Impacts on ports and maritime transport in the Mediterranean region

Olaf Merk

Webinar “Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ports and Maritime Transport in the Mediterranean Region”
Union for the Mediterranean, MEDports Association
27 May 2020
Port volumes in the Mediterranean region

Growth rates in first quarter 2020 (year-on-year)

- Cruise: -40%
- Ferries: -30%
- Dry bulk: -20%
- Container: -15%
- Liquid bulk: -10%
- Total volumes: -5%
- Cruise: 0%
- Ferries: 5%
- Dry bulk: 10%

Source: International Transport Forum, ports, terminal operators
Mediterranean port traffic volumes per month

Growth rates in first four months 2020 (year-on-year)

Source: International Transport Forum, ports, terminal operators
Suez Canal crossings in 2020

Growth rates in number of ships first two months 2020 (year-on-year)

- Container ships
- Bulk carriers
- Car carriers
- General cargo
- LNG ships

Source: International Transport Forum, Suez Canal Authority
Container shipping costs

Asia-Med container freight rate (SCFI), USD per TEU

Source: International Transport Forum, Shanghai Shipping Exchange
Container port connectivity in the Mediterranean

Number of blank sailings on Asia-Med trades

Source: International Transport Forum, Sea Intelligence
“Never let a good crisis go to waste”

Three challenges to tackle:
1. Moral hazard related to bailouts
2. Offloading of risks and costs to the public sector
3. A subsidy “race to the bottom”, enabled by “port competition”
Annex: ports included in figures of slide 2 & 3

• Barcelona
• Valencia
• Algeciras
• Tarragona
• Castellon
• Cartagena
• Malaga
• Palma de Mallorca
• Ibiza
• La Savina

• Marseille-Fos
• Bastia
• Genoa/Savona
• La Spezia
• Naples/Salerno
• Augusta/Catania
• Taranto
• Bari/Brindisi
• Ravenna
• Venice
• Trieste

• Dubrovnik
• Piraeus
• Kumport
• Alexandria
• Port Said East
• Tanger
• Nador
Thank you!

Olaf Merk

olaf.merk@itf-oecd.org
Twitter: @o_merk