



Tuesday, 28 October 2008

Dear Customer,

**Re: Container Lines Reduce Capacity from Asia to Europe**

In light of current economic conditions and subsequent lack of demand for container movements from Asia to Europe, major container shipping lines have this week announced measures to reduce capacity between 15-25%.

This year's introduction of larger capacity vessels combined with an unexpected lack of demand in the second half of the year has led to a softening of freight rates to the point whereby major container lines cannot sustain commercial viability. Whilst container lines would ordinarily reduce capacity for the slower winter period, these additional measures are being implemented to avoid the laying up of containerships.

The container lines main objective is to increase freight rates to sustainable levels. Freight rates are now acknowledged to be at their lowest point in this cycle, and subsequent increases are deemed inevitable as a result of reduced capacity.

Key container lines such as Maersk have suspended specific loops and are redeploying some of their larger vessels to other trade routes. To counteract the effect on servicing the main European ports, Maersk are adjusting their remaining loops and supplementing with additional vessels where required.

Further details are available from your appointed Seko Synergy contact, or by clicking on the following links;

<http://www.maerskline.com/link/?page=news&path=/news/news20081024>

[http://www.apl.com/press\\_releases/html/press\\_release\\_20081021.html](http://www.apl.com/press_releases/html/press_release_20081021.html)

Seko Synergy Ltd continues to work with their preferred strategic container lines to provide a choice of transit times and service schedules to meet your requirements. We are assured by all lines that any effect on coverage and transit times will be minimal, and will continue to monitor this situation closely keeping you updated with any significant developments.

Please do not hesitate to contact your appointed Seko Synergy contact should you require any further information or assistance.

Yours Sincerely

Seko Synergy Ltd