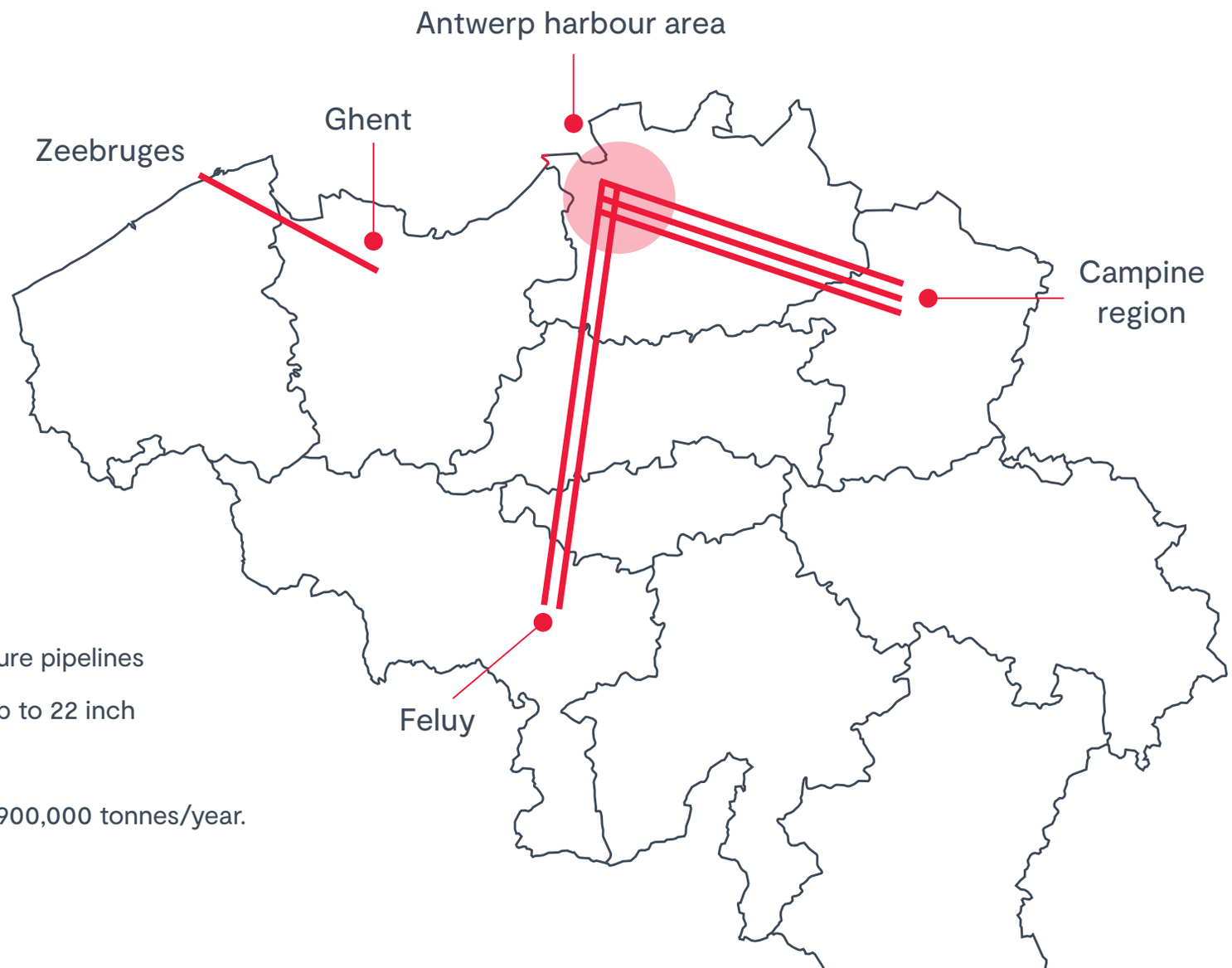
- The development of pipeline grids of this kind requires cooperation between historically competing companies. It is necessary to forge consortia to consolidate the volumes required to justify the investment.
- Each country has its own legislation (safety, permits, etc.)

