# RAIL FREIGHT MARKET OVERVIEW

FEBRUARY 2024

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## **Capacity, Rates and Equipment situation**

#### China-Europe Westbound & Eastbound



China Hubs	Train Capacity	Rates
General	•	•
Xi'an	•	0
Chengdu	•	•



China Hubs	Train Capacity	Rates
General	•	0
Xi'an	•	•
Chengdu	•	•

#### Remarks

- Space is tight due sudden shift of volumes to rail caused by Red Sea crisis and Chinese New Year peak season rush
- Equipment available
- Train transit time performances leaving China see delays due to weather impact in Kazakhstan
- Xi'an speed train available with 13 days of transit time to Duisburg; speed trains have priority on the CN-KZ border
- Average latest train terminal-terminal performance (excluding weather impact): 13-14 days China to Poland, 18-20 days to Germany

#### Remarks

- Space tight due to reduced number of Eastbound trains in general;
   DHL rail team manages to expedite customers' containers timely
- Various express trains continue to operate with lead times of 12-15 days from Germany to China
- Quick booking to Train departure time: Train departure within 7-12 days from booking date, pickup within 1-2 days after booking date
- Available rail/Short-sea feeder connections from France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Hungary, Scandinavia, UK with European departure hubs

Capacity



Very tight



Tight



Available

Rates



Strong increase



Moderate increase



No change



Moderate decline





Strong decline

## **Capacity, Rates and Equipment situation**

#### China / Europe <-> Turkey & Central Asia



China Hubs	Capacity	Rates
From China	•	•
From Europe	•	•



China Hubs	Capacity	Rates
From China	On demand	•
From Europe	On demand	•

**Central Asia** 

Remarks

- Service from China/Europe to Kazakhstan, Central Asia and South Caucasus (e.g. Azerbaijan) available
- Direct West- & Eastbound service between China/Europe & Turkey on request; alternative connection to Turkey via Western corridor and Poland/Hungary regularly available
- Middle Corridor (2 Seas via Caspian and Black sea) available on demand; Trains planned in the end of February/early March

Turkey



ļ	China Hubs	Capacity	Rates
î	General	On demand	•

**Middle Corridor** 

Capacity **Rates** 

Strong increase

Available

Moderate increase



No change



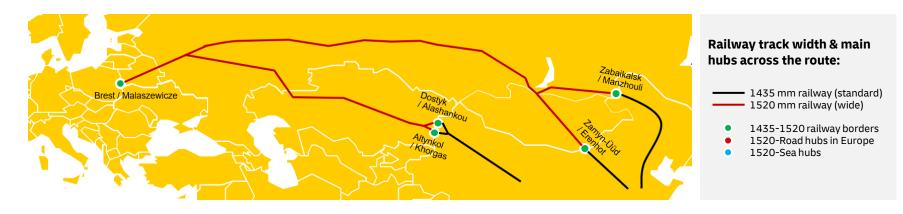
Moderate decline



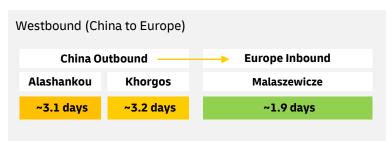
Strong decline

#### **Cross-border Situation Update**

#### Standard Railway Borders in Europe & China



#### Transit times via the main cross-border points





\*Transit time in days is an average based on DHL GPS system data and rail carrier's daily tracing report

## **DHL Multimodal OceanExpress:**

#### Red Sea situation update

- Solutions for additional Ocean Express capacity available
- Vessels continue to route via Cape of Good Hope. Routing decision taken individually for each journey based on latest situation
- Transit time extended by average 10 days due to rerouting via Cape of Good Hope
- To ensure fast access and speed of containers Westbound, first port of call in Europe is changed to Barcelona (ES), followed by Koper (SI) for sailings via Cape of Good. From Koper, Eastbound vessels are routed via Cape of Good Hope to China with first port call at Qingdao (CN) followed by Ningbo (CN) and Da Chan Bay (CN).
- Northern Europe is connected with scheduled feeder vessels from/to Barcelona – Moerdijk (NL)/Antwerp (BE)
- For detailed route & transit time information, please refer to pp. 11-13





#### **Market Update:**

#### 2023 Overview



Over 17,500 China-Europe block trains have been arranged in 2023, according to China Railways source. Comparing with 2022, total number of trains in 2023 grew by 6%. Total container volume grew by 18% and has reached 1.9 million TEU. Exact number of trains in 2023 was 17,523, including 9,343 Westbound and 8,180 Eastbound trips.

