

# FrachtNEWS

## Logistics Market Report

 Global Market

Ocean Freight



## Carriers Pull Capacity Ahead of Golden Week as Q4 Demand Softens

Ocean carriers are increasing October blank sailings ahead of China's Golden Week, aiming to align supply with softer seasonal demand across the main east-west corridors. "After initially holding back on blank sailings, carriers have announced additional capacity withdrawals to match the slowing demand ahead of Oct. 1, when Chinese factories close for eight days for the National Day holiday" (Knowler, 2025). For beneficial cargo owners, the immediate implications are volatile schedules and shifting weekly allocations as carriers pull capacity to stabilize the market. Analysts point to weaker demand in Q4 and early next year, with limited pricing power amid oversupply. "Falling demand and excess capacity have spot rates falling across all market indexes" (Knowler, 2025). Structural supply remains the other pressure point. The global orderbook has climbed to roughly 30% of the

in-service fleet, with additional newbuildings due this year and minimal scrapping. Despite longer routings around Africa and tight tonnage on Asia–Europe, Alphaliner notes carriers still face vessel gaps to maintain weekly loops – evidence that schedule integrity is competing with fleet constraints even as pricing weakens. Procurement teams should monitor sailing advisories closely, diversify cut-off options across gateways, and plan buffers around critical departures through the pre-Lunar New Year period. Analysts warn the demand backdrop could stay soft into early 2026.

**Source:** Knowler, G. (2025, September 23). *Ocean carriers cut capacity to arrest Golden Week rate slide*. Journal of Commerce. <https://www.joc.com/article/ocean-carriers-cut-capacity-to-arrest-golden-week-rate-slide-6085086>

# ZIM's Potential Buyout Bid Raises Questions for Container Shipping Industry

ZIM Integrated Shipping Services is reportedly exploring a management buyout (MBO) led by CEO Eli Glickman and investor Rami Unger, sparking industry debate over the carrier's future. Industry analysts point out that the timing of this potential transaction is complex. Alphaliner highlights that "the thinking behind the joint buyout bid remains somewhat unclear, however, especially with the container market headed towards a difficult period of lower rates, increasing capacity, and continued geopolitical instability" (van Marle, 2025). The debate over ZIM's future centers on whether the carrier's position and assets justify acquisition interest. Whether ZIM becomes an acquisition target or stays its course, its trajectory will continue to draw close attention from global shipping stakeholders.

**Source:** van Marle, G. (2025, September 24). *Zim weighs MBO. Worth the bother for other carriers?*. The Loadstar.  
<https://theloadstar.com/zim-weighs-mbo-worth-the-bother-for-other-carriers/>



# Alliances Reassign Fleets to Limit Exposure to U.S. Port-Call Fees



**Source:** Angell, M. (2025, September 16). *Chinese tonnage moving out of US container trade ahead of new fees: Xeneta*. Journal of Commerce.  
<https://www.joc.com/article/chinese-tonnage-moving-out-of-us-container-trade-ahead-of-new-fees-xeneta-6081320>

Ocean carriers are rapidly reshuffling vessels to keep most China-built tonnage off U.S. loops ahead of mid-October fee collections tied to a ship's place of build. Xeneta's read of current deployments indicates the eight largest lines still had about 566,000 TEUs of China-built capacity touching the U.S. in September, but much of that is being swapped out by October. As Xeneta's Peter Sand put it, "It's been a tall order for the carriers to shuffle ships around due to 'place-of-build' restrictions in the USTR legislation and adopting a profile for the services that's no longer operationally optimal" (Angell, 2025). Within the Ocean Alliance, COSCO and OOCL retain significant exposure given their Chinese ownership, while partners CMA CGM and Evergreen are redeploying non-Chinese-built ships and may help cover select U.S. strings. Separately, Gemini Cooperation partners Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd have been removing China-built tonnage from trans-Pacific services, and MSC has trimmed remaining exposure on its U.S. loops. ONE, Yang Ming, and HMM report minimal China-built vessel presence on U.S. calls. Collectively, these moves aim to maintain schedule reliability and customer coverage while aligning fleets with the forthcoming rules.

