

JANUARY 2024

PORT AREA

Ecological transition

CHARTER

9
MAJOR
THEMES

42
ACTIONS
UNDERTAKEN



The commitment of the port community



Francis Grimaud
*President of the
Maritime Union
of La Rochelle*

At the centre of the French Atlantic Arc, **Atlantic Port La Rochelle** and the companies in the port area, represented by the **Maritime Union of La Rochelle**, have a clear objective to support the competitiveness of the Port and its companies by placing environmental and social considerations at the heart of their decisions.

Accustomed to working together, rooted in the La Rochelle area and attentive to their stakeholders, the players in the port community are taking concrete and collective action in the field of social responsibility.

In 2015, 27 companies signed up to the first sustainable development charter for the port area, drawn up by the Port and the Maritime Union. This was a guide to identifying the challenges and relevant actions in terms of sustainable development, encouraging joint actions and exchanges of best practice.

In 2023, the members of the port community felt the need to broaden the approach with a new charter and new actions.

- To increase the level of commitment around the themes and actions that had already been identified in 2015,
- To implement initiatives on new themes in response to issues that have become increasingly important in recent years.



Michel Puyrazat
*Chairman of the
Executive Board of
Grand Port Maritime
de La Rochelle*

This ecological transition charter for the port area is inspired by Agenda 2030, a convention of the **International Association of Cities and Ports (AIVP)** that adapts the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals to the specific context of City-Port relations.

It covers 9 themes: climate change, energy transition, sustainable mobility, governance, human capital, port culture, the City-Port interface, health and biodiversity. The convention sets out 42 commitments to ensure that all the issues raised by these themes are taken into account and that companies can respond by taking action.

Each player in the port is invited to sign up individually to the charter.

For the head of an establishment, signing up means making a personal commitment to action and providing the resources within the organisation to implement and monitor the actions in the charter.

It also means being prepared to take an active part in a community of practice-sharing and communicating sincerely about the results of their actions.

Adapting



TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The aim is to anticipate the consequences of climate change for the port and the city, and to take action to build resilience and move towards carbon neutrality.

Rough seas at Môle d'Escale

ACTION

- 1— Improving the energy efficiency of facilities and buildings:** diagnosing energy consumption, improving processes and the efficiency of heat engines, developing the use of electric motors, initiating an energy renovation programme for buildings, etc.
- 2— Implementing a water-saving programme:** assessing and regularly monitoring water consumption, improving processes and equipment and developing the use of recycled water.
- 3— Assessing the impact of climate change on the company's activities:** examining the company's vulnerability to the various consequences of climate change: working conditions and risks, infrastructure, buildings and equipment, as well as commercial positioning and business model.

Commitment symbols:



Mandatory Action



Recommended Action

Energy transition



& CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Putting our port at the heart of the energy transition and the circular economy, in symbiosis with the various local stakeholders, and thus reducing our carbon footprint and our consumption of resources.

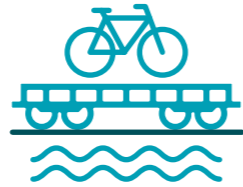
Reuse of materials at La Repentie

ACTION

- 4— Reducing and recycling waste:** assessing and monitoring waste production, improving processes to limit losses and wastage, prioritising the purchase of products and equipment that limit the quantity, hazardousness and carbon impact of the waste they generate and developing reuse and recycling.
- 5— Participating in an industrial ecology approach:** alongside the Matières Energies Rochelaises (M.E.R.) association, taking part in a collective initiative to promote the ecological transition, the circular economy, biodiversity and mobility. A commitment to sharing and promoting good environmental practice.
- 6— Developing the production and consumption of renewable energy:** considering and installing, where possible, renewable energy production units on its site. Self-consumption of this energy as part of collective or individual operations. Buying energy from renewable sources.

Solarised hangars at the Chef de Baie terminal

Sustainable



MOBILITY

Improving and decarbonising mobility within the port area and promoting safety.

The vessel Anna, driven by wind power



Renewed



GOVERNANCE

Encouraging City-Port dialogue within each company, through governance that includes a corporate social responsibility approach.

