

Important Customer Advisory Middle East Operational Update

01 April 2026

Dear Customer,

We are pleased to announce that cargo movement into the Middle East is gradually stabilizing. ECU Worldwide has resumed booking acceptance for selected regional destinations. While the market has not yet fully normalized, this represents a major step toward restoring reliable supply chain continuity through a "Subject to Routing" (STR) validation model.

1. Updated Risk Heat Map (April 1st)

Trade Lane	Disruption Risk	Cost Risk	Service Reliability
Asia – Middle East	● Elevated (Improving)	● Elevated	● Medium (Stabilizing)
Asia – Europe / ISC – Europe	● High	● High	● Medium-High
Transatlantic / Asia – USEC	● Elevated	● Elevated	● Stable
Asia – US West Coast	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Stable

2. Resumption of Booking Acceptance & Gateway Strategy

ECU Worldwide has reopened bookings across selected corridors. To ensure reliability, all shipments are handled on a "Subject to Routing" basis, utilizing the most viable operating paths available:

- **KSA & Bahrain:** Utilizing **King Abdullah / Jeddah** gateways (specifically for KSA and non-HAZ cargo to Bahrain).
- **Western Hemisphere:** Shipments are moving via **Khor Fakkan** (where FPD (Final Port of Destination) is Jebel Ali) and/or **Nhava Sheva** subject to routing validation.
- **Asia & India Origins:** Bookings have reopened with routing flexibility; specific gateways will be declared at the time of booking.
- **Strategic Backup: Nhava Sheva** remains a high-priority backup option to support continuity where direct Gulf transits face friction.

3. Transit Planning & Operational Approach

As we transition into this recovery phase, ECU's local office presence in the Middle East provides enhanced control over the final mile.

Category	Status & Expectation
Transit Times	Expect some variation; final operating paths depend on feeder and gateway availability.
Routing Flexibility	The final path is determined by real-time carrier acceptance and market conditions.
Local Control	ECU-owned offices in the region ensure operational realism and close coordination.
Communication	Full transparency on any routing, transit, or cost components requiring reconfirmation.

4. Strategic Guidance for Customers

To support the smooth restoration of your supply chain, we recommend the following:

- **Advance Booking:** Place bookings as early as possible to secure and validate routing options in an evolving environment.
- **Maintain Routing Flexibility:** Remain open to alternate gateways (e.g., Jeddah vs. Nhava Sheva) to bypass potential bottlenecks.
- **Identify Urgent Cargo:** Clearly flag time-sensitive shipments so our teams can prioritize the most dependable available routing.
- **Pre-Loading Reconfirmation:** Rates, routing, and transit expectations should be reconfirmed immediately prior to cargo movement.

Market Outlook: The direction is positive, characterized by a **measured return** to normal operations. Recovery is currently shaped by carrier routing discipline and regional gateway performance. ECU Worldwide remains fully committed in restoring your supply chain continuity.

Best Regards,

