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NEWSLETTER

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ANTWERP-BRUGES PORT HIT BY PILOT SLOW-DOWN STRIKE

Marine traffic at Belgium's Port of Antwerp-Bruges has been severely disrupted by industrial action by Flemish harbour pilots protesting federal pension reforms, reports Reuters. Port authorities said only 31 vessels were processed in one day compared to the usual 60 to 80. Some ships were delayed or stranded, while others diverted to alternative ports. The pilots, who are essential for guiding ships through congested or hazardous waters, have been working to rule, slowing operations significantly. Maersk confirmed that the disruption is affecting both Antwerp and Zeebrugge, with delays expected to persist in the coming days.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

PHILADELPHIA PORT AGAIN RANKED MOST PRODUCTIVE

The Port of Philadelphia has been named the most productive port in North America for the second consecutive year, according to the 2024 Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) published by the World Bank Group and S&P Global Market Intelligence, reports Saint Petersburg's Port News. The port rose from 55th to 26th place globally, becoming the only US port among the top 50 out of 403 container ports assessed. It also recorded the fourth-largest improvement in global rankings since 2020. CPPI evaluates vessel turnaround efficiency, including docking time, crane operations and departure schedules. Philadelphia outperformed New York/New Jersey (139th), Los Angeles (359th) and Long Beach (318th). Over the past decade, Phila Port has attracted more than US$1 billion in public and private investment, enhancing its service capabilities and supporting regional economic growth. The port recently acquired the 152-acre Mustin Yard property from Norfolk Southern Corporation. Located next to the South Port Marine Terminal, the site is the last major deep-water, rail- and highway-connected parcel in Philadelphia. The acquisition is expected to expand cargo capacity, support intermodal operations and create additional employment.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

PANAMA CANAL ENDS FY2025 WITH 14PC REVENUE INCREASE

The Panama Canal closed fiscal year 2025 with total revenues of US$5.7 billion, marking a 14.4 per cent increase over the previous year, reports London's Port Technology International. Net profit reached $4.1 billion, exceeding budget projections. The results underscore the canal's financial resilience despite weather and market challenges. The canal recorded 13,404 transits in FY2025, up 19.3 per cent from 11,240 in FY2024. Neopanamax vessels accounted for 3,342 transits, while Panamax vessels made 10,062. Total cargo volume rose 15.6 per cent to 489.1 million CP/SUAB tonnes, with Neopanamax ships handling 253.6 million tonnes and Panamax vessels 235.5 million tonnes. Growth was driven by strong performance in container and liquefied petroleum gas segments. Bulk carriers showed signs of recovery, while liquefied natural gas volumes fell short due to freight market costs. Additional revenue came from frontloading, contributing $100 million, and the long-term slot allocation programme (LoTSA), which helped offset reduced LNG transits.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

HONG KONG MARITIME WEEK 2025 TO SPOTLIGHT GREEN FUTURE

Hong Kong Maritime Week (HKMW) will return for its ninth edition from 16 to 22 November, bringing together global maritime leaders for a week of high-level events and discussions, organisers announced. The event has grown into one of the most prominent gatherings in the marine industry, known for its expert panels, networking opportunities and international participation. Last year's edition marked a milestone with first-time events hosted by the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Maritime Organization, reported organisers. This year's theme, "Navigating to a Greener Future," will guide a programme that includes the World Maritime Merchants Forum and the Asian Logistics, Maritime and Aviation Conference. The International Bunker Industry Association will also host key sessions. The newly formed Hong Kong Maritime and Port Development Board has curated the 2025 programme with the goal of positioning Hong Kong as a "Global Maritime Capital."

