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Mersin–Trieste Service at Trieste PLT Terminal

Dear Valued Customer,

What has changed

On 28 October 2026, the Port Authority of Trieste issued a decree requiring DFDS to stop calling at the HHLA PLT terminal in Trieste from 1 November 2026. This affects the two weekly calls of our Mersin–Trieste Ro-Ro service, which have used the **HHLA PLT terminal since 2021**.

We want to keep you informed about what this means for your shipments and what we are doing to protect the service.

Why this is happening

The Port Authority's decision follows congestion and infrastructure constraints at the Port of Trieste, after new vessel capacity entered the port in recent years. It was not requested by the HHLA PLT terminal itself.

We're of the opinion that this change will not ease pressure on Trieste's port infrastructure. Rather than reducing congestion, it will shift it to our other terminal, while the underlying infrastructure needs, including IT systems at HHLA PLT, still remain to be addressed.

- DFDS has not added any terminal space in Trieste in this period; since 2023 we have instead lost 300 parking slots through the Port Authority's re-allocation of terminal areas.
- DFDS terminals in Trieste ran at 104% utilisation between January and August 2026, so capacity remains very tight.
- Our other Trieste terminal, Samer Seaports & Terminals (SST), has submitted a privately funded EUR 8.5 million investment plan to the Port Authority to ease bottlenecks. We are still awaiting a response.

What this means for you

The Mersin–Trieste service continues, but you may see changes to arrival terminal, schedules and transit times while capacity in Trieste is re-arranged.

- **Arrival terminal:** 2 Mersin calls will be handled at SST and 1 call will be handled at PLT if possible.
- **Schedule:** Sailing plans will be shared weekly.
- **Possible impact:** short-notice changes, longer waiting times at the terminal and occasional delays, given high utilisation at SST.
- **Other routes:** our other Türkiye–Trieste services, onward rail connections to Austria, Germany and Luxembourg, and the Italy–Egypt line continue as planned.

Your usual DFDS contact will inform you directly of any change to a specific booking.

What we are doing

DFDS has served the Türkiye–Europe corridor through Trieste for more than 30 years, carrying around 300,000 units through the port each year. Keeping this gateway reliable for you is our priority.

- We are in active dialogue with the Port Authority of Trieste and the terminals to secure stable, long-term capacity.
- We have informed the relevant Turkish authorities and are keeping them updated.
- We are re-planning vessel and terminal operations to keep disruption to your cargo as low as possible.

We value our long-standing partnership with you and understand that these changes affect your planning. We are working closely with all related parties and our terminal partners to restore stable capacity in Trieste, and we will keep you informed at every step.

We will share further updates as soon as there is news. For questions about your shipments, please contact your DFDS customer service representative.

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We sincerely regret any inconvenience and thank you for your continued trust.

Kind regards,

DFDS Mediterranean Business Unit

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