



Tensions in Strategic Chokepoints and Reconfiguration of Maritime Flows

STRATEGIC INSIGHT

Since early March 2026, the strait of Ormuz has known a major disturbance of its maritime traffic. This corridor concentrates a critical part of the world trade : around 20 % of crude oil and refined products traded around the world, 20 % of the global exports of GNL (Qatar, Emirates), a significant part of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers (urea, ammonia, DAP) as well as containerized flows serving the ports of the Gulf.

The rise of maritime insurance premiums **war risk** (+50 %) and an oil tanker attacked by a drone on March 7th have confirmed the security deterioration of the corridor. This situation occurs at a time when traffic through the Suez Canal remains fragile. In this context, some shipping companies are rerouting vessels via the **Cape of Good Hope**, reconfiguring maritime flows between Asia and Europe and reinforcing the strategic interest of hubs located at the entrance to the Mediterranean, notably Tangier Med.

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Central hypothesis : The crisis of March 2026 is not a punctual shock but an accelerator of logistical arbitrage already underway since 2024. Shipowners' decisions are made in a climate of uncertainty: it is the high-risk periods that permanently reshape port call patterns.

Why is Tanger Med positioning itself as a flow reconfigurator :

- Strategic position :** The flows bypassing Africa via the Cape of Good Hope arrive near the Strait of Gibraltar, placing Tangier Med as the first major hub before Europe.
- Logistics capacity :** over 9 million TEUs and connections with 180 ports allowing the absorption of additional flows.
- Stability :** stable political and regulatory environment in a context of reassessment of maritime risk.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS FOR TANGER MED PORT

(opportunities and risks for the Region TTA)

Opportunities :

- Capture of transshipment flows :** the suspension of services to the Gulf by Maersk, MSC and COSCO Shipping may lead to a reorganization of stopovers in the western Mediterranean of which Tanger Med could capture a part, particularly on containerized flows and refined petroleum products.
- Regional redistribution hub :** The reduction of direct links with Gulf ports may strengthen the role of intermediate platforms to serve Southern Europe and West Africa.
- Logistics consolidation hub :** Uncertainty over shipping routes may accelerate the establishment of regional stocks and consolidation activities in the Tangier Med logistics zone.

Key risks :

- Competition from Algeciras: main competitor to capture the flows diverted in the Strait of Gibraltar.
- Potentially temporary effect : a rapid return to normal in the Gulf could restore traditional routes.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maritime flow monitoring unit :** Establish a maritime flow monitoring unit to track real-time shipping network adjustments and respond rapidly to new port call requests.
- Targeted approach to shipowners :** quickly engage companies that have suspended or reorganized their services to the Gulf, including major carriers such as MSC, Maersk and COSCO Shipping, with proposals for port call slots and transshipment capacities.
- Logistics offer for investors :** distribute an updated dossier presenting available capacities, installation times in free zones and maritime connectivity to attract logistics operators seeking to diversify their hubs.
- Targeted communication to shipowners and logistics operators :** promoting the political stability, maritime connectivity and industrial ecosystem of Tanger Med.
- Competitive intelligence :** continuously monitor the positioning of competing hubs in the Strait of Gibraltar, particularly the Port of Algeciras, in order to quickly adjust the commercial and operational offer.

Sources :

- Vortexa - Trafic pétrolier détroit d'Ormuz, données mars 2026
- Financial Times - War risk insurance surcharges, mars 2026
- IRIS - Ormuz, verrou stratégique du commerce mondial (2026)
- Tanger Med Group - Rapport annuel 2024
- Lloyd's List Intelligence - Mediterranean hub competition, 2025-2026