

CANADA Daily News and Updates February 28th 2024

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Ocean Updates

Port of Montreal Auditors' Union Denies It Gave Approval for Joint Statement with Employer

The International Longshoremen's Association Local 1657 issued a press release on Monday, excerpted below.

The newspaper La Presse published an article this morning announcing that there is an agreement between the Port of Montreal Auditors' Union (ILA 1657) and the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) regarding a joint declaration. According to the union's president, this claim is completely false. The latter therefore asks the MEA to withdraw the press release.

"I find it abhorrent that the MEA has published a so-called joint communication when last Friday we categorically rejected it. It is an unfair tactic to try to put a union at odds with another union. In addition, we disagree with the content of the bill regarding our colleagues in the Longshoremen's Union (CUPE 375)," said Elizabeth Rancourt-Bond, President of ILA 1657.

Local union ILA 1657 insists on its position of non-interference in other unions' bargaining processes.

The fair bargaining process is a fundamental mechanism by which unions negotiate wages, benefits and working conditions on behalf of their members. Local union ILA 1657 recognizes the importance of preserving the integrity of the union, free from outside influence or comment.

Read more in a [press release from the ILA Local 1657](#) (translated from French).

Ocean Alliance Carriers Kill 'Defector' Rumours with Extension to 2032

The Ocean Alliance east-west liner services vessel-sharing agreement between CMA CGM, Cosco, OOCL and Evergreen has been extended until March 31, 2032.

The announcement ended weeks of industry chatter that one of the partners would “jump ship” to join the THE Alliance after Hapag-Lloyd leaves next year.

Ocean line CEOs signed a memorandum of understanding, designed to end speculation of a new ‘alliance merry-go-round,’ which followed last month’s shock announcement by Hapag-Lloyd of its resignation from THEA to team up with Maersk in the new Gemini Cooperation next February.

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

International Business/Government

Is the Freight Industry Complicit in Circumventing Trade Sanctions Against Russia?

Is the freight industry complicit, along with cargo owners, in circumventing trade sanctions imposed by the West against Russia in retaliation for its invasion of Ukraine?

The question has been prompted by reports that, since 2022, a number of what could be described as Russia-friendly nations, mostly in Central Asia and the Caucasus, have massively increased their imports of European and U.S. goods.

The sudden rise coincides with the start of the war in Ukraine and the imposition of sanctions against Russia. For example, exports from the European Union to Kyrgyzstan – a nation of 7 million inhabitants with an average income \$1,600 dollars a year – have increased tenfold between 2021 and 2023 (x 4 from the U.S. over the same period).

Exports to Armenia have increased by 184% over the last two years (x 4.2 from the United States, x 2 in 2023 from the UK), the state discovering a sudden passion for telecommunications equipment made in Europe. Between 2021 and 2023, Armenian imports of European machinery and transport equipment jumped by 317%.

Other states to rapidly acquire a taste for Western technology products include Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Turkey.

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

Other Business

FIATA World Congress – Panama City, September 23 to 27

The [FIATA World Congress](#) is a major annual gathering that brings together leading professionals, thought leaders, experts and innovators from the logistics, transportation and freight industries.

During the event, there will be conferences, panel discussions, workshops and networking opportunities, all designed to foster knowledge sharing and promote collaboration among participants. Industry experts will provide up-to-date information on the latest trends, emerging technologies and best practices in the industry. You will be kept abreast of the latest developments and will be able to apply that knowledge in your own organization.

The 2024 FIATA Congress is a unique platform to get a complete overview of the global logistics industry. From supply chain and freight management to regulation and sustainability, you will have a holistic understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the industry.

Early-bird pricing is available until May 15.