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Air Updates

Extreme Icy Weather Paralyzes Travel in Parts of Europe

Freezing weather in Germany and other parts of Europe threatened widespread road, rail and flight disruptions as the region braced for snowfall and heavy ice build-up.

Frankfurt's airport operator canceled more than half of the flights scheduled for Wednesday, while the country's weather service warned of "extreme black ice" in the southwest and advised drivers not to venture out. Rail operator Deutsche Bahn AG said snow and ice could cause delays and train cancellations and limited the maximum speed of its high-speed ICE trains to 200 kilometers per hour (124 miles an hour).

Icy temperatures have been dominating northern Europe for the past few days. The cold is set to intensify in Germany and parts of France until Saturday. Meanwhile, the UK experienced its coldest night of winter so far, the Met Office said in a post on X.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

FIATA Calls for Member Voices to Assess Readiness of Air Cargo: ICS2 Release II and III – Multiple Filing

In preparation of the upcoming Trans-European Coordination meeting on the European Union's Import Control System 2 (ICS2), FIATA, in collaboration with the European freight forwarding association (CLECAT), is conducting a survey to assess the readiness of freight forwarders globally to comply with ICS2 reporting requirements, which are applicable for goods entering/transiting the EU. The survey will focus on the actual use of the multiple filing options* for air freight under ICS2 Release 2, and how/if freight forwarders are preparing for ICS2 Release III implementation for road and rail. This will allow for a better understanding of the industry's needs and any support necessary to aid implementation.

This survey is applicable to members from all FIATA regions.

Your participation in the survey will allow FIATA to support the industry effectively in the implementation of ICS2 Release II and III. The survey closes on January 30.

**A multiple filing means that an ENS is composed of two or more partial ENS filings (i.e., two or more prescribed data sets), which together form an ENS declaration.*

[Take the survey here.](#)

Ocean Updates

Maersk/Hapag Gemini Cooperation Takes Liner Industry by Surprise

Ahead of the divorce from 2M Alliance partner MSC, Maersk has formed a new long-term operational collaboration with THE Alliance lead line Hapag-Lloyd. The 'Gemini Cooperation' will start in February 2025.

The agreement represents a u-turn by Maersk, which had said its integrator strategy "did not fit" with vessel sharing, and will come as a shock to Hapag-Lloyd's THEA partners, ONE, Yang Ming and HMM.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

Australian Minister to Meet DP World and MUA Over Long Contract Dispute

Disruptions and backlogs are continuing to mount at Australia's four primary container ports as the dispute between DP World and the Maritime Union of Australia remains deadlocked after 10 months of negotiations. In the latest steps, Australia's Employment and Workplace Relations Minister Tony Burke asked to meet with both sides to see if the deadlock can be broken and a new contract reached for workers at DP World's terminals in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Fremantle.

Pressure has been mounting on the government to take action after last week's decision by the labour regulators that approved new rounds of strikes by the union members despite the threat of widespread disruptions at the ports. The contract expired in October 2023 and since then the union has been staging waves of rolling strikes, work stoppages and steps such as declining overtime at the terminals, which collectively handle about 40 percent of the container volume in Australia.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

Container Lines 'Scramble' to Rent More Ships amid Red Sea Crisis

Red Sea diversions mean container lines need more ships to carry the same amount of cargo. The security situation – which is even more precarious in the near term due to coalition air strikes in Yemen – has already driven spot container freight rates much higher. Now it is starting to push up the price container lines pay to rent ships.

“This week saw a scramble for prompt tonnage,” said MB Shipbrokers (formerly Maersk Broker) in a market report on Friday, referring to ships that can be chartered immediately.

“Owners have certainly become more bullish and are pushing for higher-than-last-done levels in all segments and most regions.” Charter rates are headed higher, “specifically for short periods of three to six months' duration,” said MB Shipbrokers.

Read more in an [article from American Shipper](#).

Trudeau Concerned About Possible Port of Montreal Strike

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says he's concerned about the long-term consequences of a possible strike at the Port of Montreal and is hoping for a negotiated settlement.

Such labour disruptions can cause long-term economic pain, he told an event organized by the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal on Tuesday.

“The uncertainty, the disruption to supply chains” don't just cause problems during strikes. After port activities resume, some customers who had found alternative transportation never return to ports, he noted.

Read more in an [article from the Ottawa Citizen](#).

Rail and Truck Updates

Vanterm and Deltaport Gates Closed Today Due to Snow

The truck gates at GCT Vanterm and Deltaport are closed today because of heavy snow accumulation on Wednesday.

Deltaport

The gate at Deltaport was closed yesterday at about 1:30 pm PT. Terminal gate efficiency fees (TGEF) for the cancelled/unused reservations will be waived for Wednesday's day shift (08:00-15:29).

GCT Deltaport will offer the following truck gates:

- Friday, January 19th day shift (08:00 - 15:59)

- Friday, January 19th afternoon shift (16:30 - 23:59)
- Saturday, January 20th day shift (08:00 - 15:29)

Vanterm

Vanterm closed at 5:00 pm yesterday. Terminal gate efficiency fees (TGEF) for the cancelled/unused reservations will be waived for Wednesday's day shift (08:00-15:29). Flex-Appointment Service (FAS) fees for the day shift will also be waived.

TGEFs for today's unused reservations will be waived for the day shift.

CN and Unifor Affiliated CNTL Drivers Reach Tentative Agreement

CN announced on Wednesday that CNTL, a CN subsidiary dedicated to first- and last-mile trucking container pickup and deliveries, has reached a tentative agreement with owner-operators affiliated with Unifor. This four-year agreement covers approximately 750 owner-operators under contract with CNTL in Canada until December 31, 2027.

Read more in a [press release from CN](#).