

spirit of  
**Dunkerque**



"Dunkirk:  
One of the 20 Cities That  
Could Save the World"

World Economic Forum, 2024

# Dunkirk: Europe's Strategic Gateway

Welcome to Dunkirk — a bold, dynamic city where rich history meets forward-thinking innovation, all set within a stunning natural landscape. Whether you're an investor or a traveller, you'll find a city primed for the future — vibrant, sustainable, and full of opportunity.

Ideally located at the heart of Europe, Dunkirk offers easy access to major capitals including Paris, Brussels, and London — all within a three-hour reach. Its globally recognized port and extensive transportation infrastructure — by rail, road, and waterway — make Dunkirk a major logistics and economic hub with unmatched potential.

As Europe's leading energy hub and a pioneer in decarbonization, Dunkirk will represent France during the "Sustainable City and Port" theme at the France Pavilion.



**Direct access to Paris,  
Brussels, and London**



**20,000+ new jobs  
expected by 2030**



**46 million tonnes of cargo  
handled in 2024**



**Access to a market  
of 80+ million consumers**

LONDON ●

**DUNKERQUE** ○

● AMSTERDAM

● BRUSSELS

● PARIS



**Patrice VERGRIETE**

Former Senior Minister,  
Mayor of Dunkirk,  
Chairman of Greater  
Dunkirk Council

*“Dunkirk’s participation in Expo 2025 Osaka — as part of the France Pavilion — is a strong signal of international recognition for the remarkable transformation our region has achieved over the past decade.*

*From reinventing industrial models and everyday mobility to rethinking our urban and social approach, Dunkirk has become a real-world innovation lab — shaping the city, port, and industries of the future for the benefit of all.*

*Named one of the 20 cities that could ‘save the world’ by the World Economic Forum, Dunkirk will proudly share its experience and solutions for building a more sustainable future.”*

*“The Port of Dunkirk is proud to join forces with Greater Dunkirk Council at Expo 2025 Osaka — a unique opportunity to showcase the ambitious work we’ve led together over the past decade to decarbonize the port ecosystem across the board: maritime, land-based, logistics, and industrial.*

*Together, we are building the port of the future — one that protects biodiversity, leads on climate action, and is deeply integrated with the community to enhance quality of life.*

*This event also provides a powerful platform to deepen relationships with Japanese partners in industry, transportation, and logistics.”*



**Maurice GEORGES**

Chief Executive Officer  
of Port of Dunkirk Authority



## This is where history is being made

Dunkirk is a region of striking contrasts — shaped by the sea, defined by its port, and driven by a strong sense of community. With deep maritime heritage, a vibrant cultural scene, and a well-earned reputation for warmth and hospitality, Dunkirk is a place where history and spirit come together. Its renowned carnival, one

of the largest and most lively in Europe, is a true expression of local identity. And “the spirit of Dunkirk” — famously referenced by Winston Churchill during Operation Dynamo — continues to embody the city’s resilience, unity, and unwavering ability to overcome adversity, from reclaiming land from the sea to rebuilding after global conflict.



## Dunkirk is made for you

With 17 kilometers (over 10 miles) of wide, sandy beaches — easily accessible by bike — and over 1,000 hectares of protected coastal dunes, Dunkirk is a paradise for nature lovers, outdoor enthusiasts, and families. Here, Dunkirk and its community have successfully combined quality of life, sustainability, and

accessibility: with free public transportation, rail shuttles, bike and pedestrian-friendly paths, and a wide range of recreational and sports activities. Visiting Dunkirk means exploring the future of travel: active, cultural, historical, nature-based, culinary, inclusive — and always sustainable!





## Dunkirk, towards carbon neutrality

Under the leadership of the Greater Dunkirk Council, stakeholders have identified climate change and decarbonization as key challenges for the future. The transformation of the region is being carried out in a comprehensive and collaborative manner, with ambitious goals: a climate-neutral city by 2030 and carbon-neutral industry by 2050. Dunkirk's economic momentum is expected to generate 20,000 new jobs in the next decade.

## Eco-Winner: I protect the planet and benefit financially.

The region has innovatively engaged residents in the ecological transition through a unique incentive program focused on increasing purchasing power. «What's good for the planet should be good for your wallet.» One of the most striking innovations is the free public bus service, complemented by educational initiatives, particularly aimed at younger generations. The Dunkirk area was the

first and largest conurbation in Europe to offer free public transport for everyone, 7 days a week, with ridership more than doubling (+125%) in 5 years, as well as a change in image. And with its new innovation, 'factories without car parks', the Dunkirk area is offering free transport solutions (buses, shuttles, park-and-ride facilities, soft routes, etc.) to industrial employees.





By 2028, Port of Dunkirk will have an additional 400,000 m<sup>2</sup> of warehouse space available, and by 2029, a second container terminal will be operational.

## Dunkirk, One of the Leading Ports in Northern Europe

Together with other maritime ports in the Hauts-de-France Region, Dunkirk forms one of France's foremost port complexes. Its port ecosystem encompasses a wide range of maritime, logistics and industrial activities, all committed to

achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Dunkirk is also one of the few ports in Northern Europe capable of accommodating the world's largest container ships at full capacity, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with no tidal constraints.

## A Port Committed to the Environment

Dunkirk is home to 1,000 hectares dedicated to preserving wetlands and biodiversity.

As France's leading multimodal port, it supports sustainable inland transport, including rail and waterway modes.



## Dunkirk: A Showcase of 21st-Century Industry

Driving innovation for the industries of tomorrow, Dunkirk blends competitiveness, job creation, quality of life, and climate action. Positioned at the heart of France's Battery Valley,

over €8 billion has been invested. The region is home to numerous ongoing projects focused on innovation and decarbonization in steelmaking, chemicals, and eco-materials.



**5,400 MW**

**The installed capacity of the Gravelines nuclear power plant, the largest in Western Europe.**

## Industrial Carbon Neutrality by 2050

With 16 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted annually (20% of France's industrial emissions), Dunkirk is reducing fossil fuel dependence by prioritizing electricity, renewable energy, and energy circularity—such as EPR2 reactors, offshore wind, and urban heating through industrial heat recovery.

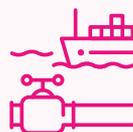


**Dunkirk LNG: Europe's Second-Largest Continental LNG Terminal.**

## Towards a Low-Carbon Energy Mix

To reduce reliance on fossil fuels, the Dunkirk industrial cluster is accelerating its transition towards electrification, greater integration of renewable energy sources, and energy circularity. The area is set to host two EPR2 nuclear

reactors by 2039, and an offshore wind farm will be commissioned off the coast of Dunkirk in 2028. It has also developed France's largest district heating network, powered by the recovery and valorisation of unavoidable industrial heat.



**Dunkirk is the landing point for one of the world's largest undersea gas pipelines.**



# Dunkirk:

## The Power to Create, Innovate, and Dream Together



in partnership with:



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