General volume growth into 2023 was mainly based on volumes from China to Russia. Compared with 2022, number of trains between China and Germany, Poland and other EU countries have decreased by 49%, and constituted only 1/3 of 2021 volume. Railway export drop from China to some EU countries was particularly sharp, for example China-Germany Westbound volume drop was 80% in 2023.

With the start of Red Sea crisis impact in December 2023, rail via all corridors between China and Europe see again strong demand for shippers who require faster transit times. Compared with ocean freight, railway rates are more stable and have grown only moderately in 2024.

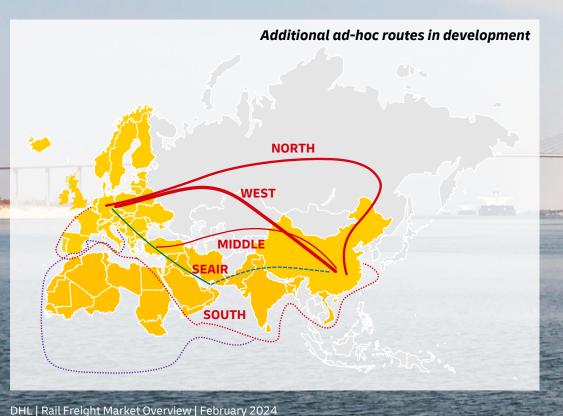
Apart of railway alternative, multimodal routings enabling resilient supply chains (please refer to overview p. 9) see also increasing interest.

# RAILWAY & MULTIMODAL ROUTINGS

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## **Major Rail & Multimodal corridors connecting Europe and Asia**



West Corridor:

22-26 days

Main route: CN-KZ-BY-PL

Fastest options for FCL/LCL



North Corridor: 22-26 days

Main route: CN-RU-BY-PL

Middle Corridor Rail:

**50-55 days** 

CN-Trans-Caspian-EU/TR

**Bypass** Russia



West/Middle Corridor Road:

20-22 days /30-35 days

CN-Russia or Trans-Caspian-EU/TR

FTL



South Corridor via Suez:

28-30 days

Main route: CN-MedPorts-Europe

Multimodal Ocean

South Corridor via COGH:

44-45 days

Main route: CN-MedPorts-Europe

**Express** 

Via Dubai: 29-30 days

Ocean Freight to Dubai, Air Freight to Europe and US

Ocean Freight &

Via LA Long Beach: 18-23 days

Ocean Freight to Long Beach, Air Freight to Europe

Air Freight

All transit times are Door-to-Door (DTD)

