



KWE
Global Logistics Partner

GLOBAL APERTURE

New European Union fees on low-value e-commerce imports [have reduced Asia Pacific and Middle East-to-Europe freighter capacity](#) by 14%, equivalent to approximately 18 fewer widebody cargo flights per day. Major European cargo gateways have reported double-digit declines in air cargo volumes as cross-border e-commerce demand adjusts to the new import costs.

The United States [has expanded sanctions](#) targeting Iran's emerging maritime services network in the Strait of Hormuz, designating two organizations that provide insurance, traffic management, and other transit-related services. The measures increase compliance risks for companies involved in shipping through the region and reinforce U.S. opposition to Iranian efforts to establish commercial control over the strategic waterway.

REGIONAL FOCUS – AMERICAS

United States: Despite ongoing tariff uncertainty and shifting global trade policies, Port Houston and the Port of Corpus Christi both reported [record first-half cargo volumes](#). Houston set a new six-month record for container throughput, while Corpus Christi achieved its strongest first half on record, driven by continued growth in energy and agricultural exports.

REGIONAL FOCUS – ASIA-PACIFIC



A member of the **KWE** Group

DISCLAIMER: The subject matter of this announcement is provided for informational purposes only. Any and all data is obtained from internal and external sources believed to be true and accurate at the time of publication. Forward-looking statements derived from such data should not be taken as guarantees of future performance, nor should they be relied upon as fact. KWE is not responsible or liable for any inaccurate information contained herein, and under no obligation to update forward-looking statements except as required by applicable security laws.

Demand for artificial intelligence-related electronics [continued to support Asian export supply chains](#) despite new U.S. tariffs that took effect on July 24. Hong Kong's exports increased 53.4% year over year in June, reflecting continued strength in technology shipments as many electronic products remain exempt from the new duties.

Bangladesh: Long-standing customs delays and stranded cargo are occupying approximately 22% of yard space at Chattogram Port, [reducing the port's effective handling capacity](#) by an estimated 40%. The congestion is increasing vessel turnaround times and limiting import and export flows, prompting port officials to call for faster disposal of long-abandoned cargo and customs reforms.

REGIONAL FOCUS – EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Europe: Historic low water levels on the Rhine River continue to [severely restrict barge traffic](#), limiting cargo movements to destinations upstream of Kaub and reducing vessel load factors. MSC has introduced alternative rail, trucking, and inland waterway options, including routes via Belgium's Albert Canal, to help maintain cargo flows as disruption along the Rhine continues.

As cargo shifts away from the Rhine, industry groups warn that Northern Europe's road and rail networks [are coming under increasing strain](#). The disruption is affecting freight flows across other European waterways, with cargo moving between the Port of Rotterdam and the Rhine running about [10% below normal](#) and limited rail and trucking capacity contributing to growing congestion.

The European Commission [has approved a €290 million Dutch state aid package](#) to accelerate production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), supporting new production facilities and project development through 2031. The funding is expected to help bring approximately 285,000 metric tons of annual SAF production capacity online, supporting the European Union's ReFuelEU Aviation objectives and expanding fuel availability over the longer term.

Wildfires across France and Spain [are disrupting road freight operations](#) through road closures, smoke, and extreme heat, causing longer transit times and diversions on key European freight corridors. The disruption is affecting supply chains beyond the fire zones, particularly traffic moving between the United Kingdom and the Iberian Peninsula, including temperature-sensitive shipments.