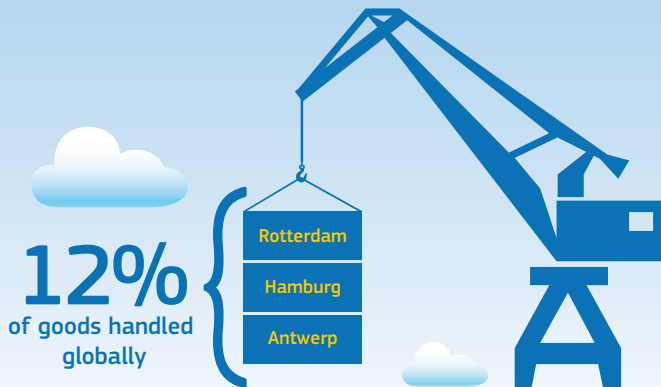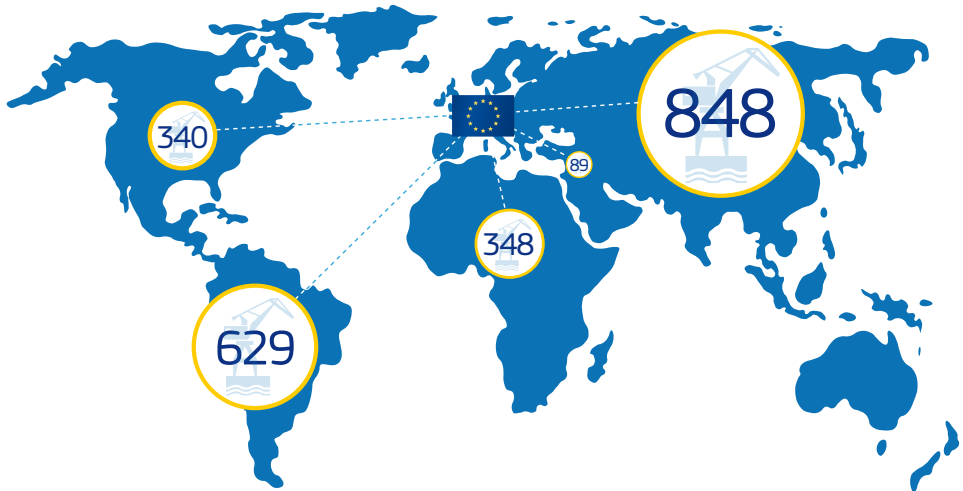# European ports:

an engine

for growth

Europe has three ports in the list of the world's 15 biggest ports: Rotterdam is the 11th biggest container port, Hamburg 14th, closely followed by Antwerp in 15th place.
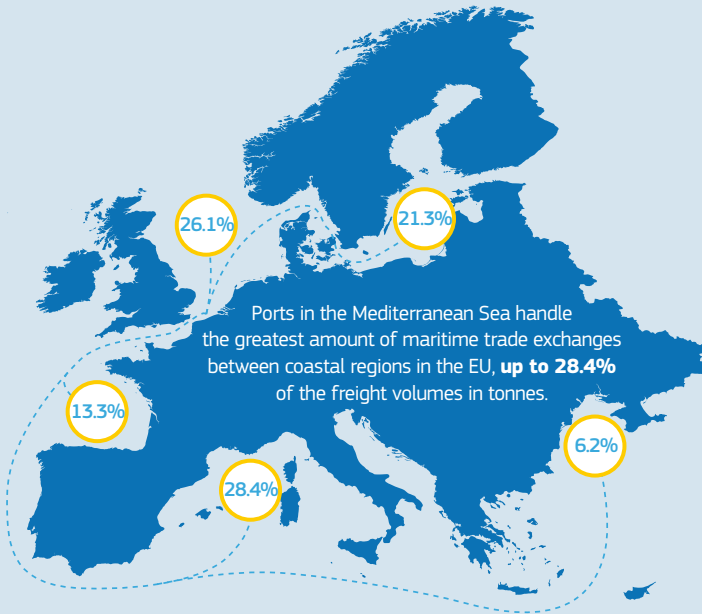
12%
of goods handled globally