## World Shipping Council Launches AI-Driven Cargo Safety Program

The World Shipping Council (WSC) has announced a significant initiative to improve container shipping safety with the launch of its Cargo Safety Program, leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to detect misdeclared and undeclared dangerous goods before they pose a threat. According to WSC, such incidents are “responsible for more than a quarter of all cargo-related incidents” at sea (Lennane, 2025). The program integrates National Cargo Bureau (NCB) technology, capable of scanning millions of bookings in real-time using keyword searches, trade-pattern recognition, and advanced algorithms. The initiative goes beyond detection, setting common inspection standards and creating a feedback loop to learn from real-world incidents. “We have seen too many tragic incidents where misdeclared cargo has led to catastrophic fires, including the loss of life,” stated Joe Kramek, WSC president and CEO (Lennane, 2025). Alerts are flagged for carrier review, enhancing existing risk tools. Notably, the initiative introduces standardized inspection protocols and an “incident feedback loop” to ensure lessons from past events are incorporated into future operations.



The timing of the program is notable as ship fires have reached their highest levels in over a decade, though recent data from the International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI) indicates cargo loss ratios have steadily improved since 2018. WSC confirmed the Cargo Safety Program will continue to evolve as feedback and participation grow.

**Source:** Lennane, A. (2025, September 15). *WSC to boost cargo safety with AI screening technology*. The Loadstar. <https://theloadstar.com/wsc-to-boost-cargo-safety-with-ai-screening-technology/>

## False Flags on the Rise: Dark Fleet Expansion Challenges Global Regulators



The maritime sector is witnessing a rapid rise in vessels operating under fraudulent flags, a trend that is undermining regulatory oversight and threatening the transparency of global trade. The issue has drawn attention as many of these vessels openly operate in major waterways. Industry experts warn that the international legal framework is struggling to keep pace. Windward, an Israeli maritime analytics firm, has identified roughly 1,900 ships within the so-called dark fleet. Windward underscored the seriousness of this trend, stating, “The unprecedented scale and prevalence of falsely flagged ships – numbers have doubled in less than 12 months – is now a significant threat to the regulatory integrity of global seaborne trade and undermines the foundations of the world’s maritime economic system” (Chambers, 2025).

**Source:** Chambers, S. (2025, September 2). *Dark fleet doubles down with false flags as regulators left chasing shadows*. Splash247.com. <https://splash247.com/dark-fleet-doubles-down-with-false-flags-as-regulators-left-chasing-shadows/>

## Global Market

Air Freight

## Freighter Shortages May Limit Air Cargo Expansion

At the Caspian Air Cargo Summit, Atlas Air executive Martin Drew cautioned that growth in the global freighter fleet is unlikely to keep pace with rising demand. While e-commerce is expected to fuel annual air cargo growth of around 4% through 2030, supply constraints may hold the industry back. "Limited newbuilds, constrained conversion slots and the retirement of aircraft

continue to widen that gap between supply and demand," Drew explained (Brett, 2025). This imbalance highlights a critical challenge for the industry's long-term capacity planning.

**Source:** Brett, D. (2025, September 23). *Freighter fleet constraints could impact air cargo's ability to grow.* Air Cargo News. <https://www.aircargonews.net/freighter-operators/freighter-fleet-constraints-could-impact-air-cargos-ability-to-grow/1080676.article>



## Global Air Cargo Routes Shift Amid Trade Changes



Air cargo flows to the US are rapidly evolving as tariffs and the end of China's de minimis exemption reshape trade lanes. At the Caspian Air Cargo Summit, Bloemen of Aevean noted that "April-July volumes from Taiwan have increased by around 119% year on year, with volumes of computer hardware and network equipment fueling the increases" (Brett, 2025). While US imports from China decline, shipments from Taiwan, Vietnam, and India are surging, reflecting a broader realignment of global e-commerce and freight patterns.

