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Ocean Updates

Houthis Target Maersk and MSC Vessels as They Vow to Renew Attacks

Security services received reports of an explosion near an unidentified vessel yesterday in the Red Sea. It is the first acknowledged report in days and came just hours after the Houthis issued a renewed threat on their official channels.

Details were vague on the incident, with the UK Maritime Trade Organization issuing only brief details. They received a report from a vessel of an explosion in the water approximately 72 nautical miles southeast of the port of Djibouti. The statement said only that there had been an explosion "at a distance," and that the crew and vessel were reported safe.

A Houthi spokesperson claimed responsibility, reporting they had targeted two vessels, the *Maersk Yorktown* (28,900 DWT) a U.S.-flagged containership operated by Maersk Line Ltd., which operates under contract to the U.S. military, and the *MSC Veracruz* (68,000 DWT). The MSC vessel is registered in Portugal. The Houthis are again attributing the MSC vessel as an "Israeli ship."

Read more in an article from The Maritime Executive.

Rail and Truck Updates

Canadian Pacific Kansas City Prepares for Possible Strike

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) is preparing for the possibility of a strike by some 3,300 workers next month.

"From my perspective, the positions haven't changed much," President and CEO Keith Creel told analysts on a conference call Wednesday. Obviously, you have to hope for the best, but you also have to make sure you plan for the worst."

While 6,000 Canadian National Railway (CN) workers are also in talks with their employer, there is a possibility of two rail work stoppages this spring, which combined could paralyze virtually all freight rail traffic in Canada.

In February, the CPKC and CN called on the federal Minister of Labour to appoint a conciliator for the process of negotiating a new collective agreement for conductors, engineers and yard workers. The Notice of Dispute has set the legal stage for a possible strike or lockout, which could occur as early as May 22.

Read more in an article from La Presse (translated from French).

Customs Regulatory

FIATA Launches Model Agreement for PLACI Multiple Filing Bilateral Arrangements

FIATA, the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations, has announced the launch of the FIATA Model Agreement on multiple filing bilateral arrangements for Pre-Loading Advance Cargo Information (PLACI) regimes. The model agreement has been developed with the input of air carriers, and multinational and SME freight forwarding companies to clarify parties' responsibilities and facilitate successful compliance in the complex reporting environment when using the option of "multiple filing."

Multiple filing is a key feature introduced under new PLACI regimes, such as the European Union's Import Control System 2 (ICS-2), providing the opportunity to reinforce PLACI regimes as crucial risk-based trade facilitation measures. By opting for multiple filing, freight forwarders can directly file house-level information themselves, while air carriers file the master-level information. This allows for information to be provided in an expeditious manner by the party first in possession of that information, facilitating enhanced data quality and data sovereignty.

Read more in an <u>article from the American Journal of Transportation</u>.