Black Sea/Sea of Azov

The following information was received from our correspondent on 28 February 2022:

QUOTE

1/ Port and aquatories status:
- Russian ports continue their normal operations. Security level No.2 was applied in all Russian ports from 25th February 2022 till 11 March 2022.

- Azov sea is still closed. We become aware that two merchant ships were damaged in result of explosion. Waiting areas are remain unchanged:

1. 45°40.0 N 036°21.0 W; 45°40.0 N 036°30.0 E; 45°34.0 N 036°30.0 W; 45°34.0 N 036°21.0 W

2. 47°00.0 N 038°22.0 W; 47°00.0 N 038°29.0 E; 46°58.5 N 038°29.0 W; 46°58.0 N 038°22.0 W

- Ports of Rostov, Yeisk, Taganrog, Temryuk are continue their internal operations.

- Kerch strait traffic is prohibited. However we are aware that certain vessels were allowed to proceed southbound (Information received on 26.02.2022)

- Presently areas above 45,2 N parallel in Azov sea and North-east area of Black Sea are considered as unsafe for vessels. In case of increasing risk of extending of combat actions area, we expect further restrictions which could be applied on South Russian Black Sea coast.

2/ Transportation restrictions
- International flights restricted in Russian Federation. Presently transit of any Russian flight (both commercial and private) is prohibited through EU, Canada and UK territories.
- Almost all airports are closed at South Russia. Sochi airport is operating as air hub, however it is still complicated to arrange flight from South Russia.

- Transportation service at port Kavkaz/ Kavkaz OPL restricted.

- We become aware that Russian dry cargo ship was detained in English channel. As per information obtained from open sources, the reason — alleged ownership of Russian sanctioned bank (Promsvyazbank — PSB). Later, this information was refuted (the vessel was redeemed from lease), however we expect further difficulties with Russian vessels, which could be related to sanctioned banks nad their affiliated entities, and directly or indirectly related to sanctioned entities or persons.

**Expectations**

- There is a risk of further sanctions to be applied on export of Russian commodities (oil, grain, steel, fertilizers)
- BP intended to sell their shares in RosNeft, with consequent termination of partnership (as per information from our source in local Rosneft office)
- Exclusion of several Russian banks from SWIFT system.
- Risk of restrictions to be applied to Turkish straits. Presently discussion is going on regarding restriction for Russian warships, however in case of conflict developments, relevant risk should be taken into account.

UNQUOTE

**Members with vessels in or who are planning to call Ukrainian ports are encouraged to reach out to their local agents and Managers’ offices in the region for further updates and advice.**

**With the addition of recent Sanctions, members are advised to exercise particular care in performing due diligence on any trade to Russia or Ukraine. More information can be found on the sanctions section of the Club’s website:**


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