



Vrije Universiteit Brussel



Reflections on international strategies of port authorities: impact, size and institutional elements

Prof. dr. Michaël Doms
Michael.Doms@vub.ac.be

ESPO Conference 2013
Thursday, May 30rd



Impact dimensions

- Dimensions of impacts (macro / meso / micro)
 - **European:** strengthening the manufacturing base / sustaining industrial activities in the EU
 - **Regional:** contribution to regional development / cargo flow attraction
 - **Port authority:** cash flows / market position
 - **Port customer base:** stronger position in global supply chains
- All dimensions always present? Priority?
- Evolution in thinking?



Size dimensions

- What about the future of smaller and medium-sized ports in this context?
 - Relative absence of slack resources (limitation to trade mission and general MoUs?)
 - Potential for closer collaboration with costumers?
 - Learning from / collaboration with larger ports?
 - Harm or benefit on a regional level with multiple ports (smaller/larger) competing?



Institutional dimensions

- Institutional dimension of policy / strategy development:
 - Regional / meso-level approach (Flanders Port Area, German Ports, Haropa,...) more adequate than individual approach?
 - Feasibility of regional approaches?
 - Synergy / added value to be sought in these regional approaches?
 - Point of view of European Commission?