EU TO SUPPORT BETTER PORT
FACILITIES IN DOVER AND CALAIS

It was reported on 22 January from Brussels that the EU’s TEN-T Programme will back with over €14 million the improvement of port facilities in each of Dover in the UK and Calais in France. The developments include better traffic management, berth enhancements and a new rail freight connection between Calais and southern France.

This project will focus on innovative solutions to adapt and enhance the current transport infrastructure and improve the traffic management on both sides of the Strait of Dover.

The project’s activities include:

- The construction of a secure holding facility for 220 freight vehicles in the port of Dover and optimisation of the traffic management to reduce the congestion in the port and its hinterland

- Berth enhancements in Dover and Calais for a safer, faster, more reliable and robust reception of larger ferries to reduce their stay in port

- The construction of a multimodal platform leading to better links between the UK, the Benelux countries and northern Spain

This action, it is forecast, will have a positive impact by encouraging modal shift and reducing the carbon footprint of transport as well as decreasing road congestion and the negative environmental impact.

It is understood that the project was selected for EU funding with the assistance of external experts under the TEN-T Multi-Annual Call 2013, priority ‘Motorways of the Sea’. Its implementation will be monitored by INEA, the European Commission’s Innovation and Networks Executive Agency. The project is to be completed by the end of 2015.

At the European Commission the TEN-T Programme was established to support the construction and upgrade of transport infrastructure across the European Union.