

ANAVE – Circular de Régimen Interior

Madrid, 15 de marzo de 2022
Ref: Explotación 11/2022/AB

Asunto: Canal de Suez: actualización de la situación sobre los recargos en las tasas al tránsito de buques por el canal de Suez

Muy Srs. nuestros:

En la circular [Explotación 10/2022/AB](#), les informamos de que el 27 de febrero la **Autoridad del Canal de Suez** (SCA) anunció la aplicación de una serie de **recargos** (entre el **5%** y el **47%**) para los buques que transitan por el canal, dando solo un plazo de 48 horas de margen entre el anuncio y la aplicación efectiva de la medida a partir del 1 de marzo de 2022.

El Secretario General de ICS mantuvo el 1 de marzo una conversación con el Presidente de la SCA, en la que le expresó la preocupación del sector por la falta de un período de preaviso adecuado antes de aplicar el aumento de las tasas, lo cual es muy necesario para que las compañías puedan comunicar a sus clientes los cambios en los precios, y pidió que cualquier cambio futuro se notifique oportunamente.

En dicha conversación, el Presidente de la SCA comentó lo siguiente:

- **Los recargos son flexibles:** aclaró que los recargos **no son un cambio permanente en la estructura de tarifas del canal** y se van a revisar constantemente. Confirmó que existe flexibilidad para reducir o eliminar dichos recargos, y reiteró que el motivo de los mismos ha sido reflejar el significativo crecimiento del comercio mundial.
- **Otros anuncios previstos:** informó de que en breve van a anunciar nuevas medidas para compensar las posibles implicaciones comerciales negativas del actual conflicto en Ucrania, en concreto:
 - **Bonificaciones** para buques dedicados al transporte de graneles, mineral de hierro y petroleros que deseen transitar por el canal, al entender la SCA que son los tipos de buques más afectados por el deterioro de la situación de seguridad en el mar Negro; y
 - **La eliminación de las tasas de fondeo por retraso/demora** (*late anchorage fees*), que de otro modo habrían tenido que pagar los buques que transitan por el canal desde el mar Negro y las zonas afectadas.

El 7 de marzo, ICS envió a la SCA una carta de seguimiento sobre este asunto (ver **Anexo 1**) reiterando la posición del sector de que se aplase durante 6 meses la subida de las tasas y solicitando más información sobre las nuevas medidas anteriores. La SCA ha respondido a la misma (ver **Anexo 2**) indicando los motivos a los que se deben los recargos y confirmando que éstos son **“temporales y podrían revisarse, modificarse o cancelarse en caso de que se normalicen las condiciones del mercado”**.

Ayer, la SCA ha publicado una [encuesta](#) en su página web para que las partes interesadas que lo deseen comenten su **nivel de satisfacción en relación con estos recargos**. ICS anima a las empresas afectadas a cumplimentar la encuesta.

Muy atentamente,

Elena Seco

Directora General

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Chairman and Manager Director
Suez Canal Authority
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Arab Republic of Egypt

07 March 2022

Dear Admiral Rabie,

**RE: SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY ANNOUNCEMENT OF SURCHARGES
EFFECTIVE 1 MARCH 2022**

Please accept my most sincere thanks once again for taking the time to speak with me on our call last week, which was highly appreciated at such short notice. As we discussed, this matter is of great interest and concern to our members, and so we were grateful to be able to speak directly with you to clarify some pressing concerns about the SCA announcement of surcharges applicable to vessels transiting the canal.

As we highlighted during our call, it is vital for industry that any changes to canal transit prices require an adequate notice period and accompanying rationale, to allow companies to fully communicate these changes with their customers. With this in mind, we would ask that the SCA consider imposing a moratorium on the current surcharge implementation, delaying their de facto implementation for a period of 6 months. Such an extended implementation period would allow industry to seek further clarification on the rationale behind the surcharges, as it will be noted that the exceptional market circumstances driven by the pandemic have not been universally positive.