Rotterdam
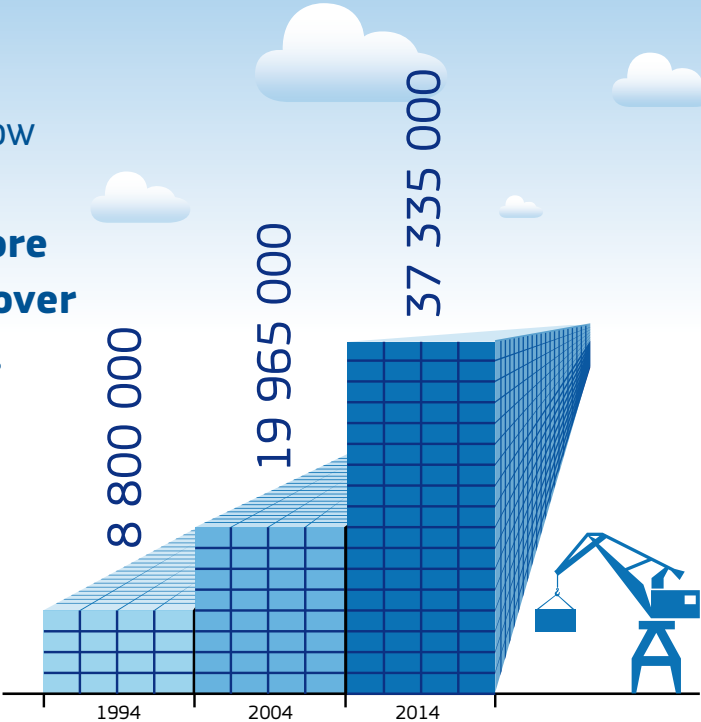
Hamburg

Antwerp

Source: World Shipping Council

74% of EU trade goes by ship.

Ports in Europe are directly connected to **848** ports in the Far East and **629** in Central and South America.


340
848
89
348
629

37% of the total intra-EU exchange of goods (in tonne-km) goes through the EU's ports

26.1%

21.3%

Ports in the Mediterranean Sea handle the greatest amount of maritime trade exchanges between coastal regions in the EU, **up to 28.4%** of the freight volumes in tonnes.

13.3%

28.4%

6.2%

(tonne-km = moving 1 000 kg of cargo a distance of 1 km)

Projected increases
in size for 2014 show
the number of
containers has **more**
than quadrupled over
the last 20 years.

