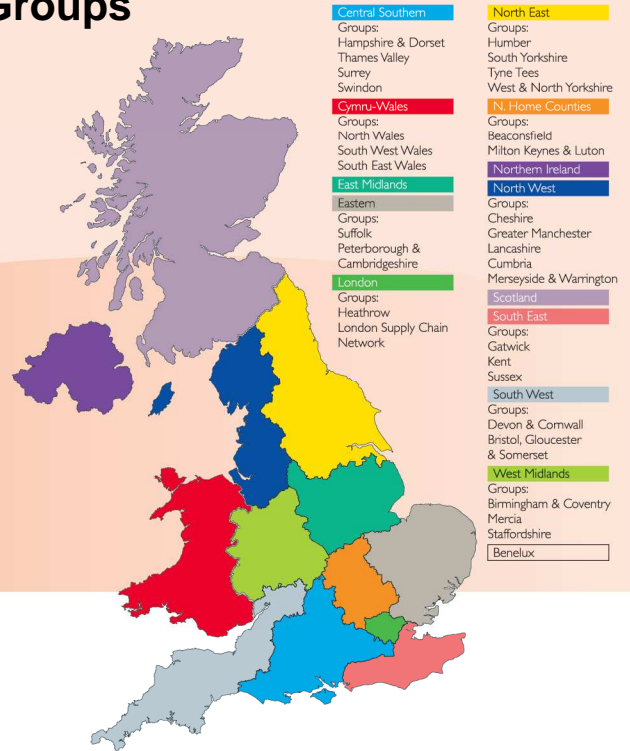


News from the Nations, Regions & Groups

CILT(UK) Benelux Group

8th February 2011

Benelux Group Event at Dinalog, Breda NL



The newly formed Benelux Group held its first event at Dinalog in Breda, the Netherlands on 8 February. It proved to be a great success with 4 excellent speakers addressing 65 delegates, who asked plenty of questions and then enjoyed networking over drinks, kroketten and erwtensoep.

Wim Bens the charismatic MD of Dinalog (The Dutch Institute for Advanced Logistics) introduced his ambitious plans for the Institute. Dinalog is leading the increasing emphasis of the Dutch on supply chain/logistics management and control, in addition to the current extensive provision of physical logistics, which already generates some 7.5% of Dutch GDP. Dinalog has significant funds available to sponsor major projects run by consortia of academia and industry. These projects fall under 3 main themes:

- 4C- Cross Chain Control Centres (combining the control of several demand/supply chains)
- Main Ports (the efficient use of port infrastructure and hinterlands)
- Service Logistics (combined after-sales services; cradle-to-cradle)

In addition to sponsoring projects, Dinalog is developing a major campus for the Supply Chain Industry on a 13.2 hectare site in Breda (which is equidistant between Antwerp and Rotterdam). Their aim is to promote logistics innovation and to attract on to one site academics, engineers, LSPs, consultants etc. They would like to host start-ups, 4PLs (control towers) and logistics research.

There is a lot that can be learned from this bold approach to developing logistics in the Netherlands and its drive to become central to the management of flows throughout Europe.

The second speaker was Prof. Ton de Kok from the Technical University of Eindhoven. Ton is leading one of the Dinalog sponsored projects called 4C4More and his consortium includes the active participation of HJ Heinz, Unilever and Kühne + Nagel, amongst others. The 4C4More project is looking at how, through increased collaboration, it might be possible to simplify the Retail supply chain by eliminating the common need for both a manufacturer DCs and a retailer DCs. Ton illustrated the concept by using the example of the financial services offered by Maestro ie you can use your Maestro card in any ATM outlet and withdraw money. With enhanced collaboration between LSPs, Manufacturers and Retailers, together with a powerful planning engine from Ortec, the 4C4More consortium hopes to run a pilot that relies on a single DC between the manufacturer and the retailer.

Pascal Ott from Walt Disney Home Entertainment took us through some of the elements which drove their network redesign in Europe. Interestingly, perhaps the key factor in influencing the location of the centralised control function was the attractive tax environment for multinationals in the Netherlands. On the other hand, the shape of their physical operations in Europe was determined by their willingness to work together with complementary partners such as Sony and Technicolor.

Finally, we were pleased to welcome Steve Agg to introduce the CILT(UK) and the objectives of the Benelux Group. Whilst the Benelux Group is delighted to work with our fellow members in the ELA in the Benelux (such as the VLM, VIB and PICS etc) there seems to be an unmet need for an English-speaking Group that is focused primarily on multinationals and the full supply chain. Quite apart from this, there are many existing CILT(UK) members who have relocated to the Benelux and are looking for easier access to the full range of services offered by the CILT(UK).

Our next event will be hosted by the Rotterdam Port Authority in the afternoon and evening of 10 June. There will be an introduction to the huge Maasvlakte 2 Development of the Port and a discussion of the implications. This will likely be followed by networking and refreshments on board a vessel as we tour the harbour. Please keep your eyes open for the event details which will be published soon. All members are welcome.

Tim Bett FCILT
Chairman
CILT(UK) Benelux Group