**Source:** Brett, D. (2025, September 24). *Air cargo flows continue to shift.* Air Cargo News. <https://www.aircargonews.net/supply-chains/air-cargo-flows-continue-to-shift/1080679.article>

## Airfreight Rates Show Early Peaks, Followed by Softening Demand

After brief surges, airfreight rates are cooling heading into Q4, signaling uncertainty about the peak-season outlook. As Transport Intelligence notes, "Short-lived spikes have passed, leaving a dampened peak-season in their wake" (Lennane, 2025). Weakening demand in key lanes is contributing to fragmentation across the market. Carriers may face challenges as elevated expectations ease and rate momentum slows.

**Source:** Lennane, A. (2025, September 16). *Short-lived spikes, long-term slump? Airfreight rates struggle into Q4.* The Loadstar. <https://theloadstar.com/short-lived-spikes-long-term-slump-airfreight-rates-struggle-into-q4/>



# Global Multipurpose Market Faces Cooling Demand

Toepler Transport's September 2025 multipurpose market update indicates a gradual softening in sentiment as the industry adjusts to shifting trade conditions. According to Toepler's analyst team, the early optimism seen earlier in the year is losing momentum. One analyst noted, "This is evidenced by reduced shipper demand in trades that have been market drivers in recent months. The most significant decline was in the Far East to America trades, as the various grace periods for the implementation of US import tariffs came to an end, and with them the race to move cargoes quickly and in advance" (Kershaw, 2025). For operators and forwarders, this environment may present both a challenge and an opportunity to strategically position assets and secure longer-term commitments while market conditions remain subdued.



**Source:** Kershaw, D. (2025, September 8). *Toepler Transport's monthly multipurpose shipping rate update.* Heavy Lift & Project Forwarding International. <https://www.heavyliftpfi.com/sectors/toepler-transport-monthly-multipurpose-shipping-rate-update/21174.article>

# Procurement Breakbulk Specialists Navigate New Normal of Changing Tariffs



Procurement specialists are beginning to see greater stability in their planning strategies as tariff policies settle, offering a more predictable framework for planning project materials. As Breakbulk Magazine notes, "The dust is finally settling on tariffs. We know a lot more today than we did back in April" (Meredith 2025). This shift is encouraging decision-making that had previously been stalled by uncertainty. Regional trade agreements remain central to procurement decisions. Procurement teams are now leveraging tools such as Foreign Trade Zones, tariff engineering, and quota utilization to stay competitive. Tariffs, once seen as unpredictable disruptions, are now being integrated into sourcing models as a permanent factor. Procurement teams are adapting by balancing supplier diversity, compliance diligence, and cost stability in a dynamic global environment.

**Source:** Meredith, L. (2025, September 18). *Clearer picture emerges as project specialists weigh sourcing options.* Breakbulk Events & Media. <https://breakbulk.com/articles/the-dust-is-settling-on-tariffs>



Asian Market

Ocean Freight



# South China Logistics Brace for Post-Typhoon Recovery Amid Golden Week Timing

SuperTyphoon Ragasa's landfall in Guangdong has triggered a rapid but uneven restart across ports and airports in South China, with ripple effects stretching to Taiwan and the Philippines just days before China's National Day/Golden Week factory closures. From a supply-chain standpoint, the immediate reopening is only the first step; the region now faces backlogs, terminal congestion, crew and truck repositioning, and tight airside slots as carriers work through canceled and delayed movements. "The hurricane-force winds and rains have cut a swathe through

the region, damaging buildings, bringing down power lines and causing extensive flooding that has disrupted road and rail transport in the Philippines, Taiwan and southern China" (Wallis, 2025). Proactive booking adjustments, alternative gateways, and visibility on inland links will be essential to stabilize lead times in the weeks ahead.

**Source:** Wallis, K. (2025, September 24). *Terminals, airports to restart operations after storm makes landfall in southern China*. Journal of Commerce. <https://www.joc.com/article/terminals-airports-to-restart-operations-after-storm-makes-landfall-in-southern-china-6086188>



Asian Market

Air Freight

# Silk Way West Advances Fleet Modernization Amid Certification Challenges



Silk Way West Airlines is accelerating its fleet renewal, receiving its third Boeing 777 Freighter ahead of schedule and planning to retire older models. CEO Wolfgang Meier announced that by January, the airline will add another B777F, aiming for a fleet of 18–19 aircraft by 2032. As he noted, "We remain confident in our delivery timelines, despite some certification hurdles with the B777-8F" (Kurian, 2025).

