



# **Israeli National Federation of International Freight Forwarders & Customs Clearing Agents**

84 Hahashmonaim street Tel Aviv 6713203

Tel : 972-3-5631101

April 21<sup>st</sup> 2021  
1345310

To whom it may concern,

## **Israeli exporters, importers & manufacturers hold the Government responsible as port backup increases**

**Unprecedented line of 52 cargo ships off Israel's ports, waiting for a berth in either Ashdod or Haifa ports.**

The present backup at Israeli Mediterranean ports- Haifa and Ashdod - has cost the Israeli economy over US\$350 million during the last seven weeks by forcing factories to close for lack of raw materials.

Importers, exporters and manufacturers all indicate that Transport as well as Treasury officials, have yet to solve the problem.

The Manufacturers Association of Israel, the Chambers of Commerce as well as Importers and exporters of agricultural produce, have indicated that each additional day of ports delay, costs the economy an additional US\$20 million.

The disruption at the ports has meant that some 70,000 empty containers are stranded around at port gates for weeks, causing a shortage of containers for consignments from the Far East, which in turn causes longer transit times and long delays in goods reaching their final destinations.

Empty containers have become one of the major problems facing Israel's ports. The growing number of empty containers, is the direct result of the fact that Israel's imports far outstrip exports. Many empty containers are left in and near the ports, which do not have the room to store them.

Due to the heavily jammed ports, global shipping companies experiencing severe port congestions in Israel are presently reviewing their services in the East Mediterranean Sea, to ensure they can continue to serve customers' transportation needs to this region.

Some shipping companies are said to be avoiding Haifa and Ashdod due to backup of dozens of ships, forced to wait weeks to unload cargo. On average, about 50 ships are waiting daily to be unloaded in the two port cities, with ships waiting about 10 days in Ashdod and about five and even more days in Haifa.

We all hope that current crisis will be over soon.

**Faithfully yours,**

**IFFCCA**