

## Weather Report

Ice and snow are the main drivers of the current weather situation in huge parts all over Europe. The long-lasting period of low temperatures and the extra-ordinary cold days in the past week followed in an additional increase of ice formations in the Baltic Sea.

As the next cold front is approaching from Eastern directions, especially in the Northern parts of the Baltic Sea additional icing is expected for the upcoming days. In connection with Northern winds it is to be expected that even more ice is being pushed towards coastal areas.

Meanwhile, in the Kiel Canal tug boats are being deployed to bring pilots aboard the vessels as pilot boats are not able to cope with the current ice conditions.

Heavy ice-breaking machinery is on regular duty to ease the passage for vessels approaching ports in Finland, Russia and the Baltic States.

In various affected regions convoying is under consideration in order to safeguard a safe passage in and out of the ports.

As a consequence of convoying and difficult conditions for berthing, loading and discharging the vessels, delays have to be anticipated within the next few weeks. In this sense short-term adjustments to our sailing schedule have to be taken into account.

We sincerely hope that our services will not be seriously affected, however we hope for your kind understanding in case vessels are being delayed or schedules have to be adjusted.

In case you require any further information or assistance please feel free to contact our local colleagues.

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