**Source:** Kurian, L. C. (2025, September 24). *Silk Way West confident in freighter delivery timelines while raising certification concerns*. STAT Trade Times. <https://www.statetimes.com/air-cargo/silk-way-west-confident-in-freighter-delivery-timelines-while-raising-certification-concerns-1356597>



Asian Market

Air Freight

# US Tariffs Reshape India's Air Cargo Flows



Recent U.S. tariff hikes on India—rising from 25% to 50%—have disrupted trade lanes, with air cargo demand from India to the U.S. falling sharply. According to WorldACD, “India to US tonnages dipped... after Washington imposed 25% ‘reciprocal’ tariffs... [and] surged as shippers tried to rush cargo through ahead of the deadline” before dropping once the tariffs took effect (Brett, 2025). Meanwhile, India-Europe volumes are growing, and Sri Lanka has emerged as a rising alternative supplier.

**Source:** Brett, D. (2025, September 15). *US tariffs on India take their toll on air cargo demand.* Air Cargo News. <https://www.aircargonews.net/data-news/us-tariffs-on-india-take-their-toll-on-air-cargo-demand/1080637.article>



Latin American Market

Ocean Freight



# Brazil–U.S. Lane Faces Demand Decline Amid Capacity Expansion

U.S. consumption of key Brazilian commodities has cooled sharply following recent tariff actions, with early-September bookings for coffee, sugar, and orange juice falling steeply year over year. Carriers are pressing ahead with vessel deployments, even as demand weakens. “Despite the fresh weakness in the Brazil-US trade, container lines plan to add 22% more capacity in October, eeSea data shows” (Robb, 2025). Analysts warn that the additional supply could drive

spot rates lower, and if demand continues to drop, some operators may choose to bypass specific Brazilian port calls. With capacity additions proceeding despite weaker bookings, collaboration with carriers and forwarders on equipment flows and service stability becomes critical.

**Source:** Robb, L. (2025, September 24). *Key Brazilian exports to US falling sharply in early aftermath of 50% tariffs.* Journal of Commerce. <https://www.joc.com/article/key-brazilian-exports-to-us-falling-sharply-in-early-aftermath-of-50-tariffs-6086215>



## Latin American Market

Ocean Freight

## Santos Sets Sights on a Next-Gen Gateway: Tecon Santos 10

Brazil's Port of Santos is moving to develop "Tecon Santos 10," a project that would elevate the port's position as South America's primary container gateway. From a market and customer perspective, the timing aligns with demand resilience and scale effects: larger ships, fuller exchanges, and more efficient berth windows. Equally critical is landside access. As Drewry's Eleanor Hadland notes, "There is no denying that there is an urgent need for additional capacity at the Port of Santos," but "upgrading the capacity of the road network around the port is also critical for the efficient operation of Brazil's largest container port" (Robb, 2025). Bottom line for shippers and carriers: Tecon Santos 10 positions Santos for next-generation vessel calls and sustained volume growth, but end-to-end performance will hinge on synchronized terminal- and corridor-level investments.



**Source:** Robb, L. (2025, September 18). *Brazil's Santos readies development of South America's largest box terminal.* Journal of Commerce. <https://www.joc.com/article/brazils-santos-readies-development-of-south-americas-largest-box-terminal-6082796>

## Panama Canal Introduces Dedicated Transit Path for Low-Emission Vessels



The Panama Canal Authority has announced a new initiative to support the maritime sector's decarbonization efforts by reserving dedicated transit slots for low-emission vessels. Beginning October 3, 2025, the Canal will implement its "NetZero Slot" program, granting exclusive weekly passage opportunities to ships that meet specific environmental criteria. According to Ilya Espino de Marotta, deputy administrator and sustainability officer of the Panama Canal, "The NetZero Slot is an unequivocal sign of our commitment to the sustainability and competitiveness of world trade. Through this effort, we seek to accompany our customers in the transition to a low-emission future" (Schuler, 2025). For global shippers, the move provides a clear incentive to accelerate the adoption of sustainable technologies while ensuring more reliable passage through one of the world's most vital trade routes.

