

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

ODETTE BLANCO DE FERNANDEZ  
*née* BLANCO ROSELL; EMMA RUTH BLANCO,  
in her personal capacity, and as Personal  
Representative of the ESTATE OF ALFREDO  
BLANCO ROSELL, JR; HEBE BLANCO  
MIYARES, in her personal capacity, and as Personal  
Representative of the ESTATE OF BYRON  
BLANCO ROSELL; SERGIO BLANCO DE LA  
TORRE, in his personal capacity, and as  
Administrator *Ad Litem* of the ESTATE OF  
ENRIQUE BLANCO ROSELL; EDUARDO  
BLANCO DE LA TORRE, as Administrator *Ad  
Litem* of the ESTATE OF FLORENTINO  
BLANCO ROSELL; LIANA MARIA BLANCO;  
SUSANNAH VALENTINA BLANCO; LYDIA  
BLANCO BONAFONTE; JACQUELINE M.  
DELGADO; BYRON BLANCO, JR.;  
MAGDALENA BLANCO MONTOTO;  
FLORENTINO BLANCO DE LA TORRE; JOSEPH  
E. BUSHMAN; CARLOS BLANCO DE LA  
TORRE; and GUILLERMO BLANCO DE LA  
TORRE;

Plaintiffs,

v.

CMA CGM S.A. (a/k/a CMA CGM THE FRENCH  
LINE; a/k/a CMA CGM GROUP); CMA CGM  
(AMERICA) LLC;

Defendants.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**COMPLAINT**

Odette Blanco de Fernandez *née* Blanco Rosell (“Odette Blanco Rosell”); Emma Ruth  
Blanco, in her personal capacity, and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Alfredo Blanco

Rosell, Jr; Hebe Blanco Miyares, in her personal capacity, and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Byron Blanco Rosell; Sergio Blanco, in his personal capacity, and as Administrator *Ad Litem* of the Estate of Enrique Blanco Rosell; Eduardo Blanco de la Torre, as Administrator *Ad Litem* of the Estate of Florentino Blanco Rosell; Liana Maria Blanco; Susannah Valentina Blanco; Lydia Blanco Bonafonte; Jacqueline M. Delgado; Byron Blanco, Jr.; Magdalena Blanco Montoto; Florentino Blanco de la Torre; Joseph E. Bushman; Carlos Blanco de la Torre; and Guillermo Blanco de la Torre (“Plaintiffs”), by and through counsel, as and for their Complaint against CMA CGM S.A. (a/k/a CMA CGM The French Line; a/k/a/ CMA CGM Group) (“CMA CGM” or “Defendant”) and CMA CGM (AMERICA) LLC (“CMA CGM America”) hereby state:

### **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Plaintiffs bring this action to recover damages and interest under the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, codified at 22 U.S.C. § 6021, *et seq.* (the “Helms-Burton Act” or “Act”) against Defendants for trafficking in property which was confiscated by the Cuban Government on or after January 1, 1959 and as to which Plaintiffs own claims.

2. On September 29, 1960, the Cuban Government published the announcement of the confiscation without compensation of the following property of Plaintiff Odette Blanco Rosell and her siblings, all of whom are deceased: Alfredo Blanco Rosell, Jr.; Florentino Blanco Rosell; Enrique Blanco Rosell; and Byron Blanco Rosell (collectively, the “Blanco Rosell Siblings”)<sup>1</sup>:

One: To confiscate, on behalf of the Cuban State, all of the property and rights, whatever their nature, forming the assets of the persons listed in the first Whereas, with the exception of property and rights that are strictly of a personal nature.

---

<sup>1</sup> As stated above, the Estates of Alfredo Blanco Rosell, Jr.; Florentino Blanco Rosell; Enrique Blanco Rosell; and Byron Blanco Rosell, respectively are Plaintiffs.

Two: To confiscate, on behalf of the Cuban State, all shares or stock certificates representing capital of the entities listed in the [other] Whereas of this resolution, along with all of their properties, rights, and shares that are issued and in circulation.

Three: To order the transfer of the properties, rights, and shares forming the assets of the legal entities listed in the preceding provision to the National Institute for Agrarian Reform (I.N.R.A.).

Four: This resolution to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE of the Republic for purposes of notification and fulfillment of what is provided for by Law No. 715 of 1960.

Resolution No. 436 published in the Cuban Official Gazette dated September 29, 1960 at 23405 - 23406 (English translation).