8 800 000

19 965 000
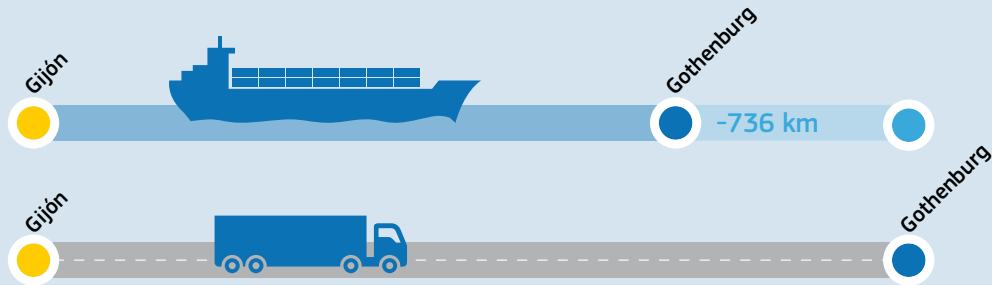
37 335 000

1994   2004   2014

Some ships already have a capacity of 18 000 TEU. This is the equivalent to a train more than 108 km long or a road full of heavy goods vehicles **from Paris to Rotterdam.**
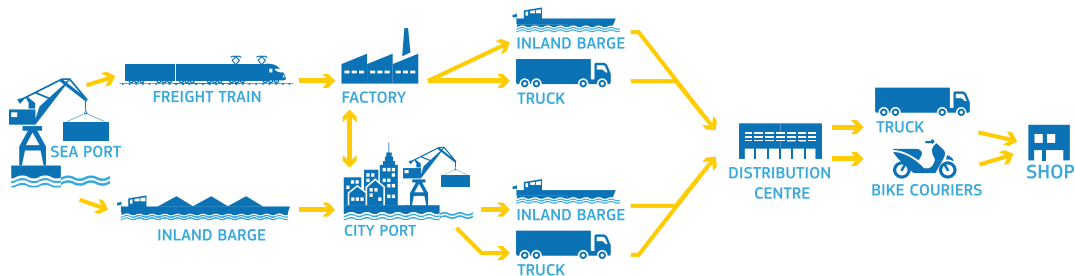

PARIS

ROTTERDAM
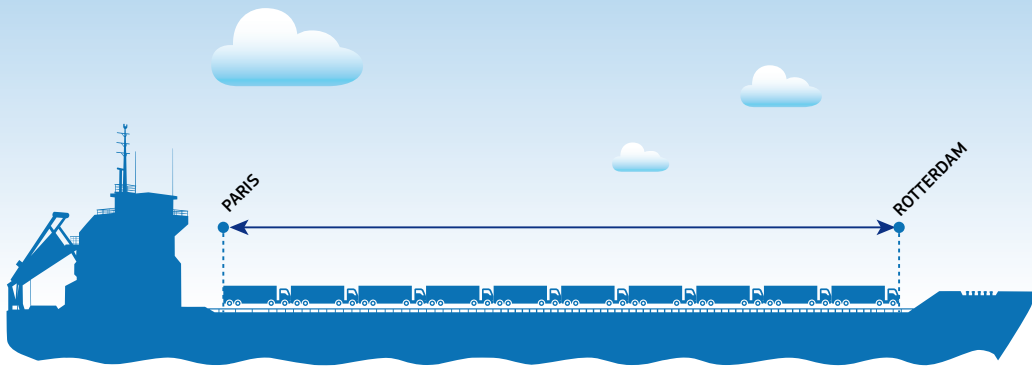
(TEU = twenty-foot equivalent unit, a measure used for capacity in container transportation)

Through its 'Motorways of the Seas' programme, the EU is investing in the ports and facilities that act as links in a Europe-wide transport network.

Travelling from Gijón to Gothenburg by sea is 736 kilometres shorter than by land and reduces the resulting CO_2 and other emissions produced.


Gijón

Gothenburg

-736 km

Gijón

Gothenburg

A port in the logistics chain

SEA PORT

FREIGHT TRAIN

FACTORY

INLAND BARGE

TRUCK

INLAND BARGE

CITY PORT

INLAND BARGE

TRUCK

DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

TRUCK

BIKE COURIERS

SHOP

**The total quantity of freight handled in EU ports in 2010 was 3 641 million tonnes**.

North Sea core ports dominated, with a relatively low share of freight being handled in ports along the Black Sea or in the outermost regions.

