



Our regular Action Update will help you master the challenges of pandemic turbulence by giving guidance, providing data & insights.

As countries attempt to get ahead of the pandemic, responses are happening quickly and often unpredictably. The consequences to freight transport are mostly unintended but nevertheless dramatic. In this newsletter you receive updates on container shipping, current development on air cargo spot purchasing, changes in road transport volumes and capacities. In addition to the newsletter our weekly webcast series will help supply you with the information you need to keep your cargo moving.

Effects on container shipping

China is continuing to recover from the outbreak. Industrial production is now at around 90% of normal and inland transportation is improving. Ports are working above normal level to process the backlog. There is still a high demand for container train services to Europe as an alternative to air freight. The effect of cancelled sailings from China are now being felt in Europe. The expected shortage of empty containers is clearly evident. There seem to be no capacity shortages for exports out of Europe at present but our ocean freight experts anticipate reduced capacities until the end of April.

Travel restrictions and border closures in European nations have so far excluded freight. However moderate disruptions might still occur. Ports and terminals are not as yet affected and will probably remain operative. In contrast to that, inner European feeder services are already concerned. Cancellations and reroutings have been announced for Mediterranean and Scandinavian services.

[Read more](#)



Effects on the air freight market

China is still confronted with major problems. Increasing air cargo volumes are causing capacity shortages, delays and longer lead times. The US travel ban will create problems as well. Air cargo between USA and Europe is often transported in passenger aircrafts. Cancelled flights will result in capacity shortages. Nevertheless, shippers have been reporting less friction in the air freight market, as forwarders adapt their processes to the new situation. In the current circumstances good forwarder relationships are also proving their worth. Price peaks as experienced at the beginning of the crisis have eased. Forwarders have reduced their rates significantly. Shippers are turning more to the spot market. A Ticontract analysis shows more spot purchasing compared to the same period in 2019.

[Spot developments](#)

Effects on road transportation

With the current figures of the week 11 we didn't see major changes in transport volumes at European level, but we expect a decline in the upcoming week. At the same time, we have noticed a decrease in capacity of about 7.5%. This can be attributed to a decrease in transport capacity of Eastern European carriers due to border controls and travel restrictions.

- **Italy (Inland+ Italy export):** Since week 10 it has been noticeable that the contracted carriers are increasingly rejecting orders. Compared to the previous year, the rejection rate in Italy has doubled to 12%. At the same time, we have noticed a decline in capacity on the transport market of approx. 15%.
- **Germany:** No abnormalities in industrial output levels, the volume is similar to last year. But the rejection rate of contracted carriers is around 55% higher as in the previous year. On the spot market, we have seen a 6% decrease in capacity.
- **Germany - Italy:** Rejection rate of contract freight forwarders is 145% higher than in the previous year. On the spot market, capacity decreased by 45%.

Learn more in our next **Brief Update Webinar on March 19 at 10:00 a.m. (CET)** including a current view of selected micro markets and developments of volume, capacity and prices.

[Register](#)



Real-time information on border crossing times

In their efforts to contain the spread of the pandemic, European nations have set up border patrols or even closures. This has indirectly impacted cargo flows. To help the general public, Sixfold published aggregated information on border crossing times for trucks, based on real-time & predictive data, so that everyone who has a practical use for it can access it for free.

[Live Map](#)

New live webcast series: Mastering Pandemic Challenges

To help you keep up with and adapt to the constantly changing circumstances of global transport logistics during the current crisis, we will be broadcasting 3 different weekly webcast series. Each will last approximately 20 minutes. We invite you to participate in this valuable information exchange.

- On Mondays will be a live Q&A with 6 experts
- On Wednesdays we will have a webcast focusing on road transportation
- On Fridays our webcast will address issues facing air and ocean freight

Tomorrow you will receive the official invitation and the opportunity to register.

Survey: Coronavirus impact on European road transportation

[Participate](#)

Take the survey now and receive the results!



Would you like to talk to one of our experts?

Request a call and get more insights about current developments and our solutions.

[Request a call](#)