Site visit by the Information and Monitoring Committee



ACTIONS

ACTIONS

- 7–** **Promoting the use of soft mobility (public transport, car-sharing, cycling, etc.):** Drawing up and participating in employer mobility plans, making it easier for employees to use public transport, car-sharing or cycling by deploying appropriate resources or work organisation.
- 8–** **Contributing to road and rail traffic safety:** working with its staff to implement and maintain measures to improve safety during travel. Signing the port's road safety charter.
- 9–** **Developing or using low-carbon goods transport:** reducing the carbon footprint of supplies. Reducing the carbon footprint of port transit. Assessing and helping to reduce, through technical and organisational solutions, the carbon weight of logistics chains passing through the Port of La Rochelle.
- 10–** **Developing the use of rail and maritime cabotage:** encouraging modal shift through prospecting, commercial and organisational initiatives and investment.

Train carrying cereals arriving at the Port



- 11–** **Developing a sustainable development policy and action plan:** identifying and listening to stakeholders, establishing the main sustainable development issues, and planning and implementing actions in response to these issues.
- 12–** **Promoting the values of corporate social responsibility:** regularly informing governance, employees and stakeholders about the company's adherence to this charter and the actions it has taken, and raising their awareness of these issues. Encouraging cross-functional working within the port area.
- 13–** **Implementing a responsible procurement policy:** using the social economy, buying eco-designed products. Where applicable, systematically defining and implementing social and environmental criteria for purchases alongside the usual price and performance criteria.
- 14–** **Dealing with every complaint reported by stakeholders (residents, businesses, etc.):** implementing actions to analyse the causes and bring about improvements, and communicating the results to the relevant stakeholders.
- 15–** **Preventing risk situations through mutual information:** informing the neighbours and stakeholders concerned of the risk potentially generated by the company's activities. Preventing and reducing these risks. Informing stakeholders in advance of any incident likely to have an impact on them. Providing information on how the incident is being handled.
- 16–** **Establishing links with neighbours/residents and promoting good relationships:** providing information on the company's activities and its impact in economic, safety and environmental terms. Consulting them systematically in advance of any new project.

Investing



IN PEOPLE

Enabling talented young people, professionals and entrepreneurs to find, in the development of businesses, the jobs necessary for their personal fulfilment as well as for the competitiveness of the port.



Women in Atlantic Port La Rochelle



Employee involved in disability issues

ACTIONS

- 17– **Enhancing employee skills through training:** training employees over and above the legal requirements. Recognising the validity of prior learning and experience.
- 18– **Combating undeclared work:** strict compliance with French and European regulations. Monitoring and checking subcontractors' compliance with the Labour Code.
- 19– **Promoting and implementing equal treatment for women and men:** implementing an employment policy free from discrimination, and communication and recruitment initiatives aimed at enhancing gender equality in professions within the company. Reducing the pay gap during recruitment and throughout working life.
- 20– **Promoting and facilitating access to employment for disabled workers:** training employees and raising their awareness of the issue, adapting workstations, working with companies in the sheltered and adapted sector, developing prevention initiatives.

Raising employee awareness of soft mobility



- 21– **Supporting access for all employees to innovative practices and technologies:** regularly training employees on subjects related to the challenges of societal transition (managerial practices, ecological transition, digital technology, etc.). Proposing and implementing innovative tools and organisations.
- 22– **Promoting port job and work placement opportunities locally:** participating in local employment schemes. Publicising the port professions and vacancies to students, job seekers and those looking for career guidance. Advertising job offers on the 'Cap sur l'économie portuaire' website.
- 23– **Developing a policy to prevent psychosocial risks and discrimination:** implementing actions to identify these risks and discriminatory practices. Undertaking actions to raise staff awareness and management practices that reduce the likelihood of these problems occurring.
- 24– **Use of apprenticeships and work-linked training in general:** contributing to the training of work-study students in the region, and developing exchanges and partnerships with local organisations offering apprenticeships and work-study programmes. Proposing offers in these formats.
- 25– **Developing and promoting job creation:** developing business by maximising the value created on the port site and in the local employment area.
- 26– **Informing the company's employees of future prospects:** informing them of development initiatives and investment decisions before they are made public, particularly with regard to employment. Undertaking to hold at least one collective meeting a year on the subject.



Atlantique Formations, a training organisation and a subsidiary of AMLP and the Groupe SICA Atlantique

Culture & Identity



Work-study students in the Port

IN THE PORT

Promoting the culture and specific identity of La Rochelle as a port city, and giving its residents a sense of pride in belonging to a City-Port community of interest.

