



Press release

## The Port of Antwerp gets rid of cheques

**Antwerp, 17 June 2015. Together with Twikey, the Port of Antwerp has developed a unique solution to consign the use of cheques to the past. In collaboration with Belfius, BNP Paribas Fortis, KBC, ING Belgium and Bank J. Van Breda & C°, a complete electronic solution has been developed to get rid of the paper cheque.**

Paper cheques have no use in today's port sector. Twikey has digitalized this process with the aid of electronic identity cards. With Twikey serving as an intermediary between business and banks, transactions can be completed via direct debits. Each collection is handled digitally by means of an electronic identity card and is immediately settled in a secure way with the bank involved.

In the past, a shipping agent could only release goods or cargo to a forwarder after receipt of a cheque as a means of payment. The shipping agent then had to deliver this cheque to the bank. Together with shipping agents and the forwarders, Twikey has developed a user-friendly solution which allows the entire process to be completed without the use of paper. The comings and goings between banks and the various parties involved is also now consigned to the past. These direct debit mandates allow the Port of Antwerp, its shipping agents, the forwarders and the banks to eliminate a lot of paperwork and, as a result, to save time and reduce their operating costs considerably.

“During the pilot phase, we carefully listened to the forwarders, shipping agents and the banks to understand their specific needs. In just a few clicks we offer a full alternative that is quicker, more efficient and cheaper than traditional methods”, explains Dominique Adriansens of Twikey. “Our solution is available to all Belgian forwarders from now on.”

“We have been looking for years for a valid alternative to cheques. Thanks to Twikey and its connection with banks, we can now eliminate the paperwork generated by everyday procedures that are used in the port sector. All parties involved benefit from the time savings realized,” concludes John Kerkhof, Manager of the Antwerp Port Community System.

For more information on the solution itself: <https://www.twikey.com/apcs.html>

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**Antwerp Port Community System:** APCS is the network of systems and solutions for electronic communication in the port of Antwerp. APCS comprises the exchange of data between business to government (B2G), business to business (B2B) and between government agencies(G2G). The APCS systems and solutions were developed by the partnership of the Antwerp Port Authority, Customs and private companies.

**Twiskey:** Twiskey from Ghent was founded in April 2013 by professionals in the fields of eBanking, SEPA/SDD and integration with ERP systems. Twiskey is the Belgian market leader in the domain of direct debits or eMandates and provides services to companies that are collecting their invoices through direct debits. Each company receives its personal Twiskey page with its own logo and template from which the administrator can easily manage each electronic mandate. For this solution Twiskey works with Belfius, BNP Paribas Fortis, KBC, ING Belgium and Bank J. Van Breda & C°. The system can also be used in other sectors.