Antwerp in the center of the European megacluster

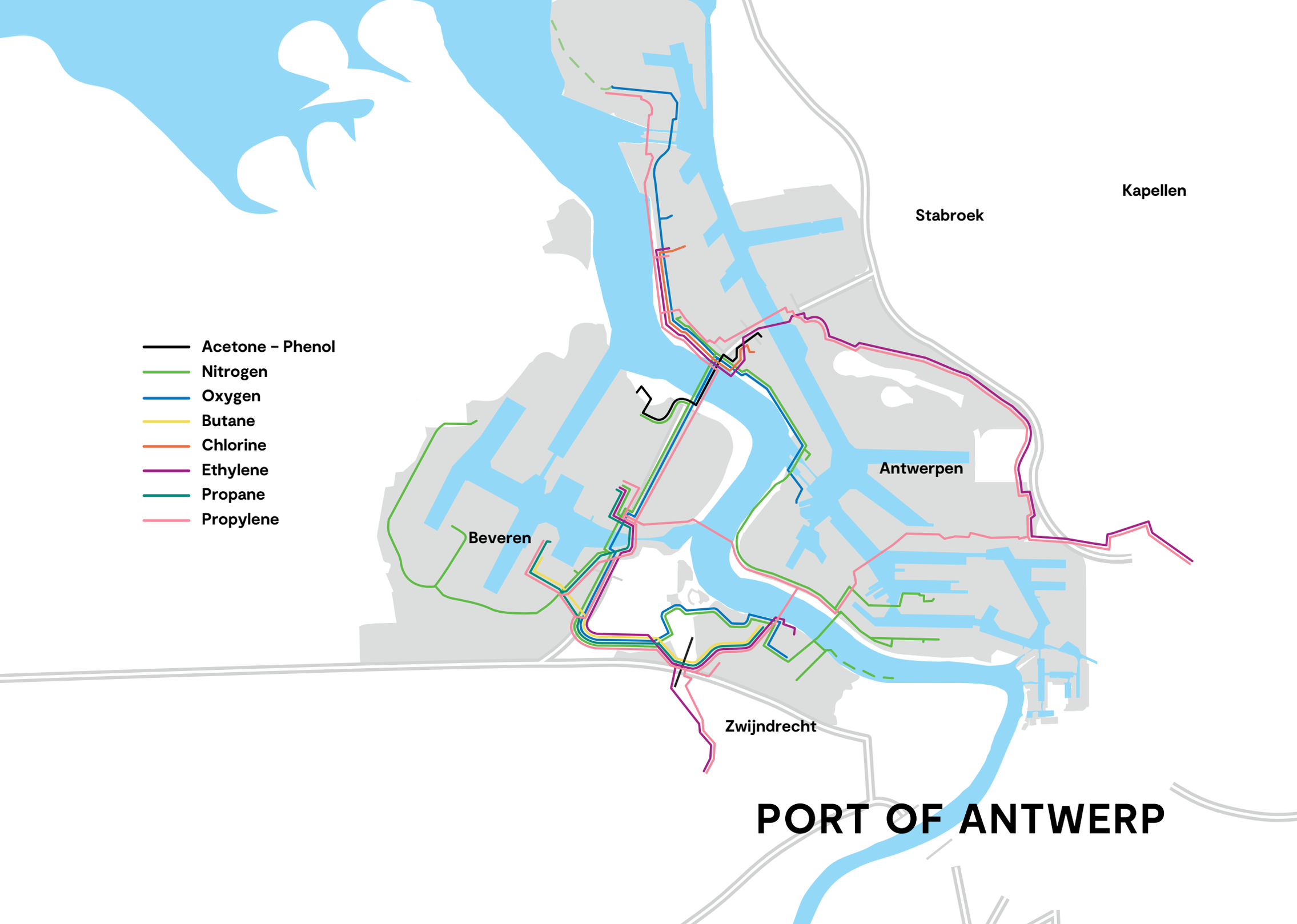
The Pipelink network is fully integrated into a wider European pipeline network incorporating Antwerp, Rotterdam, Rhine, and the Ruhr, commonly known as the ARRR mega-cluster.



