

Scandlines announces slight decrease of transportation figures for 2008

After years of growth with double-digit growth rates in some areas, Scandlines has now recorded a slight decline in transport results for the first time. The financial crisis and oil prices – at record levels over a period of months – particularly affected marine transport with the Baltic States, as well as holiday and shopping traffic between Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

In 2008, the Scandlines shipping company carried a total of more than 17.3 million passengers (-3.0%), 3.6 million cars (-3.4%), 1.1 million trucks and trailers (-1.6%), 84,200 railcars (-1.5%) and 68,700 buses/coaches (-8.6%) on its 9 Baltic Sea ferry routes.

“In the first half of 2008, we were still able to increase our transport results in all the important market segments – despite the start of the economic slowdown and the huge rises in oil prices. From the summer, it became clear that the financial crisis would also impact on our strongest routes between Germany, Denmark and Sweden, as well as the services to and from the Baltic States. The development of our freight connection between Rostock and Hanko was positive, however”, summarises Michael F. Hassing, the CEO of Scandlines GmbH.

Scandlines already started to take measures to counter the recession in late summer 2008 by discontinuing the Århus/Aabenraa-Klaipeda ferry service and reducing the volume of services on the Rostock-Gedser and Rostock-Ventspils routes.

The further decreasing industrial and consumer goods production will in particular affect freight traffic with the Baltic States but also with Scandinavia this year. Scandlines expects continued growth on the new freight route between Germany and Finland.

"We will carefully observe the market development and take suitable measures to allow us to quickly and flexibly respond to our customers' demands. At the same time, it is our goal to further increase the efficiency and profitability of our shipping company," Michael F. Hassing continued.

Rostock, 28 January 2009

A detailed overview of the transport results can be found in the enclosure.

Enc.:

Transport figures for all routes (changes compared with 2007 in brackets):

	Passengers	Cars	Trucks and trailers	Buses/ Coaches	Railcars
<i>Puttgarden-Rødby</i>	6,756,376 (- 4.3%)	1,776,824 (-4.4%)	370,362 (-4.5%)	30,152 (-7.3%)	10,444 (+21.2)
<i>Rostock-Gedser</i>	1,642,781 (+1.9%)	301,625 (+2.5%)	106,185 (-4.3%)	15,169 (-0.4%)	–
Germany-Denmark, total:	8,399,157 (-3.1%)	2,078,449 (-3.4%)	476,547 (-4.5%)	45,321 (-5.1%)	10,444 (+21.2%)
Helsingør-Helsingborg	7,915,005 (-2.5%)	1,298,134 (-2.8%)	293,909 (-3.4%)	20,401 (-14.3%)	–
<i>Rostock-Trelleborg</i>	303,369 (-10.1%)	41,595 (-12.9%)	148,450 (-7.8%)	853 (-23.1%)	17,741 (-24.6%)
<i>Sassnitz-Trelleborg</i>	686,590 (-2.5%)	169,506 (-2.4%)	38,415 (-9.7%)	2,080 (-12.7%)	56,020 (+5.1%)
Germany-Sweden, total:	989,959 (-4.9%)	211,101 (-4.7%)	186,865 (-8.2%)	2,933 (-16.0%)	73,761 (-4.0%)
Rostock-Hanko (Finland)	1,455	28	45,656	–	–
<i>Århus/Aabenraa-Klaipeda*</i>	938 (+20.9%)	–	14,079 (-29.5%)	–	–
<i>Nynäshamn-Ventspils</i>	36,397 (-1.7%)	5,272 (-11.8%)	25,332 (+3.7%)	11 (-65.6%)	–
<i>Rostock-Ventspils</i>	29,116 (-19.7%)	4,070 (-31.8%)	28,189 (-18.6%)	5 (-50.0%)	–
Baltic State services, total:	66,451 (- 27.9%)	9,342 (-36.1%)	67,600 (-26.8%)	16 (-68.6%)	–
Scandlines, total:	17,372,027 (-3.0%)	3,597,054 (-3.4%)	1,070,577 (- 1.6%)	68,671 (-8.6%)	84,205 (-1.5%)

* This service was discontinued on 30 November 2008.