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#### SHIPPING GIANTS URGE IMO TO AVOID BIOFUELS IN GREEN PUSH

MAJOR shipping lines including Hapag-Lloyd and the maritime arm of Louis Dreyfus Co are calling on the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) to avoid backing crop-based biofuels as the industry pushes to decarbonize, reports Bloomberg. "Unless legally binding safeguards are introduced, there is a risk that a large amount of fossil fuels will be replaced with unsustainable biofuels," said the companies through the European Federation for Transport and Environment, an NGO. The NGO known as T&E has campaigned against deforestation and improper land use. It says burning palm and soy are two to three times worse for the climate than traditional fuels, according to T&E. Most palm oil is grown in vast estates in Southeast Asia, with Indonesia and Malaysia the largest producers. The commodity has long been blamed for destroying fragile habitats including carbon-rich peatlands, reducing biodiversity, and endangering rare animals, claims that producers and governments in the region have rejected.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### HAMBURG PORT CEO: MORE INTER-PORT COOPERATION NEEDED

AS president of the International Association of Ports & Harbours (IAPH), Hamburg Port Authority CEO Jens Meier called for greater cooperation and a productive knowledge sharing, reports Hamburg Business. "Sustainability is not a competitive factor," said Mr. Meier, "challenges such as sustainability or resilience to cyber-attacks can only be solved jointly." More than 180 ports and 150 related companies in some 90 countries are part of the network. "And I see a great willingness to co-operate," he said. Mr. Meier cited the declaration on the decarbonization of global shipping, signed at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC) in October, which promotes green shipping corridors. "This declaration clearly is highly visible worldwide. When I was in Miami and Seattle, I was asked whether the respective ports could still join. They can join during the next HSC in June."

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### SHANGHAI PORT SETS A NEW MONTHLY TEU VOLUME RECORD

SHANGHAI Port set a new global milestone by handling more than five million TEU in January, marking the highest monthly container throughput ever recorded worldwide. According to China Daily, this achievement follows the port's historic crossing of the 50 million TEU mark in December 2024, solidifying its position as the busiest container port in the world. In 2024, Shanghai Port handled a total of more than 50 million TEU, marking the 15th consecutive year it has held this top spot. The port's sustained dominance is attributed to a combination of enhanced shipping hub capabilities and ongoing operational optimization. Its success is also linked to broader factors such as China's robust foreign trade and economic resilience, providing a strong foundation for continued growth. Shanghai Port has previously set similar monthly records in 2021 and 2022, typically during peak shipping seasons in mid-year and around the end of the year.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### US BOX IMPORTS SOAR AHEAD OF EXPECTED US TARIFFS

US containerized imports reached a record high in January with deliveries from China up for a second month, reports Singapore's Splash 247. According to Canadian logistics and supply chain management tech specialist Descartes, imports in January stood at 2,487,470 TEU, surpassing the previous record in January 2022 by 21,455 TEU. Boxes from China hit 997,909 TEU of last month's total, a jump of 10.6 per cent over December and just 2.4 per cent shy of the all-time high of 1,022,912 TEU set in July 2024. The spike comes against a backdrop of tariff instability, with the US placing a fresh 10 per cent tariff on Chinese goods on February 4, while more punitive 25 per cent tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada were suspended until March to allow for more discussions. "The impact of new and potential tariffs, coupled with a late Chinese Lunar New Year, may have contributed to higher US container imports in January," said Jackson Wood, director of industry strategy at Descartes.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA CONTAINERIZED FREIGHT INDEX

ROUTE	LAST PERIOD	THIS PERIOD
	2025/2/14	2025/2/21
CCFI	1387.16	1318.71
(JAPAN SERVICE)	981.01	979.39
(EUROPE SERVICE)	1914.87	1791.13
(W/C AMERICA SERVICE)	1110.5	1069.99
(E/C AMERICA SERVICE)	1286.24	1207.68
(KOREA SERVICE)	526.9	502.44
(SOUTHEAST ASIA SERVICE)	1056.27	1003.93
(MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE)	2482.3	2352.75
(AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND SERVICE)	1024.78	1007.15
(SOUTH AFRICA SERVICE)	1421.93	1396.96
(SOUTH AMERICA SERVICE)	812.14	821.44
(WEST EAST AFRICA SERVICE)	964.9	921.31
(PERSIAN GULF/RED SEA SERVICE)	1264.87	1146.52

