Dear Commissioner,

It was a pleasure to meet you last week in Davos! I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on our conversation and kindly invite you to visit the Port of Antwerp-Bruges.

Last week my team reached out to your assistant to explore when a visit could take place (email 26/01 from , in cc). May I herewith suggest a concrete opportunity where we could combine the port visit with a high level dialogue on stepping up decarbonization of industries and where we would be honored to welcome you as keynote speaker.

On 25-26th April, we will host the World Economic Forum's Transitioning Industrial Clusters Initiative meeting. The initiative works with major industrial hubs globally, including the Port of Antwerp-Bruges, on acceleration of their transitioning and decarbonization. It fosters international cross-industry partnerships as well as deepening of public-private collaboration. The Port and the Forum have invited government representatives of major industrial EU nations as well as the UK to join a high-level dialogue with the industry on policy frameworks and business actions needed for faster decarbonization. I believe this dialogue is of the highest relevance to ensure not only a timely transition but also an increase of Europe’s competitiveness on the global stage.

We would be honored if you could join us and share your perspectives in a key note speech, as well as delegate representatives from your team joining our policy roundtable.

I would also like to take the opportunity to show you the port during a heli flight and showcase our ambitions. At around these dates we plan to launch the Hydrotug, the world’s first hydrogen-fueled tugboat, and later during this year we will also launch the Methatug, which is a retrofitted tug with methanol dual-fuel engines. We also recently did ground-breaking for the PureCycle’s plastic recycling plant, which is an important part of NextGen District, is a global hub for businesses seeking to advance the circular economy. The Port of Antwerp-Bruges’ NextGen District is committed to creating an innovation hotspot where companies dedicated to building a circular economy and developing sustainable solutions to some of the world’s toughest climate and environmental challenges can thrive.

My team and the Forum would be pleased to work closely with your team to identify the best timeslot in your agenda, and to ensure that your participation is of the greatest relevance for you and the European Commission.

With kind regards,
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