

Pact of Marrum

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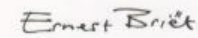
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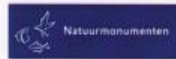
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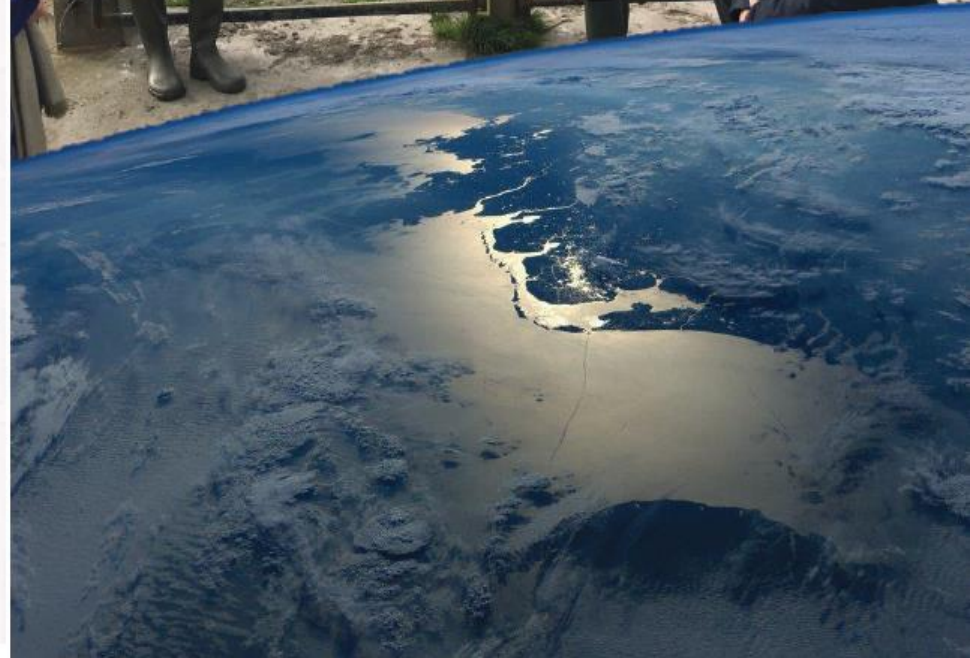


Port of Den Helder

Jacoba Bolderheij



Pact of Marrum



Pact of Marrum *(Translation of the Dutch signed version)*

The Wadden Seaports¹ and the Wadden Nature Coalition² are working together to achieve a world class nature reserve containing world class ports:

- A world class nature reserve containing a rich Wadden Sea with complete food systems, shellfish reefs and abundant flocks of birds. A Wadden Sea that is crucial to the international migration routes of birds and fish. A Wadden Sea where people play a clear part, enjoying and using the Wadden Sea in a sustainable way, always taking nature into account.
- EcoPorts harbours in the Wadden area are a large source of income and jobs. The ports continually look for innovations and a balance between economic activity and ecology. They lead the way in energy transition and want to realise the goals of the Paris agreement without delay. The Wadden Seaports contain economic and environmental test cases as an inspiration to other vulnerable wetlands all around the world.
- The cooperation between the Wadden Seaports and the Wadden Nature Coalition leads to an enforcement of economy and ecology. They will not stand in each other's way. Their innovative activities and world class sustainable economics respect the Wadden environment and the monumental surrounding landscape.

We will stay in close contact to fulfill our mutual objective. A world class nature reserve with world class ports. These are our leading principles:

- Our main purpose is the sustainable protection and development of the Wadden Sea as a nature reserve and the preservation of its unique open landscape.³
- The accessibility of the ports is guaranteed for its current measures (draught and width). New developments decrease the impact of dredging to the natural values of the sea.
- No new industrial sites are constructed in the Wadden Sea. Extensions are to be found inland. Extensions are realised with an integral approach in which, next to economic purposes, scenic and environmental wishes are equally addressed.
- When ports optimise their entry way they take into account measures that also improve natural conditions (Building with Nature).
- The open landscape of the Wadden Sea is of great value. New buildings are integrated into the existing skyline as much as possible⁴. Concentrations of windmills are placed in port areas that are suitable ("Open windows and port cluster approach"⁵) during such times that the North Sea capacity is not yet sufficient and under the condition that technical measures are taken to prevent collisions with birds.
- Activities aimed at energy transition involve innovative techniques (solar, hydrogen), circular economy and the storage of energy, among others⁶.

¹ Port of Den Helder, Port Den Oever, Port of Harlingen, Port Lauwersoog en Groningen Seaports.

² CWN: Natuurmonumenten, Waddenvereniging, Vogelbescherming Nederland, Stichting WAD, Landschap Noord-Holland, It Fryske Gea en Het Groninger Landschap.

³ Goal in the PKB Waddenzee 2007.

⁴ Current provision in the PKB Waddenzee 2007

⁵ RCW advice "Open windows and port cluster approach"

⁶ Quick technological developments call for a general wording

For realising our goals we will need the support of engaged governments. We plead for:

Integral management:

- Decrease of fragmentation and increase of professionalism in management, preservation, licensing, finance, hosting and monitoring. Users of the Wadden Sea area meet coherent and clear policies with the integral manager and port organisations conferring on a regular basis.
- The core competencies of natural preservation organisations are used for the management of nature and recreational activities in the wet areas of the Wadden Sea.
- We strive for the balance of economics and ecology.

An investment programme for:

- Infrastructural provisions for an integral contribution to sustainable economic development in the Wadden Sea area.
- Measurements to broaden the possibilities of natural development in the Wadden Sea and the restoration of marine nature.

Structural financing of research and the development of knowledge clusters for:

- Restoration and management of marine nature in and surrounding the Wadden Sea.
- Necessary transitions in the use of energy, circular economy, bio based and hydrogen economics and digitalisation.

The exploration of:

- Ways to make accessibility more sustainable by developing a broad vision on transport activities across, and respecting the dynamics of, the Wadden Sea.
- Ways to facilitate sustainable fishery (local processing and consumption) and the sharing of (sustainable) fishery in windmill parks.

Currently the Wadden Seaports and CWN work on:

- Formulating a follow up to the Building with Nature programme including "Nature based solutions" for dredging.
- Exploring the feasibility of adjustments to the port entry ways of Harlingen and Den Helder to support natural development (Building with Nature).
- A joint agenda for nature found in and around ports, e.g. temporary nature or ecological site management.