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA CONTAINERIZED FREIGHT INDEX

ROUTE	LAST PERIOD 2025/10/17	THIS PERIOD 2025/10/24
CCFI	973.11	992.74
(JAPAN SERVICE)	946.31	991.34
(EUROPE SERVICE)	1267.91	1293.12
(W/C AMERICA SERVICE)	725.47	736.23
(E/C AMERICA SERVICE)	858.26	857.62
(KOREA SERVICE)	491.16	459.58
(SOUTHEAST ASIA SERVICE)	751.08	774.2
(MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE)	1461.91	1496.25
(AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND SERVICE)	1065.66	1098.27
(SOUTH AFRICA SERVICE)	1372.7	1351.67
(SOUTH AMERICA SERVICE)	628.32	636.3
(WEST EAST AFRICA SERVICE)	884.15	894.11
(PERSIAN GULF/RED SEA SERVICE)	857.3	899.1

US THREATENS SANCTIONS OVER IMO SHIPPING CO2 EMISSIONS TAX

The United States has warned it may impose visa restrictions, port bans and sanctions on countries backing the UN's International Maritime Organization's IMO Net-Zero Framework to tax shipping emissions, reported Reuters. UN member states are vote on IMO proposal, which aims to tax carbon dioxide emissions from shipping, which is responsible for more that two per cent of greenhouse gases. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said the administration "unequivocally rejects the proposal, calling it a threat to the global economy and a "punitive and regressive tax regime.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA'S GREEN SHIPPING PUSH BOOSTS TRADE STABILITY

China's efforts to promote green shipping are helping stabilize global trade amid rising geopolitical and economic uncertainty, opined Beijing's Global Times. The country launched a new initiative at the 2025 North Bund Forum in Shanghai to foster international cooperation on low-carbon shipping corridors. The Ministry of Transport announced plans to establish a green corridor between Qingdao Port and Germany's Port of Hamburg. The move reflects China's commitment to open collaboration and sustainable maritime development. While rising port fees in the US are adding pressure to global supply chains, China is advancing digital and green transformation in its maritime sector. These efforts aim to reduce logistics costs and enhance long-term industry resilience. According to Xinhua, China has maintained its top global ranking in maritime connectivity for several years.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

MAERSK TO RETROFIT 200 SHIPS FOR ALTERNATE FUEL EFFICIENCY

Maersk has launched a retrofit programme for 200 time-chartered vessels aimed at improving fuel efficiency, increasing cargo capacity and cutting greenhouse gas emissions, reported London's S&P Global. The initiative reflects the challenges of transitioning to alternative fuels and achieving net-zero targets. Ahmed Hassan, Maersk's head of asset strategy, said short-term emission reductions can be achieved through upgrades to the existing fleet. More than 1,500 retrofit projects involving 50 shipowners are underway, with another 1,000 planned for 2027. Maersk aims to reduce Scope 1 emissions by 35 per cent by 2030 compared with 2022 levels. The cost of the retrofits was not disclosed but will be shared between Maersk and vessel owners. Hassan said the chartered fleet accounts for a large share of fuel consumption and operational capacity.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

MAERSK WEIGHS RETURN TO SUEZ CANAL AMID RED SEA TENSIONS

Denmark's Ambassador to Egypt said Maersk is closely monitoring developments in the Red Sea and considering a gradual return to the Suez Canal, reports London's S&P Global. Lars Bo Moller made the remarks during a meeting with Suez Canal Authority officials, where chairman Osama Rabie urged the carrier to resume operations as Israel and Hamas pursue a peace accord to end the Gaza war. Shipping firms abandoned the Red Sea route in early 2024 after Houthi attacks on merchant vessels following the outbreak of war in October 2023. The disruption has cost Egypt tens of billions in lost canal tolls. Container lines rerouted vessels around the Horn of Africa, extending voyages by up to two weeks. Military efforts by the United States and European Union in Yemen have failed to neutralize the Houthi threat, with recent attacks causing casualties.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CAI MEP - THI VAI PORT CLUSTER EMERGES AS GLOBAL MARITIME HUB

Vietnam's Cai Mep - Thi Vai Port Cluster handled 152 million tonnes of cargo in 2024, accounting for 34 per cent of the country's container volume and reinforcing its status as a world-class international seaport, reports Vietnam News Agency. Located in Phu My Ward, Ho Chi Minh City, the port cluster has become a key logistics gateway following the merger of Ba Ria - Vung Tau and Binh Duong provinces into HCMC in July 2025. The port features three container berths, three barge berths, and a 55-hectare container yard with capacity for 51,500 TEU. It is equipped with 10 STS cranes, 22 yard cranes, and advanced handling systems to accommodate vessels up to 160,000 dwt.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)