



Successful demonstration of BorderSens device

The event took place in the harbour of Antwerp (Belgium) to the Belgian Minister for Interior, Institutional Reforms and Democratic Renewal, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs and the EMCDDA Director

February 2023

On 7 February 2023, Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, together with Annelies Verlinden, Belgian Minister for Interior, Institutional Reforms and Democratic Renewal, and Alexis Goosdeel, Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), visit the Port of Antwerp-Bruges (Belgium).

During their visit, part of the team of the University of Antwerp involved in BorderSens gave them a demonstration of the Bordersens sensors for drug detection. After a presentation by customs, the new electrochemical drugs sensor test was shown in a real demo and the ongoing research about automatic detection of mixed seized illicit drug samples was presented.

The attendees were very enthusiastic about the sensors and congratulated the BorderSens team with the results. The European Commissioner said that she was happy to see how the EU funding is used to support innovation in the fight against drug trafficking.



Annelies Verlinden and Ylva Johansson during their visit at the port of Antwerp (photo courtesy of the EC)

The ultimate research aim of BorderSens is to develop a portable, wireless prototype device with the capability to quickly test for different types of illicit drugs, precursors and adulterants/cutting agents, with outstanding accuracy and reduced false positives and false negatives. To do so, BorderSens device will integrate electrochemical fingerprinting technologies, selective Nano Molecularly Imprinted Polymers (nanoMIPs), nanostructured sensors and advanced data analysis with customized algorithms.

BorderSens currently comprises 16 partners (universities, border authorities, police services in ports and airports, public organisations, and companies) from 8 EU member states, coordinated by the University of Antwerp (UA).



BorderSens team will meet again in March in Luxembourg, hosted by the Luxembourg Police Grand-Ducale, where the status of the project will be presented and a new demonstration of the BorderSens device will be given to the stakeholders (police and customs) attending the meeting.

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