

CANADA Daily News and Updates March 3rd 2025

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Air Updates

Expect a Shift in Airfreight Market as E-Commerce Changes Tack

Airfreight shippers should expect to see market shifts as e-commerce players change strategies. While the U.S. is grabbing all the headlines, other markets are likely to become more key than before.

One ecommerce specialist told *The Loadstar*: "There is a whole new scenario developing out there, shifts in thinking and markets. The U.S. is so much in the media, and of course it's important, but there are other things happening.

"In the Gulf, India, Vietnam and Europe etc., e-commerce and express is huge, and not talked about.

"E-commerce is not going away, it's what clients want. The sky is not falling, just shifting."

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

Ocean Updates

U.S. Port Fees on China Vessels Would Affect All Shipping Firms, CMA CGM Says

U.S. proposals to hit Chinese vessels with high port fees would have a major impact on all firms in a container shipping industry in which most vessels are built in China, French-based shipping firm CMA CGM said on Friday.

The U.S. Trade Representative's office has proposed charging up to \$1.5 million for Chinese-built vessels entering U.S. ports as part of its investigation into China's expansion in the shipbuilding, maritime and logistics sectors.

“China builds more than half of all container ships in the world, so this would have a significant effect on all shipping firms,” Chief Financial Officer Ramon Fernandez told reporters.

Read more in an [article from gCaptain](#).

Stranded MSC Baltic III Cannot Be Safely Refloated Reports Coast Guard

Twelve days after the containership *MSC Baltic III* lost power and was driven ashore in Canada during a winter storm, the Canadian Coast Guard reports the vessel cannot be safely refloated. Weather continues to hamper the efforts of the Coast Guard and a private salvage team, with the latest update reporting they are focusing on the fuel and other possible contaminants aboard.

The vessel was abandoned on February 15 after it was driven onto the rocky shoreline of western Newfoundland. A helicopter rescued the crew.

Since the vessel went ashore, winter storms have continued to impact the area. The Coast Guard says teams are frequently unable to get aboard the ship and the weather is hampering some of the water operations. They are monitoring the ship from shore and the air.

At the beginning of last week, they reported that divers have confirmed that there were significant breaches or holes in the hull below the waterline. The vessel has settled firmly to the seabed and so far, they have not found significant breaks about the waterline. However, pictures have shown some deformations in the hull and the possibility of a crack.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

Panama's Attorney-General Backs Claims to Cancel Hutchison Port Concessions

The port concessions held by Hutchison Ports subsidiary Panama Ports Company (PPC) in Balboa and Cristobal on the Pacific and Atlantic entrances of the Panama Canal have been in the spotlight as part of claims by U.S. President Donald Trump that the waterway is under Chinese control.

With parent company CK Hutchison headquartered in the Chinese Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, the Trump administration believes that in a time of conflict the Chinese government could order the port operator to block access to the Canal.

The 25-year concession to Hutchison's PPC was granted in 1997 and extended for a further 25-years in 2021.

In early February, two Panamanian lawyers filed a complaint with the country's Supreme Court to nullify the concessions on the basis that they were unconstitutional.

On February 19, Attorney General of Panama Luis Carlos Gómez sent his opinion to the presiding judge of the Supreme Court of Justice, María Eugenia López Arias, concluding the concession was “unconstitutional.”

Read more in an [article from Seatrade Maritime](#).

Shipping Industry Welcomes EU Clean Industrial Deal

The European Commission unveiled the Clean Industrial Deal, touching on several relevant areas to the shipping and maritime sector, particularly on the topics of decarbonization and the need for sustainable energy solutions.

Alongside the Deal, EU presented the Affordable Energy Action Plan, aiming to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, speed up the roll-out of clean energy, and advance toward electrification and a fully integrated single market for energy.

According to the EC, hydrogen has a central role to play in decarbonizing the EU energy system, in particular in the hard-to-abate sectors where electrification is not yet a viable option.

The reveal of the Clean Industrial Deal prompted swift response from several entities from the energy, transport and maritime sector. The European Shipowners in a statement welcomed the recognition of shipping under the five sectors across which the Clean Industrial Deal should be implemented.

The World Shipping Council commented that it sees the Clean Industrial Deal as an opportunity for Europe to bridge the fuel price gap and build key infrastructure needed to drive transition.

Read more in an [article from Safety4Sea](#).