

The local branch of the Swedish Dockworkers' Union, Hamn 4, has decided to take new industrial action against the operations of APM Terminals in Gothenburg

On Thursday, the Committee of the local branch of the Swedish Dockworkers' Union, Hamn 4, voted to resurrect its list of demands from last spring with APM Terminals and they give notice of overtime ban, hiring and leasing blockade. The blockade comes into force November 8, 2016 at 16.00 and lasts until December 31, 2016 at 24.00.

What is the dispute about?

The main points on Hamn 4's list of demands, apart from the demand for a separate collective agreement, involve deciding the number of people who take part in negotiations, as well as other issues relating to amenities at the terminal.

Regarding the union involvement in negotiations, we follow the law and practice of the "Swedish model". We work according to a negotiation procedure similar to that found in all other workplaces in Sweden. In terms of collective agreements, it is something that Hamn 4 have not signed, which is one of the basic conditions for the majority of rights under the Swedish model. Ports of Sweden is the only organisation with the authority to sign a collective agreement of the kind Hamn 4's Committee is demanding. APM Terminals cannot do so.

What will happen now?

We will try to do our best to give our customers the best service as circumstances permit. In recent days, we have hired more than 30 new employees. We are currently reviewing if there are additional actions we can take to mitigate the effect. We will have a dialogue with our customers and, if necessary reschedule their flows in order to minimize the impact of the blockade. Our intention is to continue the dialogue with Hamn 4 to seek solutions to the situation.

Disproportionate effects

Hamn 4's industrial action is entirely disproportionate to the crippling effects the blockade could have on our customers, the Swedish business and trade with the outside world. We see that we are already in the short term at high risk of losing important business, which ultimately may result in lower service to our customers and the loss of jobs.

We need to once and for all put an end to the conflicts that have affected the operation of the port for 30 years. And we need to make visible the disproportionate effect that the blockade can get for our customers and for Swedish industry. Here we would appreciate support from your side and we would like to hear how you as a customer affected by a blockade and what the consequences are for your business. We therefore ask you to contact us to our CCO, Morten Brühl,

morten.bruhl@apmterminals.com

Henrik Kristensen

APM Terminals Gothenburg