We further noted during our discussion that the surcharges announced on 27 February, and effective 1 March 2022, are not a permanent change to the canal's pricing structure and will be reviewed constantly, with the flexibility to reduce the surcharges, over the coming weeks and months. In light of this, we were pleased to hear that industry would be kept well informed of any future changes to the Suez Canal transit price, and would like to take this opportunity to encourage the SCA to consider establishing a minimum notice period of 6 months between the

announcement and implementation of changes to the canal's transit price, whether this is changes to the base toll or the addition of surcharges.

An extended period of implementation in this way would ensure that shipping companies can fully prepare for the additional cost, in dialogue with their customers, allowing the SCA to continue to respond to supply and demand conditions for the canal in a dynamic manner, while providing the level of pricing predictability that the industry requires. This is of particular importance during this exceptional time of ongoing economic repercussions brought about by the pandemic, coupled with the swiftly deteriorating security situation in the Black Sea.

As regards the crisis in Ukraine, we would like to sincerely thank you for providing us with an update of the Suez Canal Authority's upcoming plans to announce rebates and transit price reductions for those vessels most affected by the conflict. We welcome the Suez Canal's planned announcement of rebates for grain carriers, iron ore carriers and oil tankers wishing to transit the canal, in order to offset the potential negative trading implications which may be brought about by the crisis in Ukraine.

Similarly, we were pleased to be informed of the planned removal of late anchorage fees, which would otherwise have been payable by those vessels transiting through the canal from the Black Sea and affected areas. We understand that these plans will be announced shortly, and we would welcome any further information you are able to provide on the scope and length of these proposals.

Finally, I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for agreeing to speak on this issue, which is testament to the ongoing strength of dialogue between the Suez Canal Authority and the International Chamber of Shipping. We are so pleased to be able to plan to strengthen this relationship with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding later this year, and my Chairman and I sincerely look forward to meeting you and your team again in person when we visit Egypt in May.

On behalf of the global shipping industry, ICS thanks the SCA in advance for giving our comments their due consideration, and once again please allow us to express our appreciation for the tireless efforts undertaken by the SCA to enable the safe and smooth operation of the Suez Canal, one of the most critical and indispensable trade routes for global maritime trade. We look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Guy Platten
Secretary General
ICS

Mr. Guy Platten
Secretary General

ICS

I hope you are having a productive week so far.

First of all, I would like to highlight our deep appreciation towards the role of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) in the development of global maritime transport market.

Regarding the subject of your letter dated 7 March 2022, on the implementation of new surcharges as per SCA navigation circulars, we would like to indicate that these circulars are based on the current prevailing market conditions in the global shipping market. They include:

- The record increase in Bunker prices.
- The record increase in freight rates for most types of cargoes.
- The record increase in time charter rates.

Suez Canal Authority is a customer-oriented organization; we aim to support the maritime transport market by flexible pricing schemes and in such cases when the global economy slowed because of Covid-19, we reduced our transit tolls. For example, the Suez Canal Authority granted high rebates ranging from 17% up to 75% during Covid-19 crisis by enacting several navigation circulars. Some of these rebates are still in effect for some trade routes.

These Surcharges is temporary, and could be reviewed, amended or canceled, in case of normalization of market conditions.

Kindly be noted that we could not discuss these surcharges with you earlier because of the current global emergency.

Let me confirm that will spare no efforts to work closely with your esteemed entity in the future in terms of prior coordination according to the prevailing situation at then. Meanwhile, the Suez Canal Authority appreciates cooperation with (ICS) to support enhancing relationship with its clients through positive continuous dialogue.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend to your esteemed self an official invitation to attend **SCA Excellence Day Ceremony**, which is set to be held on 29th March, 2022 in Ismailia City, Egypt; marking the anniversary of

accomplishing the EVER GIVEN salvage operation, and shedding the light on the current Suez Canal Southern Section Expansion Project.

Best regards,



Elsayed Aboul-Fotouh Elsayed

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