



# Fatal accident in Antwerp port: woman (37) dies after hitting a forklift

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**An administrative employee (37) of the port of Antwerp died on Wednesday evening after a collision with a forklift. “A very unfortunate event”, says Yann Pauwels, spokesperson for Ceba, “because just before the summer we successfully completed a five-year safety plan.”**

The incident happened on Wednesday evening around 9 p.m. on the Left Bank. “Unfortunately, yesterday a young woman who does markage (*noting goods that are being loaded and unloaded, ed.*) ended up under a forklift truck when reversing and died,” says Kurt Callaerts, union secretary for ACV-Transcom. “However, the forklift was driven by a very experienced driver.”

The Labor Inspectorate and the East Flanders Public Prosecutor's Office came to the scene. Psychological assistance was provided for the colleagues. The victim was a casual worker.

## Safety plan

“A very unfortunate event,” said Yann Pauwels, spokesperson for Ceba. That is the umbrella organization of employers, where thousands of dock workers work. “Just before the summer, we successfully completed a five-year safety plan. In this plan, we have focused on, among other things, separating people and machines in order to prevent collisions, which makes this accident so regrettable.”

Pauwels also reports that a new safety plan has been drawn up that will expire in 2025.

“It remains important that horizontal transport and people remain separated as much as possible,” says Callaerts. “One of the aspects is that the 'beeperkes' prove to be insufficiently helpful, the noise a vehicle makes when it reverses. Everything is beeping these days. Safety remains extremely important.”