ACTIONS

- 27–** **Reporting at least once a year to the company's stakeholders on actions taken:** identifying, depending on the situation and activity, the key external stakeholders (local residents, nearby businesses, customers, suppliers, local authorities, associations, etc.). Planning a permanent exchange system with them.
- 28–** **Communicating on port actions and projects:** regularly highlighting projects and initiatives linked to the port ecosystem in corporate communications and contacts with the media.
- 29–** **Organising an annual educational visit to the company:** opening its doors to the public, local residents, young people in training and the port community.
- 30–** **Identifying common training needs within the community:** mobilising port community players and taking part in initiatives to define common training needs. Taking part in training courses involving a number of local companies.
- 31–** **Participating in actions to improve collective performance:** getting involved in initiatives to assess the quality and environmental performance and overall safety of port services, and contributing to their improvement through the company's decisions and actions.
- 32–** **Getting involved in international solidarity initiatives:** these actions may concern sailors, for example, especially those passing through the Port of La Rochelle, and/or countries with which the company is in contact as a result of its activities.

City-Port



INTERFACE



Offering residents living close to port activities improved living conditions and recreational and cultural activities at the City-Port interface.

Valeubal event in the Laleu district

ACTIONS

- 33–** **Participating in events organised by the port community:** getting involved in events aimed at raising awareness of the port ecosystem and strengthening links with local residents.
- 34–** **Getting involved in improving the industrial and urban landscape:** incorporating the principles of the port landscape enhancement scheme into construction and renovation projects. Ensuring the upkeep and appearance of the company's buildings and their surroundings on a daily basis.
- 35–** **Supporting local initiatives that benefit local residents:** participating by providing logistical, technical or economic assistance to projects of collective interest undertaken by residents and associations in neighbourhoods close to or affected by the Port.



Public bike tour on Open Port Day

Health



& QUALITY OF LIFE

Improving the quality of life of the people living in the neighbourhoods around the Port of La Rochelle and of port employees, and protecting their health.



Assistant Port Officer with personal protective equipment

ACTIONS

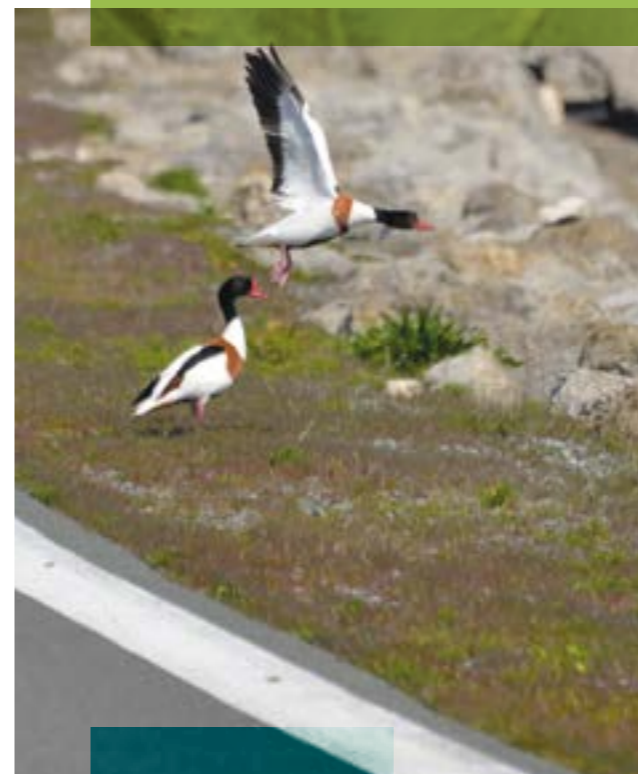
- 36–** **Identifying hazardous products and reducing their use to protect employees:** regularly reviewing the products used by the company, looking for alternatives to the most dangerous products and replacing them as soon as possible. Failing that, ensuring that their use does not pose a risk to employees, suppliers, customers or the public.
- 37–** **Taking into account nuisances generated (noise, air pollution, etc.):** in the event of perceived nuisance, measuring or allowing independent measurement of air quality, noise or light emissions in the vicinity of the company. In the event of unfavourable results linked to its activity, taking steps to improve the situation.
- 38–** **Ensuring that employees are protected and that PPE is worn:** identifying the appropriate PPE for each work situation, providing it to employees and ensuring that it is actually worn.
- 39–** **Developing clean handling practices:** supporting the development of port facilities that limit atmospheric emissions and the dispersal of products. Maintaining handling and storage areas to prevent material from being blown into the air, scattered on roads or run off into rainwater systems.

