



#BeneLUX2025

Présidence luxembourgeoise
du Comité de Ministres

Luxemburgs Voorzitterschap
van het Comité van Ministers

RESULTS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BENELUX COOPERATION IN 2025

LUXEMBURG PRESIDENCY

Luxembourg held the Presidency of the Benelux Committee of Ministers in 2025. The Presidency's priorities were progress and prosperity through integration and innovation, promoting cooperation with neighbouring regions, protecting citizens and ensuring security. Luxembourg played an active and prominent role within the Benelux cooperation system and in implementing the above priorities. The results were, amongst other things, a Benelux SME Day, a round-table discussion on the (European) strategy for the Single Market and a conference on digital inclusion. As part of an effort to strengthen the fight against crime, the Presidency organised a conference on the administrative and comprehensive approach in fighting crime. Furthermore, as regards resilience, a workshop on crisis management, a thematic day on water management and an exercise simulating an "electricity crisis" involving the Benelux countries, France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland were organised.

The Benelux Day on 5 September was celebrated with a public event on the Place d'Armes in Luxembourg City, with Minister Xavier Bettel present. The day marked the sixty-fifth anniversary of the free movement of people in the Benelux



SECURITY

Police Cooperation and fight against crime: :

- Continued implementation of the Benelux Police Treaty, which facilitates the expansion and improvement of cross-border data exchange between Belgium and the Netherlands. More particularly, this has led to direct access to both countries databases at the shared police station in Baarle-Hertog/Baarle-Nassau during joint patrols and checks, as well as the exchange of reference lists for ANPR cameras. Further cooperation is taking place with a view to eventually enabling direct access to population registers and other public registers, as well as the exercise of cross-border investigative powers.
- Implementation of several joint police operations, such as Operation "Silent Skies", in which eight countries took part, and the "Étoile" operations against drug trafficking as part of the Hazeldonk cooperation.
- Organisation of a conference on an integrated and administrative approach to organised crime. The conclusions and recommendations arising from this will serve as the foundation for continued cooperation in this area.

Resilience and crisis management:

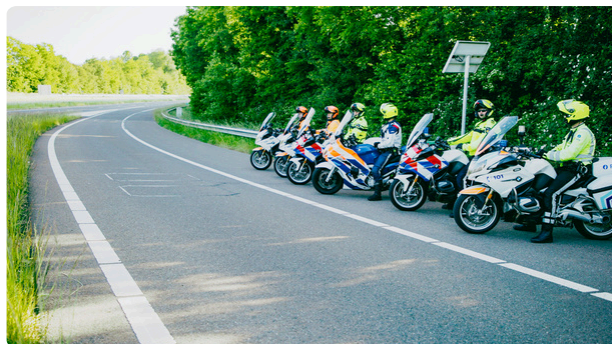
- Organisation of two workshops, one on crisis communication in the context of societal resilience, and the other on the resilience of democracy, the rule of law and governance. The exchange of knowledge and lessons learnt from these meetings have informed Benelux cooperation and the countries' future policies.
- Benelux participation in meetings of the network of Directors-General of European Crisis Centres.

Social fraud:

- Finalisation of negotiations on the Benelux Treaty aimed at improving and strengthening cross-border cooperation in the fight against social fraud and errors relating to social security, health protection and safety at work, as well as decent working conditions; final adoption of the treaty texts.

Asylum and migration:

- Signing of readmission and visa exemption agreements for holders of diplomatic and service passports with Suriname, Belize and Kyrgyzstan.



INTERNAL MARKET AND ECONOMY

Internal market:

- Continued cooperation in support of SMEs, with a particular focus on reducing administrative burdens, public procurement and business succession. The involvement of SME representatives from the Benelux countries has been strengthened.
- Relaunching of the cooperation aimed at promoting cross-border public procurement and SME participation in these procurement procedures.
- A Benelux cooperation initiative has been established to improve the European Commission's "Key Performance Indicators" for the Single Market.
- A joint letter was sent in which the Benelux countries called on the European Commission to propose targeted legislative measures against Territorial Supply Constraints (TSCs).

Transport:

- Adoption of a common position on "Light Electric Vehicles" (LEVs) as part of the development of European policy.
- Extension of the intra-Benelux pilot project on the electronic consignment note (ECMR).
- Development of a common position calling for a uniform European approach to the registration of e-mobility identifiers (IDRO).
- Drafting of a common position on the prevention of bicycle theft during Benelux Cycling Day, with a view to creating a clear synergy between transport, security and sustainability policies.

Recognition of diplomas:

- Drawing up of action plans aimed at facilitating the recognition of professional qualifications and qualifications granting access to higher education and at promoting the mobility of workers and students.
- Submission by Poland of an official application to become a signatory to the Multilateral Treaty concluded with the Baltic States on the automatic recognition of higher education qualifications.



Digital agenda:

- Strengthening Benelux cooperation in the field of the digital agenda, with a focus on artificial intelligence, online identity and digital inclusion.

Agriculture :

- Organisation of a conference on sustainable agriculture, supported by a thematic exchange between the Benelux countries, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Commission.



SUSTAINABILITY

Énergie and the energy transition:

- A five-party exercise involving the Benelux countries, France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland simulating an electricity crisis.
- Strategic meeting of Directors-General on Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Penta cooperation.
- The North Sea Energy Cooperation (NSEC) Ministerial Meeting, aimed at strengthening cooperation in the field of offshore wind energy and financing models for hybrid offshore wind energy projects.
- Promotion of the Benelux's role in the future European hydrogen network through a workshop organised during the World Hydrogen Summit 2026 in Rotterdam.

Nature and biodiversity:

- Raising awareness among young people at a seminar on environmental education in Luxembourg.
- Signing of a decision by the Benelux Committee of Ministers updating the list of authorised hunting methods.

Water management:

- Strengthening the resilience of the Benelux+ region to water-related crises through crossborder stress tests and the simulation of flood scenarios.

Aviation durable :

- Signing of a recommendation on sustainable aviation aimed at fostering innovation in zero-emission aviation, in particular through joint studies, the development of a Benelux-roadmap and the exploration of opportunities for test flights.



COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

- Continuing and deepening cooperation with North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), particularly in the areas of policing and the judiciary, crisis management, sustainable aviation, water management, energy, cycling policy and the recognition of secondary school qualifications; renewed participation by the Minister-President of NRW in the Benelux summit.
- Signing of an action plan aimed at strengthening cooperation between the Benelux and Hauts-de-France, particularly in the areas of energy transition, transport, mobility, education and the labour market; participation of the Vice-President of Hauts-de-France in the Benelux summit.
- Strengthening cooperation with partners and stakeholders in the Grande Region, particularly regarding access to healthcare in border areas.



CELEBRATION AND MILESTONES

- Statement by the Prime Ministers at the Benelux Summit on 10 September, confirming their shared commitment to strengthening cooperation within the Benelux and at European level.
- Unveiling of a commemorative plaque at the Maison du Benelux to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Schengen Agreement, which was negotiated in the General Secretariat building.
- Second Official Benelux Day, celebrated in Luxembourg on 5 September and dedicated to the sixty-fifth anniversary of the free movement of people within the Benelux.



[Find out more about events and strategic consultations for 2025 via this link.](#)