



GLOBAL APERTURE

On January 27, India and the European Union [finalized a long-negotiated free trade agreement](#) that signals a major realignment of one of the world's most important maritime corridors amid ongoing geopolitical shifts in global trade. The deal is expected to support increased containerized, automotive, and project cargo flows between South Asia and Europe, influencing vessel deployment and routing as shippers diversify sourcing. While implementation will be phased following ratification, enhanced customs cooperation is intended to improve cargo clearance and supply chain predictability across international trade lanes.

Renewed Houthi threats and an increased United States military presence in the Middle East [raised fresh uncertainty over shipping's tentative return to the Suez Canal](#) after prolonged Red Sea diversions. Security analysts warned that escalatory messaging and regional force movements could disrupt stability just as some carriers began testing resumed transits. The situation underscores continued risks to schedule reliability on one of the world's most critical trade corridors, with implications for routing decisions and transit planning.

REGIONAL FOCUS – AMERICAS

United States: As [Winter Storm Fern](#) and [Winter Storm Benjamin](#) move across large parts of the country, logistics providers are activating winter contingency plans to protect freight flows through key hubs such as Dallas, Atlanta, Nashville, Memphis, as well as major rail hubs nationwide. Carriers have issued service alerts warning of potential short-term delays, while pre-



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.

positioning inventory, preparing alternate routes, and using real-time visibility tools to manage impacts along critical corridors including I-75 and I-40. While localized disruptions are possible—particularly in southern regions less equipped for ice and snow—industry guidance points to temporary effects, reflecting stronger supply chain resilience and established response playbooks.

The Port of Los Angeles [reported its third-best year on record](#) and the 26th consecutive year as the nation's busiest seaport, handling more than 10.2 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in 2025. During the State of the Port address, port leadership highlighted plans to expand long-term capacity through projects such as the proposed Pier 500 container terminal, along with rail and terminal upgrades aimed at improving resilience and efficiency. The port also cited continued progress on emissions reduction and infrastructure investment to support future cargo growth and operational reliability.

Canada: On January 28, 2026, Prime Minister Mark Carney outlined Canada's strategy to reduce reliance on the United States [by diversifying trade partners and strengthening ties](#) with other "middle powers," amid growing volatility in U.S. trade policy. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Carney emphasized expanding trade relationships across Asia and Latin America while acknowledging that geography ensures the U.S. will remain Canada's largest partner. For supply chains, the shift signals a longer-term push toward more diversified trade lanes and reduced exposure to single-market disruptions.

REGIONAL FOCUS – ASIA-PACIFIC

Singapore: Changi Airport [reported a 4.5% year-on-year increase in air cargo volumes](#) for 2025, supported by front-loaded shipments and strong demand from technology-driven sectors such as semiconductors, electric vehicles, and cleantech. Airport officials cited increased use of airfreight ahead of anticipated U.S. tariff changes, along with the return and expansion of freighter services, as key drivers of growth. New and reinstated freighter routes during the year further strengthened Changi's connectivity across Asia, Europe, and the United States.

India: On January 21, the Indian government announced that it would [revoke a 2018 cabotage law reform](#) that had allowed foreign-flag vessels to move certain coastal and transshipment cargo without a license. Cabotage rules reserve domestic coastal shipping for nationally flagged vessels, with foreign ships permitted only under limited conditions when local capacity is unavailable. Authorities said a multi-year review found relaxation did not reduce reliance on foreign ports or improve container availability, and the change will take effect after a three-month transition period.

REGIONAL FOCUS – EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

On January 28, major container shipping lines reported that [severe storms and snowfall were disrupting cargo flows across Europe](#), with some ports and inland terminals forced to suspend

or reduce operations. Weather-related impacts were reported across southwestern and western Europe, with knock-on effects extending into northern markets, as vessels sheltered and terminal productivity declined. Shippers are advised to expect delays as services resume gradually, with no clear timeline yet available for full normalization.

Belgium: On January 26, Belgian railway unions began a strike scheduled to run through late January 30, primarily affecting passenger rail services amid disputes over staffing, pensions, and budget reforms. Rail freight operations [are continuing as planned](#), with no reported changes to freight train paths or schedules, though shippers are monitoring [for potential knock-on effects](#) near major ports if disruptions persist.