



### **Updates on the Closure of Port of Baltimore**

On March 26, 2024, the container ship Dali, which was sailing from Baltimore Port to Sri Lanka, hit the Francis Scott Key Bridge, and while it is expected that there will be disruptions in the supply chain due to the collapse of the bridge, it is considered that this will not have a major impact on the global maritime industry.

The Port of Baltimore is the most important port in the USA for vehicle imports and exports. It is stated that the indefinite closure of the port with the demolition of the bridge may have an impact, especially in terms of the shipment of automobiles and agricultural and construction machinery. Motor vehicles and parts account for 42% of all Port of Baltimore imports.

It is considered that the flow of containers in the Port of Baltimore may be diverted to larger ports, with some automakers having to divert to other East Coast ports in New York, New Jersey or Roanoke, Virginia, and this may increase costs. In addition, it is stated that diverting cargo to alternative ports will be costly because there will not be enough tow trucks to transport the containers.

According to an official statement from the Baltimore Port Authority, ship traffic at the port has been suspended, but trucks are reportedly operating at the terminal.

In Baltimore, which is the second busiest port in the US for coal exports, Amazon and FedEx have distribution warehouses.

It is stated that a temporary alternative channel has been opened by The Captain of the Port (COPT) near Sollers Point and the demolished Francis Scott Key Bridge for the passage of commercial ships, and that passages through this channel will be limited to transit only during daylight hours, depending on COPT.

While it is considered that the effects of the closure of the port will be more understandable in the coming days, efforts are in place to clean the canal and open the port. Experts indicate that it could take a month to open the canal fully and years to rebuild the bridge.