



## Beaulieu International Group reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 300 tonnes thanks to its sustainable container transport programme

Waregem, Belgium – June 21, 2018 – Beaulieu International Group (B.I.G.) today announced the results of its global multimodal logistics platform which uses waterway transport to reduce its dependency on truck transport. This successful programme reduced the company's container transport-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 36% in 2017 and is scheduled to achieve a further 55% reduction in the coming years.

Since the start of the programme in 2015, it has grown substantially and now 60% of B.I.G.'s output by container is transported via barges starting at the River Terminal Wielsbeke (RTW). The RTW acts as B.I.G.'s global inland hub, connecting the company to major shipping routes and destinations around the world via the Port of Antwerp. The container transport organisation has been set up in close cooperation with RTW operator Delcatrans, who provides barge transport services, and Manuport Logistics, who acts as 4 PL (Fourth Party Logistics) partner for B.I.G..

Previously all container cargo went by truck to the Port of Antwerp, a distance of 90 km. By changing to water transport, journey times have become more reliable as traffic congestion doesn't have to be factored in; there are fewer trucks on the roads reducing traffic for other road users; and the company's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have fallen. In 2017 the company shipped 3,000 containers via combined road + barge transport, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 300 tonnes, compared with pure road transport.

"B.I.G. is committed to providing efficient and sustainable transport solutions," explains Isabelle Vandamme, Group Supply Chain & Procurement Director, B.I.G.. "That's why barge transport from RTW to the Port of Antwerp is so important for B.I.G. and will continue to be so in the coming years. In fact, our target is to increase barge use by 10% this year and barge capacity is planned to increase from 60 to 90 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) in the coming years."

The advantages of shipping by barge in facts and figures:

- Comparison of average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per tonne/km: road transport 62gCO<sub>2</sub>/tonne-km, versus intermodal road/barge 34gCO<sub>2</sub>/tonne-km.
- Beaulieu International Group transported 3,000 containers via RTW. This is 60% of all containers from the 12 Belgian B.I.G. entities.
- RTW handled 15,000 TEU via barge in 2017. 5,100 TEU from B.I.G. – more than a third of the RTW's volume.
- With more than 72 million tonnes, a record volume of goods was transported on the Flemish waterways in 2017. This is an increase of 6.5% on the previous year. In terms of containers, a new top performance was achieved with 832,000 TEU – an increase of 11.5% on 2016.



“Even though this sustainability programme is primarily the responsibility of our transport and logistics departments,” explains Luc Speecke, Chief Operating Officer, “we believe its success wouldn’t have been possible without the support of our entire organisation, and this philosophy carries through to the other sustainability programmes that we are currently investigating and testing. If these programmes prove to be as successful as we expect, we will shortly roll them out across the entire company.”

- End of press release -

## Beaulieu International Group

Beaulieu International Group is a well-respected industrial group with headquarters in Belgium. It holds an important market position both in the production of raw materials and intermediate goods, and the supply of perfectly finished floorcoverings.

Beaulieu International Group is composed of three business units. ‘Flooring Solutions’, is the European leader in wall-to-wall floorcoverings (carpet, needle felt, artificial grass, cushion vinyl, vinyl planks, laminate, parquet, wall panels and mats. A second business Unit, ‘Polymers’, produces polypropylene granules for numerous applications. The third business unit ‘Engineered Products’, houses the activities related to ‘Fibres’, ‘Yarns’, ‘Technical Textiles’ and ‘Technical Sheets’.

Another division of Beaulieu International Group is specialized in the development and production of quality upholstery fabrics for the sofa industry.

Beaulieu International Group currently has 4,553 employees in 25 plants, 14 sales offices and distribution centres spread across 14 countries. In 2017, the Beaulieu International Group’s turnover was €1.8 billion.

The Beaulieu International Group's entrepreneurial spirit and innovative ambitions make it the model of diversity and evolution within the sector. They allow it to create added value sustainably for customers, employees, suppliers, shareholders and for the society in which it operates.



*Caption: Sustainable container transport passing through the River Terminal Wielsbeke, B.I.G.'s global inland hub to the rest of the world. (Photo: © POM West-Vlaanderen)*



*Caption: B.I.G.'s Sustainability Award Logistics ceremony to thank the teams for their contribution in reducing CO2 emissions drastically. (Photo: © Beaulieu International Group)*



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