

NEWS

Plasticfabriek in Antwerp port will come after all, despite concerns about Dutch nature

Styrofoam emissions UK-based Ineos is still seeking a permit to build a plastic factory in the port of Antwerp, amid concerns about styrofoam precipitation in Dutch nature.

Martin Kuiper, Milo van Bokkum January 2024 2 minutes

Listening)

Reading list



Port of Antwerp. Ineos wil voor 4 miljard euro een nieuw bedrijf bouwen

Photo Peter Hilz/ANP

of the project, after the Dutch provinces of Zeeland and North Brabant, among others, raised objections.

Britain's Ineos wants to build a large plasticfabriek in the port of Antwerp for 4 billion euros. The project is controversial: Antwerp and Flanders see an investment that will create hundreds of jobs and strengthen the position of the Antwerp port. Opponents such as environmental organisations, however, are critical at the intention to produce more new plastic, rather than recycling. Also they fear the effects on nature from the fabriek's still dust emissions.

Read also

Dutch nitrogen objections halt billion-dollar project at port of Antwerp



North Brabant and Zeeland joined a major procedure against the fabriek's permit in 2022. This is because still dust emissions from the project would also precipitate in the Netherlands, on the hilly forest area De Brabantse Wal near Bergen op Zoom. The impact on this nature reserve, already overburdened by still dust, would not have been sufficiently limited, the provinces said. The Belgian court went along with this in August 2023 and ruled that it should be better explained that the effects on nature remain limited.

Ratcläe then threatened to stop the whole project in interviews, among other things. Ooh woeg he wondered if Europe "wanted a chemical sector "at all. The Flemish government guaranteed the Büt that a new licence would be issued soon. Ooh, it guaranteed hundreds of millions of euro in additional funding, because after the licence fell through, lenders would not simply lend more money to the project.

The new permit lxwas granted last Sunday, after which construction work resumed immediately on Monday. The Flemish regeüng pointed out that Ineos had now better demonstrated that the project'ssilence effects will be minimal. Ooh, the bedüjf should have the installations lilimaatneutralised within ten years. By Friday evening, a key government advisory body had already given a positive opinion on the licence application.

'Hallucinatory' decision

Nevertheless, han the decision relienen on veelliütielx. Mielie Schauvliege, Flemish MP for Green, spoke of a "hal lucinant "decision. "In essence, nothing has changed about the permit. It is. you ask, we turn? "According to her, the condition to operate lilimatically neutral within ten years was always in the permit.

Ooh several environmental organisations are liritic.-it is already clear, for example, that Mobilisation for the Environment(MOB), the Dutch foundation of Johan

Vollenbroelx, objection goes malx against the new licence, as do a number of other organisations.

North Brabant and Zeeland both say they are studying the licence.

"After that, Gedeputeerde Staten will consider any follow-up steps," the Zeeland spokesperson said.

Prior to the new licence, there were consultations between Flanders and the Netherlands, zeQ a spokesman for Flemish minister Demir. A meetinglxomst was held at the Dutch embassy in Brussels on 13 December. In attendance were Demir, the Dutch outgoing minister for Stilxstof Chüstianne vanderWal (VVD), and deputies from the provinces.

Demir heek there, according to her spokesperson, called for cross-border stilxdust conäicts not to be fought out in court.

Between the Netherlands and Belgium, the discussion on stilx dust has been hardening for some time. Dutch provinces have alvalxer objected to projects vlalx across the Belgian border, such as enlxele megastables vlalx near North Brabant. Conversely, Belgium is annoyed that a concrete stilxstofaanpalx in the Netherlands omission token: Belgium would ooh suffer from Dutch emissions. OndeGussen, according to Demir, Belgium's emissions that precipitate in the Netherlands do decrease in the lxcoming years. "We are a stulx further than the Netherlands," Demir [told NRC in November](#). She hopes the stilxstofaanpalx in Flanders will start in 2024. "In terms of stilxstofaanpalx, the Netherlands is still completely nowhere?

Read also

Still no forced buyout of farms and manure processors in Flanders



A version of this article also appeared in [the 10 January 2024 newspaper](#).

Sharing -'g Email the editor B

BELGIUM

Grim atmosphere at farmers' protests in Brussels

?5 egg 2o'n



Motorist in Ghent kills two winders





Subscribe to 'Insider information'
newsletter

Economy editors take you through their
editorial discussions on current
developments

Inschrijven

nrc'

About NRC

About us

Working at

Copyright

Privacy

Delivery terms and
conditions NRC Code

Our app Archive

Advertising

My NRC

Take a
subscription
editorial

Login
ombudsman

Create account
Digital newspaper

My reading list
service My

mily messages
delivery
Newsletters

Contact

Editorial

Opinion

The

Colophon
AdSales

Customer

subscriptionsFa

Service &

NRC Websites

Media house

NRC NRC

Career NRC

Webstore NRC

Readers' Fund