## Book your shipment at the scheduled multimodal routings

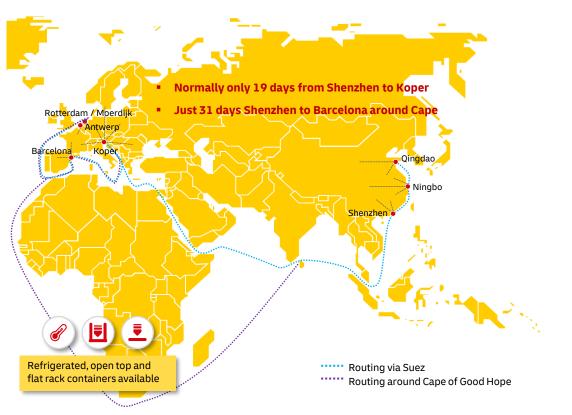


Name	Xi'an Eastbound Speed Train	Xi'an Westbound Speed Train	Chengdu Trains
Origin	Duisburg, Hamburg, DE	Xi'an, Shaanxi, CN	Chengdu, Sichuan, CN
Destination	Xi'an, CN	Hamburg & Duisburg, DE	Malaszewicze, PL; Hamburg & Duisburg, DE; Budapest, HU
Transit Time	13 days -Xi'an	13 days – Hamburg / Duisburg	14 days – to Malaszewicze 20 days – to Hamburg & Duisburg 22 days – to Budapest
ETD	Weekly	Twice per week	Twice per week
Route	West Corridor: DE-PL-BY-RU-KZ-CN	West Corridor: CN-KZ-RU-BY-PL-DE	West Corridor: CN-KZ-RU-BY-PL
Remark	<ul> <li>New fast service from Europe to China</li> <li>Based on successful WB speed train model operating since November 2022</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fastest railway service to Germany and Western Europe</li> <li>2 departures per week</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Multiple destinations in Europe</li> <li>Competitive rates</li> <li>Suitable for South China</li> </ul>

### 4==

#### **DHL Multimodal OceanExpress:**

Fastest and most reliable ocean connection from China



#### Service outline

- Reliable and punctual schedule with two departures a month, regardless of the routing (via Suez or around Cape of Good Hope)
- Short transit time comparable with direct China-Europe railway
- Batteries & IMO DG accepted, refrigerated container service available
- Quality oriented operational model:
- Fleet of mid-sized vessels with short queuing & berthing lead times
- Fast loop with synchronized feeder connections

# **Terminal-terminal transit time indications** (via Suez or around COGH\*)

Route	(days)	Koper	Barcelona	Rotterdam**	Duisburg
N	Shenzhen to	19	23	29	24
Via Suez	Ningbo to	22	26	32	27
- 0)	Qingdao to	26	30	37	31
- д -	Shenzhen to	37	31	36	37
E P	Ningbo to	40	34	39	40
Around COGH	Qingdao to	44	38	43	44

<sup>\*</sup> COGH – Cape of Good Hope; COGH transit time indications are subject to changes based on sailing plan for each journey; \*\* Altered routing via Barcelona is connected by feeder to Moerdijk & Antwerp ports

#### 4==

#### **DHL Multimodal OceanExpress:**

Fast connection from Bangladesh & Sri Lanka to Europe



#### **Key points**

- Reliable and punctual schedule with two departures a month, regardless of the routing (via Suez or around Cape of Good Hope)
- Short transit time comparable with fastest multimodal solutions
- Quality oriented operational model:
- Fleet of mid-sized vessels with short queuing & berthing lead times
- Fast loop with synchronized feeder connections
- Connectivity in Europe by truck and/or rail (intermodal)

# **Terminal-terminal transit time indications** (via Suez or around COGH\*)

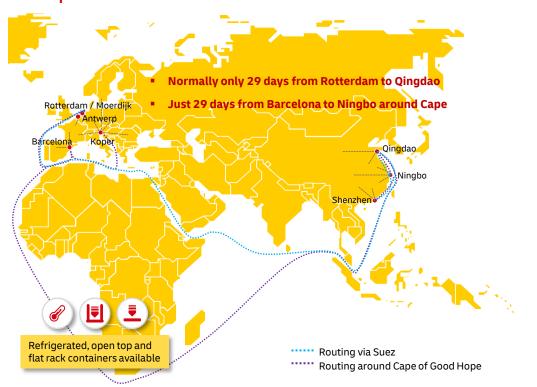
Route	(days)	Koper	Barcelona	Rotterdam**	Duisburg
a ez	Chattogram to	18	22	28	23
Colombo to		11	25	21	16
— Pu	Chattogram to	36	30	35	36
Colombo to 29		29	23	28	29

<sup>\*</sup> COGH – Cape of Good Hope; COGH transit time indications are subject to changes based on sailing plan for each journey; \*\*\* Altered routing via Barcelona is connected by feeder to Moerdijk & Antwerp ports