**Source:** Schuler, M. (2025, September 23). *Panama Canal Opens 'NetZero' Transit Slot for Green Ships.* gCaptain. <https://gcaptain.com/panama-canal-opens-netzero-transit-slot-for-green-ships/>



## Latin American Market

Ocean Freight

## Panama and Brazil Strengthen Maritime and Agricultural Ties

Panama's President José Raúl Mulino concluded a high-level visit to Brazil that strengthened bilateral cooperation in maritime, agricultural, and security sectors. The trip focused on positioning Panama as a gateway for South American trade and reinforcing its integration into the Southern Common Market. "Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Da Silva praised the importance of the interoceanic waterway for global trade, highlighting the expertise of his Panamanian administration" (Newsroom Panama, 2025). The visit included the signing of the Canal's Permanent Neutrality Treaty, a move that underscores Panama's long-term commitment to maintaining open and conflict-free passage for global trade. Two memoranda of understanding (MOUs) were also signed. The first, between the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) and Brazil's Ministry of Ports and Airports, will promote information-sharing on maritime and river operations. This agreement also explores the development of new shipping routes and efficiencies for Brazilian exports. The second MOU, signed by Panama's Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) and Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, aims to foster growth in agriculture and livestock systems through joint training, forums, and technical exchanges.

These agreements mark a strategic step for Panama, strengthening its role as a logistics hub while supporting agricultural development and regional security.



**Source:** Newsroom Panama. (2025, August 31). *Maritime and Agricultural Cooperation Agreements are Signed Between Panama and Brazil*. Newsroom Panama. <https://newsroompanama.com/2025/08/31/maritime-and-agricultural-cooperation-agreements-are-signed-between-panama-and-brazil/>

## North America Market

Ocean Freight



## Tariff Pressures Drive Forecasted Decline in U.S. Port Imports



**Source:** Chirls, S. (2025, September 11). *Retailers see import decline through end of 2025*. Freightwaves. <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/retailers-see-import-decline-through-end-of-2025>

U.S. retailers are bracing for a steady decline in import cargo volumes through the end of 2025, driven by continued tariff activity and early frontloading earlier this year. NRF Vice President for Supply Chain and Customs Policy Jonathan Gold noted that "we have seen the implementation of reciprocal tariffs across the globe, with a number of key trading partners being subjected to tariffs higher than the earlier 10% tariffs" (Chirls, 2025). Gold emphasized that while retailers maximized imports to stay ahead of rising tariffs, the unpredictability of trade policy is complicating long-term planning. He added that tariffs and supply chain disruptions are creating pressure that will ultimately be felt by consumers. This outlook underscores the delicate balance retailers face between mitigating tariff risk and managing inventory flows ahead of uncertain trade developments into 2026.

**North America Market**

Ocean Freight

## Gulfport Puts New STS Crane to Work as Operators Navigate Tariff Uncertainty

Ports America has placed a newly delivered ship-to-shore (STS) crane into service at the Port of Gulfport, choosing immediate deployment over storage or resale amid ongoing tariff uncertainty. According to the company, efforts to secure federal waivers were unsuccessful. From a terminal operations perspective, the decision reflects classic risk management: deploy the asset now, rather than tie up quay space and capital in storage while awaiting legal or policy shifts. Leadership framed the move as a pragmatic business call that preserves near-term productivity and long-term berth performance. As CEO Matthew Leech put it, “Instead, this crane will fulfill its intended purpose: to serve as a catalyst for growth, helping the Port of Gulfport realize its full potential as a strategic gateway for global trade” (Tirschwell, 2025).