#### MSC INTRODUCES IREEFER CONTAINER MONITORING SYSTEM

MEDITERRANEAN Shipping Company (MSC) has introduced iReefer, a real-time container monitoring system accessible via the myMSC platform or API, reports trans.iNFO, Wroclaw, Poland. The system offers three tiers: Essential (free), Pro (with GPS tracking), and Ultimate (API integration), with Pro and Ultimate launching on March 1. Over 210,000 reefer containers and 500 vessels are already equipped with iReefer technology. The system aims to enhance cold chain logistics through real-time tracking, improved security, and regulatory compliance. MSC stated the launch of iReefer reflects MSC's commitment to providing customers with real-time visibility and greater control over their reefer shipments.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### MAERSK AIR CARGO OPEN WITH FIRST UK FLIGHT

MAERSK Air Cargo UK has commenced operations following the delivery of its first aircraft, a converted 767-200 freighter (G-MACZ), now in service between East Midlands Airport (EMA) and Shannon (SNN), Ireland, reports Airlines News. Registered as a BDSF (BEDEK Special Freighter), the 30-year-old aircraft previously operated on unspecified routes. Maersk secured its UK Air Operator Certificate (AOC) in 2024 to support European business activities. Since its launch in 2022, Maersk Air Cargo has expanded its fleet to two 777Fs and 19 767Fs, bolstering its global air freight capabilities.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### REGIONAL CONTAINER TRADE IMBALANCES SURGE 33PC

THE global container market has grown eight per cent, surpassing 183.2 million TEU in 2024, according to London-area's Container Trade Statistics. But growth has been uneven, and regional imbalances between exports and imports have increased 33 per cent," said BIMCO analyst Niels Rasmussen. In 2019, regional imbalances totaled 58.8 million TEU, equal to 52 per cent of inter-regional trade, but grew to 84.9 million TEU and 70 per cent in 2024. In absolute terms, the imbalance in the east and southeast Asia region remained the largest at 42.4 million, up from 29.4 million TEU in 2019. The region exported three TEU for every TEU imported in 2024. "The increase in trade imbalances has been driven by faster export growth from Asia compared with all other regions except Sub-Saharan Africa. In fact, exports from the Asian region have grown by 10.9 million TEU, whereas the total inter-regional market has grown by only 9.5 million TEU since 2019," Mr. Rasmussen said.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### CHARLESTON PORT SETS RECORD WITH BIG SHIP

SOUTH Carolina Ports and the Port of Charleston have set the record docking their highest box capacity ship yet, the 16,868-TEU OOCL Iris, reports Fort Lauderdale's Maritime Executive. While a smaller vessel by dimensions, it surpassed the capacity record set four years ago, highlighting the benefits of investments made in the port and advancements in container shipping. The OOCL Iris was recently delivered as the second of a class of 10 new neopanamax containerships Orient Overseas Container Liner (OOCL) is putting into service. OOCL highlights it is their first new neopanamax class in more than a decade with the prior vessels entering service in 2013 and 2014. Starting in 2023, the company also added a class of ultra-large container vessels, the industry's first 24,000 TEU ships. Representing the next generation of neopanamax containerships, the OOCL Iris, along with NACKS-built sisters OOCL Bauhinia and OOCL Sunflower, not only comply with the latest environmental regulatory requirements but also set new benchmarks in areas of environmental design, energy efficiency, digital intelligence and safety.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### LE HAVRE VOLUME INCREASES 19PC TO 3.1 MILLION TEU

HAROPA PORT (Port of Le Havre) has registered a 19 per cent increase in annual container throughput to 3.1 million TEU for 2024 against a complicated economic and geopolitical backdrop for French and European ports, reports Container Management. A feature of the container sector in 2025 will be the addition in Port 2000 of seven new Terminal Investment Limited (TiL) gantry cranes, following on from the arrival of the first two on November 11. The latest-generation equipment are the world's biggest cranes to date and will enhance productivity and competitiveness in the Port of Le Havre. Cargo growth was attributed to a 56 per cent transshipment surge that reached a five-year high.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)