



Important Update Oceanfreight Northern Europe Sailings and Schedule Reliability

Dear Valued Customer,

We are writing to provide you with important updates regarding the current situation in Northern Europe concerning schedule reliability and carrier adjustments.

Blank Sailings, Labour Actions & changes of Shipping Alliances:

Please be advised that some shipping lines have announced the cancellation of several sailings scheduled for April and May as a tool to recover sailing schedules that have been significantly impacted by ongoing congestion and delays at European ports. **Labour actions** at the Port of Rotterdam in March slow down operations and increased Berth waiting times to 6 days, with container yards at full capacity. Some Ocean Carriers temporarily omitted Rotterdam from their services due to the congestion. Other European ports, like Antwerp, also experienced increased pressure due to the diverted cargo from Rotterdam. This had finally an impact on most ports and will take weeks to settle. **Changes of shipping alliances** in April has also severe consequences on service levels as port calls are partly changed, new ports added and hubs moved when trying to merge services. This again results in reduced sailings, skipping of ports at the last minute and / or not being able to complete operations as berthing windows are cut short.

Outlook:

All this finally results in heavy **delays** and very **unreliable schedules**. A very high percentage of shipments are currently not shipped as booked and therefore delayed. It will take the shipping lines weeks to increase the booking and schedule reliability. Following those significant delays and changes in schedules, we also experience **congested terminals at land side** resulting in re-scheduling of export deliveries, extra costs of intermediate storage, terminal charges and trucking.

Our Commitment:

We understand the importance of timely and reliable shipping for your business. We are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide you with updates as they become available. We are committed to working with our carrier partners to minimize disruptions and ensure the smooth flow of your cargo. Although we try to limit the impact on your supply chain as much as possible, we cannot avoid this entirely as it is directly linked to the vessel scheduling of the different ocean carriers.

We recommend that you incorporate potential schedule adjustments into your planning and maintain close communication with your dedicated contact at a. hartrodt.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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