Protecting



BIODIVERSITY

Restoring and protecting the terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity of the Port and its surroundings.



Pair of Shelducks on the port site

ACTIONS

- 40–** **Reducing the use of plant protection products within the company:** assessing the plant protection products used in the company with regard to their potential impact on terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Stopping, or at least reducing, the use of products that have the greatest impact.
- 41–** **Implementing differentiated management of green spaces:** creating landscaping that includes green spaces made up of local species beneficial to biodiversity. Maintaining these areas to enable biodiversity to be maintained or to develop.
- 42–** **Undertaking actions to preserve flora and fauna:** developing or encouraging programmes aimed at preserving, restoring, offsetting and developing biodiversity in the City-Port area.



Seal that has taken up residence in the Service Port

Governance of the charter

ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTENT

This ecological transition charter for the port is inspired by the "Agenda 30" initiative of the International Association of Cities and Ports (AIVP), of which Atlantic Port La Rochelle is a member.

It was drawn up by Atlantic Port La Rochelle, volunteer members of the Maritime Union of La Rochelle and stakeholders, brought together within the framework of the ecological transition commission of Atlantic Port La Rochelle Development Council. The Development Council gave a unanimously favourable opinion on its content.



COMMITMENT OF THE MEMBERS

In addition to the collective commitment represented by the signature of the Port and the Maritime Union, a company's individual membership takes the form of a letter of adherence signed by the head of the company. The head of the company progressively implements the actions in the charter within two years of joining. These actions may be **mandatory** or **recommended**.

Each signatory also undertakes to respect the principles of responsibility, transparency and ethical behaviour:

- be accountable for the company's impact on society, the economy and the environment and, in the event of a shortcoming, take steps to remedy the situation and prevent it from recurring;
- provide clear and comprehensive information on its decisions and their likely impact. This principle excludes confidential legal or commercial information, affecting safety or privacy;
- respect the values of honesty, fairness and integrity.

MANAGING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER

The Development Council's Ecological Transition Commission manages and monitors the implementation of the charter. It is the ideal place for its members to discuss and work together on practices relating to the ecological transition and social responsibility. To this end, the committee may be extended to include any signatory of the voluntary charter.

Each year, a report on the implementation of the charter is drawn up by the signatories and sent to the Ecological Transition Commission. It includes a summary of the past year's actions and the actions planned for the following year.

The participants in the commission decide together on the collective methods of communicating the results of the implementation of the charter (reports, indicators, etc.). They also decide on the projects and collective actions to be developed as a priority for the following year.



Valérie Fernandes,
Vice-President of the
Development Council



46°10'N · 01°14'W

Port Atlantique La Rochelle

www.larochelle.port.fr

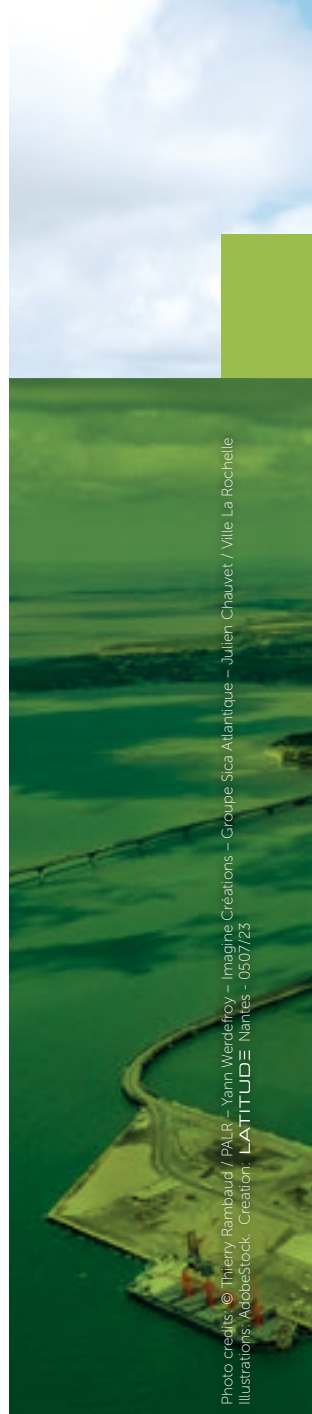


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