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**M.G. INTERNATIONAL**  
SINCE 1891



**YOUR RELIABLE PARTNER FOR SHIPMENTS TO IRAQ**

Dec 22nd, 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Clients, Partners and Friends,

We are pleased to update you on the current situation in Iraq as follows:

On the occasion of the coming holidays, we wish you and all your beloved ones a happy & enriching Christmas holiday and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for your support and confidence.

### 1. Latest News

#### ► Mosul region

As already reported, the Iraqi Army had started a military operation to take over the control of areas where control was taken over by KRG during the war against IS. On Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> the Iraqi Army has recaptured Kirkuk and several villages near the Iranian and Syrian border.

Meanwhile the western route via Basra, Nassiriya, Taji, Samara, Tikrit, Bajai, Hamm AL Aleel to Mosul is open again. The route via Kirkuk towards Mosul is not recommended from our point of view.

Our team is monitoring the local situation closely and will be glad to assist in case of further questions.

► New Umm Qassr Port Tariff  
Iraqi Port Authorities announced that from 01<sup>st</sup> of Jan 2018 a new port tariff will be in place.

► Renewal of DEL & TEL  
We assume that similar to the beginning of this year, all Duty Exemptions and Tax Exemptions need to be renewed for the year 2018.

Most likely the Iraqi Authorities will not grant Duty and Tax Exemptions for new contracts anymore. Currently the 2017 contracts are still exempted based on a Council of Ministers resolution but this resolution is not covering 2018 contracts. Therefore please consider carefully the contract terms with regard to Duty and Tax exemptions.

#### ► New Agency Law.

Iraq has passed a new commercial agency law that creates new protections for businesses that are wholly-owned by Iraqis. The new law may result in the effective expropriation of foreign investment into Iraqi import business. For further details check with:

<http://amereller.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/2017-1206-Iraqi-Commercial-Agency-Law.pdf>

### 3. Border situation

#### Turkish/Iraqi border

Security situation is stable. Border gates are open. The waiting times are around 2-4 days. Still there is the possibility that the border gates might be closed fully for a certain time period.

#### ► Jordanian/Iraqi border

The border gates are open. Operation is running smoothly. Mainly goods such as foodstuff and local Jordanian Products are imported through this gateway for the time being.



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► Saudi Arabian/Iraqi border

The border gates are open. As per now no obstacles are registered.

#### 4. Airfreight

General Situation

Due to the current closure of all airports at KRG the situation now is also affecting the airport Baghdad. Limited capacities for freight heading to Baghdad airport is getting worse due to the additional volume previously addressed to Erbil and rerouted to Baghdad instead. We do expect this limitation of freight capacities through end of 2017.

Officially Erbil Airport is closed for international flights till Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Large shipments booked with any priority service take one week or more. We highly recommend to advise your shipment as early as possible once the estimated

shipping date is available to ensure the earliest dispatch.

Erbil/Sulaymaniyah Airport

Since Sep 29<sup>th</sup> no international cargo flights are allowed until further notice.

Baghdad/Basrah Airport

Port operations are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

#### 5. Oceanfreight

Umm Qassr/Khor Al

Zubair Seaport

Port operations are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

Mersin/Iskenderun seaport

Port operations are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

#### 6. Overland Transport

RoRo Ferry Trieste-Mersin and Route via Balkan

Cargo movements via Trieste-Mersin RoRo Ferry are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

Thank you for your attention.  
Yours sincerely,  
M.G. International Transports GmbH

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