**Source:** Tirschwell, P. (2025, September 15). *Ports America to pay 30% tariff on China-made ship-to-shore crane.* Journal of Commerce. <https://www.joc.com/article/ports-america-to-pay-30-tariff-on-china-made-ship-to-shore-crane-6080582>

**North America Market**

Rail Freight

## Single-Line Rail Could Reopen Midwest Gateways for West Coast Ports



Pending approval from the federal rail regulators, the proposed Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern transcontinental merger would create single-line service from the US West Coast deep into the Midwest and Ohio Valley, potentially reshaping discretionary cargo flows and tightening competition with Vancouver routings via CN. The elimination of interchange handoffs in Chicago and other hubs would simplify operations, tighten schedules, and expand direct access into Michigan and Indiana. “The efficiencies gained by merging Union Pacific Railroad (UP) and Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) would make cross-country shipments from the West Coast to markets east of Chicago more cost feasible” (Szakonyi, 2025). Sustaining those gains will depend not only on merger execution but also on railcar availability and terminal fluidity; network efficiency without sufficient equipment would push congestion back onto marine terminals.

**Source:** Szakonyi, M. (2025, September 23). *UP-NS merger could extend West Coast market share reach.* Journal of Commerce. <https://www.joc.com/article/up-ns-merger-could-extend-west-coast-market-share-reach-6085114>



**North America Market**

Air Freight

# U.S. Airfreight Exports Face Declining Demand Amid Shifting Global Preferences

U.S. export volumes are experiencing a decline, influenced by changing global market sentiments. Levi Strauss noted that there is a “risk of rising anti-Americanism... which has coincided with a modest decline in export volumes” (Lennane, 2025). This shift is impacting air freight demand, prompting logistics providers to adjust their strategies accordingly. While exports to Southeast Asia remain strong, up more than 70% year on year, transatlantic lanes have weakened, reflecting broader adjustments in global trade flows.



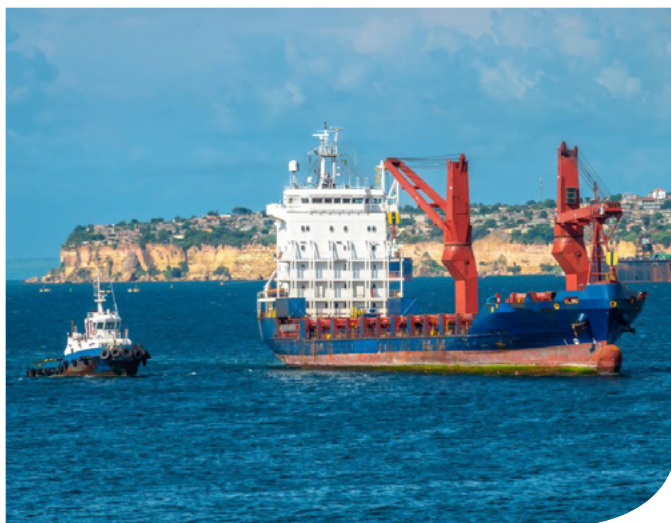
**Source:** Lennane, A. (2025, September 9). *Airfreight rates ex-US on the decline amid 'rising anti-Americanism'*. The Loadstar. <https://theloadstar.com/airfreight-rates-ex-us-on-the-decline-amid-rising-anti-americanism/>

**African Market**

Ocean Freight



# West Africa Emerges as a Strategic Growth Market for Global Forwarders



West Africa is emerging as a prime destination for global forwarders as economic conditions improve, demand for raw materials rises, and a young, skilled workforce attracts new investment. AD Ports Group has taken a leading role in this transformation with the groundbreaking of the Noatum Ports Luanda Terminal. Chief Executive Mohammed Al Tamimi described the project as “a transformative moment for the group, for Angola, and for the wider region,” adding that “by modernizing this vital gateway, we are helping position Luanda as a leading maritime and logistics hub in Central and West Africa” (Whiteman, 2025). Beyond Angola, the entire West African region is experiencing positive momentum, with forwarders reporting an increase in opportunities for growth through connections with both traditional and emerging markets. While Europe remains a traditional partner, new connections with South America are gaining traction. As West Africa builds out infrastructure and strengthens international trade links, global forwarders are positioning themselves to capture emerging growth.

