



# CIRCULAR FOR P&I CLUBS

6 JANUARY 2026

**GLOBALPANDI, S.A.**  
P&I CORRESPONDENTS

# CURRENT SHIPPING AND PORT ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING U.S. AIR STRIKES

Further to our Circular dated 3 January 2026 regarding the air strikes carried out by the United States against strategic military installations in Caracas, La Guaira, Higuerote, and other locations, and the subsequent declaration of a state of commotion, we consider it necessary to provide an update on recent political developments and on the current status of port and shipping operations in Venezuela.

***"The status of commercial public ports handling bulk, breakbulk, and containerized cargoes remains largely unchanged...."***

Following the air strikes and the reported capture and removal from the country of President Nicolás Maduro, the Constitutional Chamber of Venezuela's Supreme Court of Justice ordered that Vice President Delcy Rodríguez assume the role of Acting President of the Republic, in order to guarantee administrative continuity and the comprehensive defense of the nation.

On Monday, 5 January 2026, the new Venezuelan National Assembly was formally installed following the swearing-in of deputies elected during the parliamentary elections held in May 2025.

The installation session proceeded in accordance with constitutional protocol, including the oath-taking of legislators representing the various regions of the country for the 2026–2031 term. The session took place against a backdrop of heightened political tension following recent events, which Venezuelan authorities have characterized as an external aggression and a violation of national sovereignty and international law. During the same session, statements condemning the U.S. military actions were expected to be issued by the newly installed legislative body.

In parallel, and pursuant to constitutional provisions governing temporary presidential absence, Ms Delcy Rodríguez, who had been serving as Vice President of the Republic, was formally sworn in as Interim President of Venezuela before the National Assembly. While strongly condemning the actions of the United States and what she has described as the "kidnapping" of President Maduro, Ms Rodríguez has also stated, through her Instagram account (@delcyrodriguezv), that it is a priority "to move towards a balanced and respectful relationship between the US and Venezuela", extending an "invitation to the US government to work together on an

agenda for cooperation aimed at shared development”.

With regard to shipping and port activities, operational information gathered by our company, and in consultation with the Venezuelan Shipping Association (ANV), indicates that the status of commercial public ports handling bulk, breakbulk, and containerized cargoes remains largely unchanged. No specific instructions, orders, or navigational restrictions have, to date, been issued by the maritime authority (INEA) or the port authority (Bolipuertos, S.A.) altering normal operating procedures.

The port of Puerto Cabello is confirmed to be operating normally, with bulk carriers and container or general cargo vessels currently alongside and working without reported operational difficulties, and additional vessels awaiting their scheduled berthing at anchorage. There are no special measures in place restricting vessel traffic or imposing differential treatment on foreign vessels, regardless of flag, origin, or next port of call.


La Guaira, the commercial port closest to the capital city of Caracas, remains the only public port reportedly affected by the events of 3 January 2026. The port has been militarized and is currently subject to restricted access; however, available information indicates that port operations are continuing without significant delays at this stage. Enhanced

security measures remain in place, and the situation continues to be closely monitored.

Regarding the port and terminal complex of Jose, in Anzoátegui State, current conditions reflect a combination of heightened security measures and limited operational activity, reportedly mainly as a result of the U.S. oil blockade affecting sanctioned tankers. Notwithstanding this, vessels associated with Chevron are reported to be loading without difficulty. Bulk cargo operations involving urea and petcoke are proceeding on a limited basis, noting that neither commodity is subject to international sanctions. Terminal operations at Jose remain secure, with no incidents reported.


The port of Cumaná is also reported to be operating normally. In the western region, the port of Maracaibo remains open and available for bulk and containerized cargo operations, notwithstanding the absence of vessels currently alongside. No incidents have been reported at this port. At the Bajo Grande oil terminal, which is used primarily for Chevron loadings, export activities have resumed following a brief pause, and several vessels are currently present in the area. As elsewhere, security levels at these terminals have been significantly increased, although operations are reported to remain safe and stable.

From a liner shipping perspective, major operators serving Venezuela have issued



advisories confirming their continued engagement with the country, subject to safety, security, and regulatory considerations. ZIM Integrated Shipping Services has advised that it is closely monitoring developments and will continue serving Venezuela on a regular basis so long as conditions, regulations, and safety considerations permit, while prioritizing the protection of crew, vessels, and cargo. Maersk has similarly confirmed that its operations in Venezuela remain active, subject to security conditions and compliance with international regulations, noting that while physical offices are temporarily closed, customer service and operational support continue to be provided remotely, and services are expected to continue while conditions allow.

Overall, Venezuela's principal commercial ports remain open and operational, albeit under heightened security conditions, and no general closure orders or blanket restrictions affecting commercial shipping have been formally issued. The situation remains dynamic, particularly in light of the ongoing state of commotion and evolving political circumstances, and further changes cannot be ruled out. We will continue to monitor developments closely and will issue further updates should formal notices or instructions be promulgated by the maritime or port authorities.



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