

We are pleased to introduce the Brandweernetwerk Zeehaven-Schelde (BZS) to the JOIFF community.

BZS is a public-private network based in Belgium's Port of Antwerp-Bruges, the largest chemical cluster in Europe and the 2nd largest in the world.

BZS unites two emergency response zones (Brandweer Zone Antwerpen and Hulpverleningszone Waasland), the Port Authority, and over 15 private-sector companies operating industrial sites—many of which are classified under the EU's Seveso III Directive as upper-tier establishments.

Founding members include globally recognised operators such as BASF, Covestro, Evonik, ENGIE, and TotalEnergies, joined by companies including INEOS, 3M, ExxonMobil, ADPO, Vopak, and others.

Together, our members represent a diverse and critical portion of the petrochemical, energy, and bulk logistics industries in Belgium.

The purpose of BZS is to create a resilient safety ecosystem by fostering structural collaboration in five key areas:

- 1. Mutual aid for industrial firefighting and hazardous material incidents;**
- 2. Joint training and exercises, including Seveso-compliant emergency drills;**
- 3. Knowledge sharing and procedural alignment across sites;**
- 4. Coordinated procurement of specialized equipment and materials, and**
- 5. Community building among operational and prevention professionals.**





Legally established as a non-profit association in December 2023, BZS operates under a parity-based governance model, ensuring equal input from public and private stakeholders. Activities are funded through a hybrid mechanism: public contributions from Belgium's Seveso fund and tiered private membership fees based on site complexity and response capacity.

We believe BZS offers a replicable model for other industrial port regions. Our strength lies in breaking down operational silos and institutionalising trust-based cooperation—even among market competitors.

Joining the JOIFF community is a key step in our continued development, allowing us to learn from global best practices and contribute insights from our partnership model. We look forward to sharing experiences, engaging in knowledge exchange, and exploring opportunities for collaboration with other members of the JOIFF network.



Source: www.bzs.be