**Source:** Whiteman, A. (2025, September 24). *Major forwarders see new logistics opportunities in West Africa*. The Loadstar. <https://theloadstar.com/major-forwarders-see-new-logistics-opportunities-in-west-africa/>



European Market

Ocean Freight



# Casablanca Port Expansion Advances Morocco's Maritime Ambitions

Morocco is taking significant steps to enhance its maritime position through a comprehensive expansion of the Casablanca port complex. Key upgrades include the modernization of the fish port, the development of a new shipyard, and the inauguration of a cruise terminal. The shipyard development reflects the King's earlier call for "a strong, competitive, national commercial marine fleet" (The Maritime Executive, 2025).

The Moroccan National Port Agency plans to grant a private operator the rights to manage and expand the shipyard, aligning with the country's national shipbuilding roadmap. These infrastructure projects coincide with a broader trend of rising activity across Moroccan ports.

**Source:** The Maritime Executive. (2025, September 21). *Morocco celebrates expansion milestones in Casablanca port complex.* The Maritime Executive. <https://maritime-executive.com/article/morocco-celebrates-expansion-milestones-in-casablanca-port-complex>



European Market

Air Freight

# UK Backs Gatwick Expansion to Strengthen Air Cargo Flows



The UK government has approved Gatwick Airport's plan to bring its northern runway into full operation, a move expected to ease critical cargo shortages in the southeast. Logistics UK emphasized the significance of bellyhold freight, noting it represents "almost two thirds of the UK's air cargo" and is essential for high-value, time-sensitive goods like pharmaceuticals and components (The Loadstar, 2025). With capacity projected to double by 2038, the expansion strengthens Gatwick's role as a vital hub for international trade and supply chain resilience.

**Source:** Jeffrey, Rebecca (2025, September 22). *Government approves Gatwick Airport northern runway plans.* Air Cargo News. <https://www.aircargonews.net/cargo-airports/government-approves-gatwick-airport-northern-runway-plans/1080673.article>

## Indian Market

Ocean Freight



# India Sets Course for National Container Line and Green Fleet

India is advancing an ambitious maritime strategy to establish its own national container shipping line by 2030, reducing reliance on foreign carriers and driving green shipping initiatives. Speaking at the Sustainable Shipbuilding Summit 2025, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Shantanu Thakur emphasized, “The project will see container vessels built in Indian shipyards, with 50% domestic production by 2035” (TNN, 2025). The strategic shift is viewed as instrumental in both trade expansion and climate goals. India’s move to boost inland waterway freight underscores efforts to lower logistics emissions and costs. To support this vision, India is drafting a National Shipbuilding Policy aimed at streamlining regulations, offering tax incentives, upskilling tens of thousands of workers, and fostering research in autonomous and green vessel technologies.



**Source:** TNN. (2025, September 15). *India targets national container shipping line and green fleet by 2047*. Times of India. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/india-targets-national-container-shipping-line-and-green-fleet-by-2047/articleshow/123903084.cms>

## ESG Market

Ocean Freight

# Container Shipping Surges Ahead in Alternative Fuel Adoption



The container shipping sector is moving decisively toward alternative fuels, setting itself apart from other maritime segments. According to BIMCO’s latest analysis, more than half of the global orderbook for container ships will be delivered with alternative-fuel capabilities. Niels Rasmussen, Chief Shipping Analyst at BIMCO, emphasized this milestone, stating, “As of end August 2025, 534 container ships are on order which will be able to use alternative fuels upon delivery” (Schuler, 2025). Liquefied natural gas (LNG) continues to dominate the order book, accounting for two-thirds of all alternatively fueled vessels, followed by methanol. Although methanol briefly led new orders in 2023, LNG has regained its position as the preferred option due to its more established global supply network. This rapid growth underscores container shipping’s central role in driving the industry’s energy transition, as carriers leverage scale and investment capacity to lead maritime decarbonization.

**Source:** Schuler, M. (2025, September 18). *Container Shipping Leads Maritime Transition with Over 500 Alternative-Fueled Vessels on Order*. gCaptain. [https://gcaptain.com/container-shipping-leads-maritime-transition-with-over-500-alternative-fueled-vessels-on-order/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://gcaptain.com/container-shipping-leads-maritime-transition-with-over-500-alternative-fueled-vessels-on-order/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)