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EBOLA VIRUS – Update 2

As previously advised the situation in the various countries of West Africa regarding the Ebola virus is very fluid and is changing on a daily basis.

In this context and further to our advice of 19.08.2014 and update of 22.08.2014 please find below the latest updated information we have received from TCI Offices in West Africa.

GABON

According to a notice issued by the Gabonese Ministry of Transport in Libreville to the Port Authorities in Gabon on the 14th August, 2014, which was received only on the 26th August, any vessel calling at a Gabonese port coming from a county affected by the current Ebola virus outbreak will not be allowed to enter or berth at the port.

Here below is a free translation of the notice issued by the Ministry of Transport to OPRAG (Port Authorities in Gabon).

Ministry of Transport

Libreville August 14th 2014

N° 0490/MT/CAB/SG

To the General Manager of OPRAG, Libreville

Suspension of the navigation of the vessels going to and coming from ports located in the countries touched by the Ebola virus.

Due to the risks linked to the transmission of the Ebola virus disease, please note that, in the name of the Government of the Gabonese Republic, I instruct you to suspend until further orders, by all the shipping owners, the transport of passengers and goods to and from ports located in countries touched by this epidemic, namely Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Nigeria.

This decision enters in force today, Thursday August 14th 2014, and must be strictly applied.

Paulette NENGUE M'OWONO

Minister of Transport

As you will note the notice is not entirely clear. However, according to information received from our contacts in Gabon, any vessel coming straight from an Ebola affected country may not call a Gabonese port (even with 22 days quarantine). The only possibility would be to have an intermediary call in a port located in a country which is

not affected by the Ebola virus. In this case the vessel would, upon arrival in Gabonese waters, be put in quarantine to respect a 22 day delay between her departure from the Ebola affected country and the Gabonese sanitary inspection which will decide if the vessel will be allowed to berth or not.

As the situation in Gabon is under constant review and the text of the notice from the Ministry of Transport could be open to interpretation we strongly suggest that Owners / Masters / Charterers regularly check with their local agent for any updates or developments.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

TCI Matadi has advised the government of the DRC confirmed the existence of the Ebola virus (two cases) in the village of JERA in the province of Equator in the north of RDC some 1200 kms from Kinshasa and 1550 kms from the port of Matadi. This village was put in quarantine by the national authorities. The ports and airports in the province of Equator were subject to restricted sanitary measures such as laser thermometers put at their disposal to obtain body temperature for each passenger.

NB: this outbreak of the Ebola virus is not connected to the Ebola discovered elsewhere in West Africa. It was not brought into the country from outside / by a foreigner, but came from the wife of a bush meat hunter who had been hunting monkeys in the Equatorial forest.

As for the sea ports in the RDC (Matadi, Boma, Banana etc.) we are advised that there are currently no restrictive measures in place. However, the quarantine / health service are carrying out stricter controls on all vessels calling at RDC.

Eltvedt & O'Sullivan
27nd August 2014