

## [HKETO, Brussels promotes Hong Kong's advantages and maritime opportunities in Antwerp, Belgium \(with photo\)](#)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels (HKETO, Brussels) joined The Beacon and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) to host a compelling "lunch and learn" session on January 23 (Antwerp time), in Antwerp, Belgium, aimed at promoting Hong Kong's advantages and opportunities to European businesses and entrepreneurs in the maritime industry.

Based in Antwerp, the most important port city of Belgium, The Beacon is a thriving community of forward-thinking companies dedicated to addressing challenges in cities, ports, and industries through digital innovation. As a hub for collaboration, The Beacon aims to inspire technology companies and drive impactful solutions for the future.

In the sharing session, Deputy Representative of HKETO, Brussels, Miss Fiona Li provided an in-depth overview of Hong Kong's robust economic fundamentals, its strategic role in connecting Belgian and European businesses to Asian markets, in particular its unique position as a gateway to the Greater Bay Area and Mainland China. Miss Li stated, "Hong Kong's strong ground rules and distinctive advantages including the rule of law, free flow of capital, a free trade and investment regime and an efficient and clean government are kept under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle. Hong Kong's ranking fourth in the 2024 Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index is a testament to our strengths and the pivotal role in global shipping and international trade."

Miss Li also highlighted Hong Kong fleet's high degree of safety and reliability, "Hong Kong-registered ships rank as the fourth largest in the world in terms of gross tonnage, and the Port State Control detention rate of Hong Kong-registered ships is only 0.81 per cent, which is significantly lower than the world average of 3.39 per cent". Miss Li also shared with the participants on the latest policies regarding the maritime industry.

During the sharing session, Marketing Manager, Frankfurt Office, HKTDC, Ms Kristie Chu had an intriguing dialogue with Editor-in-chief of Flows magazine Mr Koen Dejaeger on the experience of his participation in the Hong Kong Maritime Week in November 2024 and the latest opportunities in Hong Kong's maritime sector.

