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NEWS

4 June 2015

High-level debate about mega-ships causing port congestion

A report by the OECD's International Transport Forum (ITF) has warned that the transport costs caused by the deployment of mega-ships could be substantial because of the need for investment in port infrastructure.

At the same time it said that cost savings of ultra large containerships can be called into question, with massive ordering likely to dampen costs benefits. It added that the cost savings for the latest mega-ships were six times smaller than the savings from the previous round of upsizing and that 60% of the savings came from more efficient engines.

But a report from the World Shipping Council, which represents 90% of container shipping, defended the efficiency of larger ships, rebutting claims that they and vessel-sharing alliances were responsible for port congestion.

Labour difficulties at terminals, inconsistent productivity and inefficient transport infrastructure were to blame, the WSC added.

FTW www.ftwonline.co.za

