

# Belgium is a logistics gateway for US companies

- The logistics sector generates 7.6% of GDP and 8% of total employment in Belgium
- 65% of US companies surveyed value Belgium as very or extremely important for their logistics operations
- 56.4% of survey respondents report that the strategic importance of Belgium for logistics has increased over the past five years

**Brussels, May 14, 2018 – The strategic importance of Belgium for the logistics operations of US companies has increased over the past five years, according to [new research](#) by the American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (AmCham Belgium), and these companies plan to continue investing in the country over the coming years.**

“Belgium is a logistics gateway and an important hub in the **global supply chains** of many US companies,” said Marcel Claes, Chief Executive of AmCham Belgium. “Although often overlooked, the logistics sector is essential to the functioning of the modern, globalized economy – and volumes are only increasing.”

Logistics activities have a **substantial economic impact**, directly and indirectly. US companies with logistics operations in Belgium are deeply integrated in a **local ecosystem**, collaborating with other businesses of all sizes and **creating jobs at all skill levels**.

**Location** is the most important consideration for US companies investing in logistics. Belgium, in this regard, is ideally situated to provide a **gateway service**: companies move goods and materials through its world-class ports and airports en route to European and global markets. While Belgium is a leading handler of both containers and breakbulk, the country distinguishes itself from competitors with its **expertise in logistics for specific industries**, such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals & petrochemicals, and food & drinks.

For example, Kim Sandell, Managing Director at the **Pfizer Logistics Center** in Zaventem, has noted: “Our Logistics Center handles more than 60% of Pfizer’s worldwide product flow. Pfizer runs a large part of its international logistics operations from Belgium – from the delivery of raw materials and active pharmaceutical ingredients to the shipping of finished medicines. I am convinced that Belgium’s greatest strengths are its **skilled workforce**, its **central location** and its **dense transport network** via air, sea and road. There is a lot of expertise in supply chain and logistics in this country, both in our organization and at our partners, like Brussels Airport and the Port of Antwerp.”

In addition to its location, Belgium’s workforce and transport network are key attractions for US companies, but logistics operators are particularly sensitive to **labor market and mobility**

**American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (AmCham Belgium)**

rue du Trône 60/6 Troonstraat – 1050 Brussels

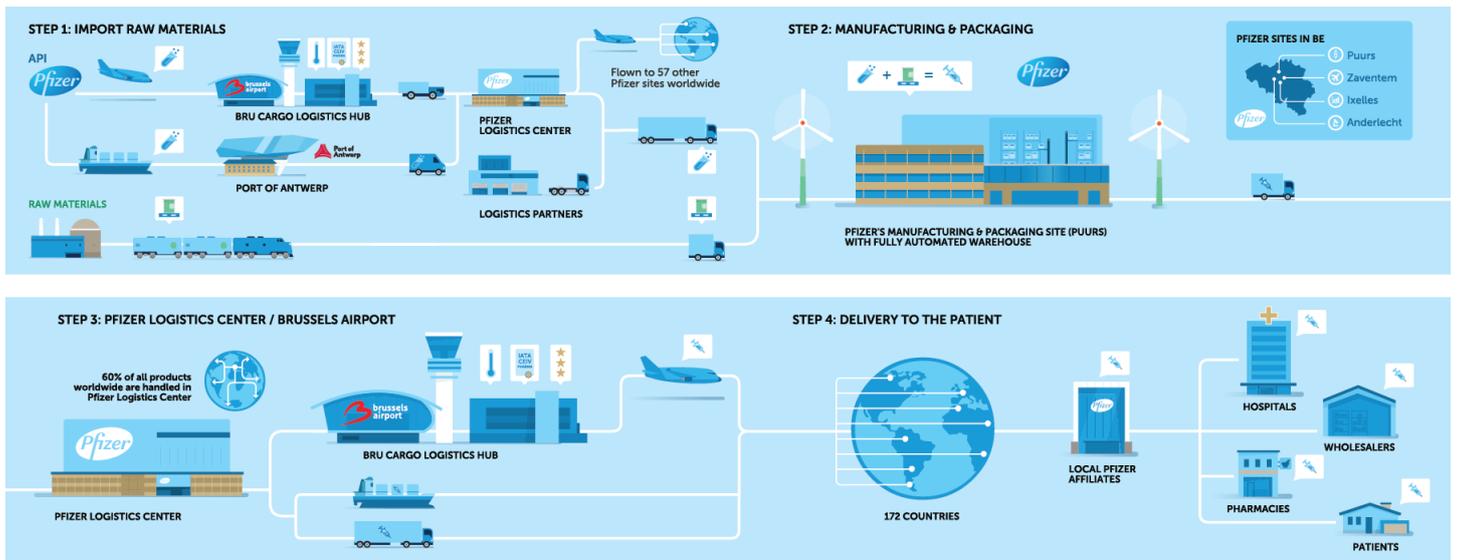
Tel. +32 (0)2 513 67 70 - Fax. +32 (0)2 513 35 90

E-mail: [info@amcham.be](mailto:info@amcham.be) - Website: <http://www.amcham.be>

**challenges.** “With the opportunities that come from growing volumes and new technological developments, we encourage the Belgian Government to keep the logistics sector top of mind as it pursues further labor market reforms and plans new infrastructure investments,” added Claes.

Download [The Importance of US Companies in Belgium: Logistics](#) from our website

## FIGURE 1: AN END-TO-END VIEW OF PFIZER’S LOGISTICS OPERATIONS IN BELGIUM



### For more information, please contact:

Marcel Claes, Chief Executive

[mclaes@amcham.be](mailto:mclaes@amcham.be)

+32 (0)2 513 67 70

### About AmCham Belgium

The American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (AmCham Belgium) is a dynamic non-profit organization dedicated to improving business and investment opportunities for the US-Belgian business community. Supported by around 450 member companies, AmCham Belgium plays a pivotal role in an evolving business environment by focusing on three key areas: advocacy, networking and knowledge-sharing. To learn more about AmCham Belgium, visit [www.amcham.be](http://www.amcham.be).

### American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (AmCham Belgium)

rue du Trône 60/6 Troonstraat – 1050 Brussels

Tel. +32 (0)2 513 67 70 - Fax. +32 (0)2 513 35 90

E-mail: [info@amcham.be](mailto:info@amcham.be) - Website: <http://www.amcham.be>