Extensive asset base in Belgium with the Port of Antwerp as centre of gravity



- > 750 km of high-pressure pipelines
- pipes have diameters up to 22 inch
- pressures up to 100 bar
- total capacity of up to 900,000 tonnes/year.


Acetone - Phenol
Nitrogen
Oxygen
Butane
Chlorine
Ethylene
Propane
Propylene
Kapellen
Stabroek
Antwerpen
Beveren
Zwijndrecht
PORT OF ANTWERP

The climate and environmental challenges are driving the expansion of pipeline networks

1. The **rising cost of fossil fuels** (including the CO_2 tax as set out in the EU's 'Fit for 55' climate package) and **road congestion** ("kilometre charges") are reducing the minimum volume needed to justify construction and use of pipelines.

2. **External transportation costs** such as time lost in traffic jams are being "internalised", increasing the financial attraction of pipelines as a fully-fledged alternative for road transport.

3. Awareness of the **health risks & environmental impact** caused by fine dust and NOx/SOx emissions resulting from road transport.

4. One of the consequences of climate change is that **water levels on the River Rhine are lower in summer**. For German industry, this is leading to uncertainty regarding security of supply of feedstock and the transportation of finished products by barge.

5. The **increasing cross-border development of common carriers** in and between chemical clusters in the ARRR region will reduce transport by road or barge.

Per tonne-kilometre, pipelines are the **most environmentally-friendly, energy-efficient, safest** and **lowest OPEX** transport mode.

Due to their **lack of visual impact and a limited spatial impact**, pipelines are the go-to solution for transporting energy carriers and chemicals through environmentally sensitive areas.

Unlike other transport modes, pipelines **do not require multiple operations and activities before and after each transport**, such as loading, offloading, de-gassing, and tank cleaning.

Pipelines are the transport mode of choice for energy & chemical industry

- Pipeline transport is **very reliable**.
- The **high delivery speed** of a pipeline system is an additional advantage, as the product can be delivered immediately.
- The **energy costs for operating a pipeline are low**, as energy is only needed to create pressure. This – and the fact there is no need to transport empty returns – makes pipeline transport an **energy-friendly** mode of transport with a **low environmental footprint**.
- A pipeline system **requires limited maintenance** since the pumps / compressors and section valves are the only moving parts in a pipeline system.

Why choose Pipelink?

1

Total service model from design and financing to construction and operational management

2

24/7 availability of capacity – particularly important as pipelines are of strategic importance

3

In-depth knowledge and experience of all relevant areas, such as **Belgian Gas Law**

4

Long-term contracts that provide "transportation peace of mind" for customers

5

Networks ("Take-or-pay") allows investment costs to be spread over several producers and off-takers

6

De-risking of stranded assets

7

Neutrality – molecules transported are not the property of Pipelink


pipelink
HOGE DRUK
TRANSPORTLEIDING
PRODUCT: PROPYLEEN
DIAMETER: ND150
NOODNUMMER: 011/459 099
BT- 0 4 4

Pipelink: Your partner from source to destination

The Pipelink pipeline infrastructure is offered as a service, with a business model that encompasses all areas for hassle-free operation:

Asset owner	Total Service Model	Neutrality	Operating License	Asset Integrity Management	Belgian Gas Law
Pipelink	Design, financing, construction and asset management	Molecules transported are not Pipelink owned	The customer gets the capacity rights through a long term contract	Pipelink ensures the pipeline can be operated 24/7 in a safe and reliable manner	Pipelink ensures the pipeline complies with the safety legislation in force

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