### 4==

#### **DHL Multimodal OceanExpress - Eastbound:**

Fastest and most reliable ocean connection from Europe to China



#### **Key points**

- Reliable and punctual schedule with two departures a month, regardless of the routing (via Suez or around Cape of Good Hope)
- Short transit time comparable with direct China-Europe railway
- Batteries & IMO DG accepted, refrigerated container service available
- Quality oriented operational model:
- Fleet of mid-sized vessels with short queuing & berthing lead times
- Fast loop with synchronized feeder connections

# **Terminal-terminal transit time indications** (via Suez or around COGH\*)

Route	(days)	Qingdao	Ningbo	Shenzhen
Via Suez	Rotterdam to	29	33	37
N. Su	Duisburg to	33	37	38
_	Barcelona to	39	42	46
Around COGH	Antwerp / Moerdijk to	46	49	52
	Koper to	43	46	50

<sup>\*</sup> COGH – Cape of Good Hope; COGH transit time indications are subject to changes based on sailing plan for each journey; \*\* Altered routing via Barcelona is connected by feeder to Moerdijk & Antwerp ports

## **Terminology & Abbreviations**

Terminology		Countries		Rail Terminals	
ATA – Actual time of Arrival	POL – Port of Loading	AT – Austria	LT – Lithuania	BCN – Barcelona	SZV – Suzhou
ATD – Actual Time of Departure	PTL – Part truck load	AZ – Azerbaijan	LU – Luxembourg	BUD – Budapest	TIL – Tilburg
BRI – Belt and Road Initiative	SMGS – Agreement on the International Goods	BE – Belgium	LV – Latvia	CGN – Cologne	TLV – Taulov
BT – Block Train	Transport by Rail	BG – Bulgaria	MN – Mongolia	CGO – Zhengzhou	WUH – Wuhan
CAGR – Compound Annual Growth Rate	SOC – Shipper Owned Container	BY – Belarus	NO – Norway	CKG – Chongging	VNO – Vilnius
CFS – Container Freight Station	T – Thousands	CH – Switzerland	PL – Poland	CTU – Chengdu	YIW – Yiwu
COC – Carrier Owned Container	TEU – Twenty feet equivalent unit (20'	CN – China	RO – Romania	DUI – Duisburg	
COTIF - Convention concerning International	container)	CR – Croatia	RS – Serbia	GUI – Guiyang	
Carriage by Rail	QoQ – Quarter on quarter	CZ – Czechia	RU – Russia	HAM – Hamburg	
DG – Dangerous Goods	YoY – Year-on-Year	DE – Germany	SE – Sweden	HEL – Helsinki	
ETA – Estimate Time of Arrival	YTD – Year-to-Date	DK – Denmark	SK – Slovakia	IST – Istanbul	
ETD – Estimated Time of Departure		EE – Estonia	TH – Thailand	KOP – Koper	
EB – Eastbound		ES – Spain	TM – Turkmenistan	LOD – Lodz	
FCL – Full container load		FI – Finland	TJ – Tajikistan	LEH – Le Havre	
FTL – Full truck load		FR – France	TR – Turkey	LIO – Lyon	
FEU – Forty feet equivalent unit (40' container	-)	GB – Great Britain	UA – Ukraine	MAA – Malaszewicze	
FOB – Free onboard		GE – Georgia	UZ – Uzbekistan	MIL – Milan	
FSC – Fuel Surcharge		GR – Greece	VN – Vietnam	MOW - Moscow	
GRI – General Rate Increase		HU – Hungary		NSS - Neuss	
LCL – Less than container load		IT – Italy		NUR – Nuremberg	
LTL – Less then truck load		KG – Kirgizstan		RTM - Rotterdam	
MoM – Month-on-Month		KH – Cambodia		SHE - Shenyang	
WB – Westbound		KZ – Kazakhstan		SIA – Xi'an	
POD – Port of Discharge		LA – Laos		STO – Stockholm	

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# **THANK YOU**