APERTURE & FOCUS
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GLOBAL APERTURE

Carriers handling cargo the Asia to North Europe trade lane are seeing improving demand as inventories are replenished according to the latest report from analysis firm Maritime Strategies International. Adding to this positive outlook, the transpacific trade is also expected to experience healthy growth in the coming year, but careful capacity management will be crucial to address the potential impact of oversupply in newbuild vessel tonnage.

Under a three-year MOU, the ports of Los Angeles and Guangzhou established a Green Shipping Corridor to reduce emissions in their trade routes. This partnership aligns with similar agreements that Los Angeles has established with Singapore, Shanghai, and Japanese ports for sustainable shipping practices.

REGIONAL FOCUS - AMERICAS

Canada: A strike by 361 workers in the Unifor labor union in Ontario and Quebec [has halted shipping on the St. Lawrence Seaway between Montreal and Lake Erie](#), with negotiations breaking down as the main sticking point remains remuneration. Business interest groups are urging the Canadian government to intervene and reopen this crucial waterway, which serves a significant portion of Canada's manufacturing capacity and population, and carries substantial cargo, including steel, grain, and project cargo like wind energy components.

Brazil: A historic drought in Brazil's Amazon region, causing forest fires and disruptions in river transport, [is expected to persist with no rainfall in sight](#). Experts have emphasized that climate change has made weather models outdated and the timing of the rainy season uncertain

REGIONAL FOCUS – ASIA-PACIFIC

India: Officials announced plans for India [to offer one-time grants of up to 20 percent of overall cost](#) for economically justified but financially unviable infrastructure projects. The initiative aims to promote energy-efficient and cost-effective coastal shipping, seeking to address challenges in vessel procurement costs and cargo uncertainty.

Bangladesh: As more than 1.5 million people were evacuated from vulnerable districts in Bangladesh [ahead of Cyclone Hamoon's landfall on October 25](#), flights were suspended out of Cox's Bazar Airport and operations were limited or suspended at the ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla, and Payra. Vessels remained in shelter until [cautionary signals were lifted](#) as the storm moved northwestward.

REGIONAL FOCUS – EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Czech Republic: The European Investment Bank (EIB) [is set to provide nearly €1 billion for the upgrade of the Czech Republic's railways](#) as part of a major green initiative to enhance rail quality, reduce environmental impacts, promote sustainable transport, and support regional development. The investment comes as China-Europe rail freight volumes have increased significantly, with more than 1.08 million TEU carried, primarily to Germany.

Netherlands: The ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp-Bruges [have seen significant declines in container volumes this year](#) according to their latest reports, with a nine-month drop of 7.2% and 6.8%, respectively, attributed to factors like inflation, limited economic growth, and a shift in consumer spending. Despite some marginal improvement in Rotterdam's figures, the ports continue to face challenges due to economic and geopolitical concerns, with Hamburg experiencing a substantial 14.6% drop in container volumes in the first half of 2023.