

Press Release 17 May 2016:

Mediation broken off – strike at APM Terminals today

The attempt to mediate the dispute between Hamnarbetarförbundets avdelning 4 [the Port of Gothenburg branch of the Swedish Dockworkers' Union] and APM Terminals has failed, and today, Tuesday, at 16.00, the Union will begin a new 24-hour selective strike at APM Terminals Gothenburg.

“This is, obviously, very distressing, and it will hit our customers in particular very badly, and will ultimately damage Sweden’s export industries”, says Henrik Kristensen, CEO of APM Terminals. “But when it became impossible to achieve a time-limited no-strike rule for the port, it was right to break off the mediation discussions”.

The central mediation between the Swedish Dockworkers’ Union and Ports of Sweden began on Wednesday of last week, and, despite the initially good atmosphere during the discussion, which has continued largely without interruption since then, the Parties have been unable to agree on a wording that would have settled the dispute.

“Without going into detail, I can only say that it is difficult to reach an agreement when the Union side is not prepared to postpone the strike to allow mediation to continue,” says Henrik Kristensen.

Ultimately, the mediation aimed at reaching a settlement which would enable APM Terminals to maintain agreed service levels and delivery undertakings for its customers.

“The question at issue is how can we work together to organise our operations so that they take account of the needs of our customers and are flexible enough to cope with the seasons, our climate, staff illness and holiday periods”.

The announcement that the mediation process has now been broken off means that Hamn4an, the local branch of the Dockworkers’ Union, will begin its 24-hour strike at 16.00 on Tuesday. An overtime ban came into effect at 07.00, and this will continue for eight hours after the strike ends on Wednesday afternoon.

“This is, naturally, a hard blow, and it will hardly improve our ability to project the image of a reliable port operation in the long term. But we will now have to put the mediation process to one side and concentrate on trying to minimise the impact on our customers. We will be keeping companies fully informed about the strike”.

The Parties intend to resume the mediation process when the operation can be carried on again without major disruptions. No date has been decided as yet for the next mediation talks to commence.

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Om APM Terminals Gothenburg AB

APM Terminals Gothenburg är Nordens största containerterminal. Här skeppas drygt 50 procent av alla containrar till och från Sverige. Terminalen har 20-tal anlöp per vecka. Hit kommer direktanlöp, oceangående fartyg som kommer direkt från andra världsdelar samt feederfartyg, från andra hamnar i norra Europa. APM Terminals Gothenburg är den enda terminalen i Sverige som har kapacitet att ta emot och hantera de största oceangående fartygen. Cirka hälften av alla containrar till och från containerterminalen transporteras med järnväg, vilket innebär stora miljövinster. APM Terminals med huvudkontor i Haag har 20 600 anställda i 69 länder och omsätter 4,24 miljarder USD (2015). www.apmterminals.com