18.2%

23

38.3%

13.6%

21

22

27.0%

25

1.7%

2
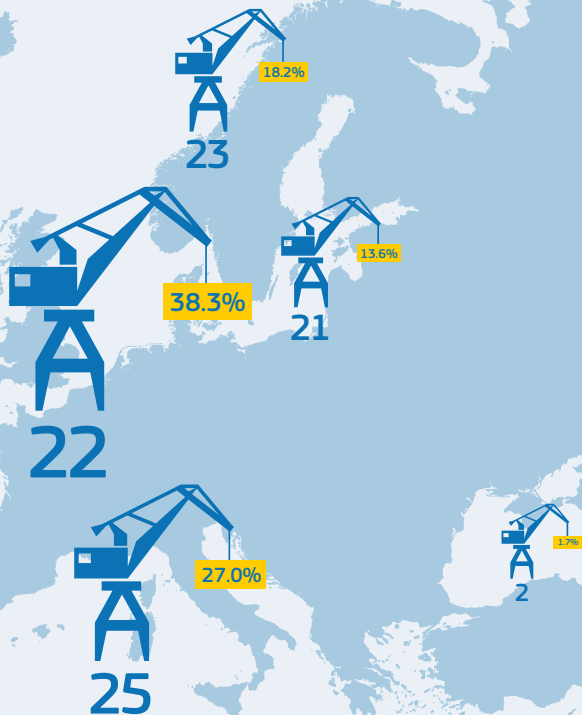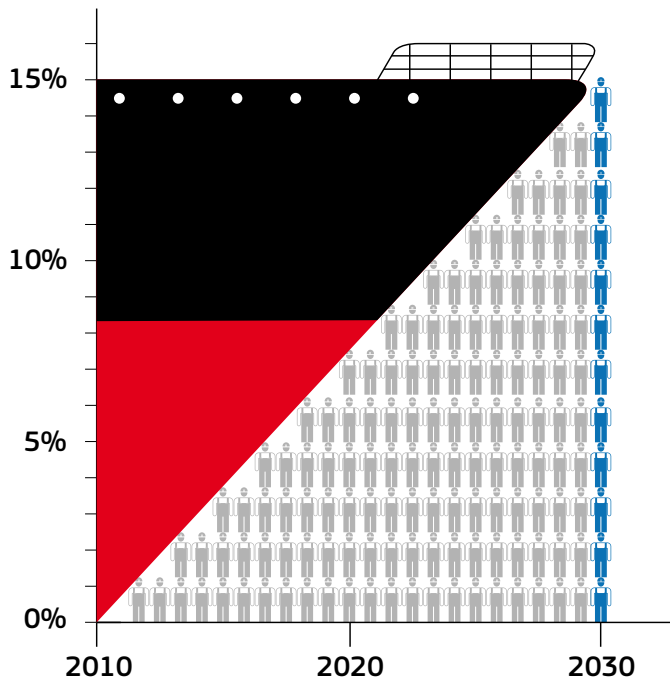
An increase of one million tonnes passing through a port will give rise to **an average of 300 more jobs**. By 2030 there will be 15% more jobs.
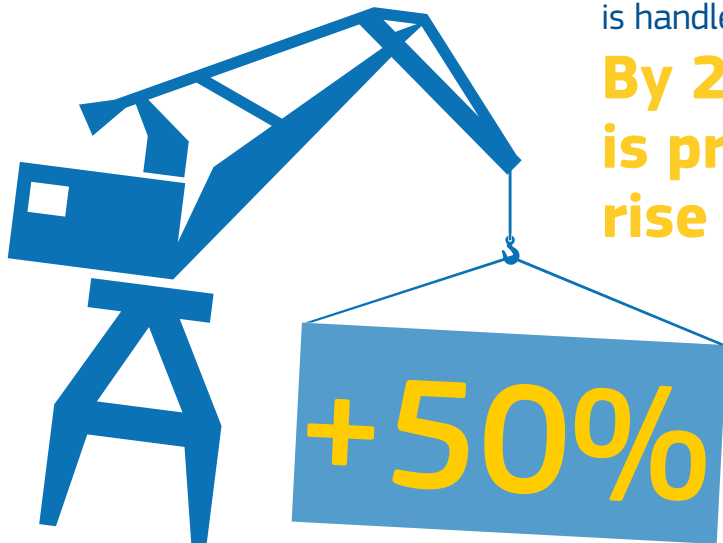
20% of traffic in the EU is handled by only 3 ports.

By 2030 traffic is predicted to rise by 50%.

+50%

In 2012, **396 million people**, more than three quarters of the EU population, took to the seas **as passengers on ferries and cruise ships.**

100 M
80 M
60 M
40 M
20 M