3. The “persons listed in the first Whereas” in Resolution No. 436 above is a reference to the Blanco Rosell Siblings, who had been the subject of “investigations” carried out by the Cuban Government. *See id.* at 23405 (first Whereas clause) (“Whereas: Having considered cases number 3-2-3143, 3-2-8990 and 3-2-9832, regarding the investigations carried out on the following persons: Alfredo, Enrique, Florentino, Byron, and Odette Blanco Rosell.”).

4. The Blanco Rosell Siblings’ property confiscated by the Cuban Government included all of their “property and rights, whatever their nature,” including but not limited to:

(a) their wholly owned company, Maritima Mariel SA, and the 70-Year Concession held by Maritima Mariel SA, to develop docks, warehouses and port facilities on Mariel Bay, a deep water harbor located on the north coast of Cuba; and

(b) their wholly owned companies, Central San Ramón and Compañía Azucarera Mariel S.A., including those companies’ extensive land holdings (approximately 11,000 acres) on the southeast, south and west sides of Mariel Bay, which included a number of improvements such as roads, railways, buildings, and utilities

*See* Resolution No. 436 published in the Cuban Official Gazette dated September 29, 1960 at 23406 (English translation) (“Confiscated Property”).

5. The Blanco Rosell Siblings were not U.S. citizens when the Cuban Government confiscated their Confiscated Property in 1960. They fled Cuba after the confiscation and became U.S. citizens before March 12, 1996, the date the Helms-Burton Act was signed into law. The

Blanco Rosell Siblings were not eligible to, and therefore did not file claims with the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949. Today, only Plaintiff Odette Blanco de Fernandez, *née* Blanco Rosell, age 91, is alive.

6. In 1996, the U.S. Congress passed the Helms-Burton Act, and President Bill Clinton signed the Act into law on March 12, 1996. Title III of the Act, which took effect in August 1996, imposes liability against persons who “traffic” in property confiscated by the Cuban Government on or after January 1, 1959, the claims to which are owned by persons who became U.S. nationals after the confiscation of their property and before March 12, 1996.

7. Although Title III’s creation of liability as to those engaged in trafficking has remained in force since August 1996, the ability of any potential plaintiff to bring a private right of action for Title III violations had been suspended by several Presidents (pursuant to authority granted in the Act) [mainly in six-month increments] until May 2019, when President Donald Trump allowed the suspension of Title III’s private right of action to lapse, thereby allowing such actions to proceed.

## **PARTIES**

### **I. Plaintiffs**

8. Plaintiff Odette Blanco de Fernandez, *née* Blanco Rosell, is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). She acquired ownership of her claim to the Confiscated Property before March 12, 1996, which claim she still owns. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen on September 8, 1971. She resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

9. Plaintiff Estate of Alfredo Blanco Rosell, deceased, is represented through its Personal Representative, Emma Ruth Blanco. Alfredo Blanco Rosell was a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He became a naturalized U.S. citizen on August

26, 1970. He acquired ownership of his claim to the Confiscated Property before March 12, 1996. Prior to his death on December 10, 2006, he resided in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

10. Plaintiff Estate of Byron Blanco Rosell, deceased, is represented through its Personal Representative, Hebe Blanco Miyares. Byron Blanco Rosell was a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in or around 1972. He acquired ownership of his claim to the Confiscated Property before March 12, 1996. Prior to his death on February 25, 2001, he resided in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

11. Plaintiff Estate of Enrique Blanco Rosell, deceased, is represented through its Administrator *Ad Litem* Sergio Blanco. Enrique Blanco Rosell was a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He became a naturalized U.S. citizen on September 23, 1970. He acquired ownership of his claim to the Confiscated Property before March 12, 1996. Prior to his death on November 27, 2014, his last known place of residence was San Juan, Puerto Rico.

12. Plaintiff Estate of Florentino Blanco Rosell, deceased, is represented through its Administrator *Ad Litem* Eduardo Blanco de la Torre. Florentino Blanco Rosell was a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in or around 1975. He acquired ownership of his claim to the Confiscated Property before March 12, 1996. Prior to his death on March 18, 2005, his last known place of residence was Baldrich, Puerto Rico.

13. Plaintiff Emma Ruth Blanco is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). She is Alfredo Blanco Rosell's daughter. To the extent that Alfredo Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, she inherited and owns a portion of that claim. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen on January 4, 1973. She resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

14. Plaintiff Liana Maria Blanco is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). She is Alfredo Blanco Rosell's daughter. To the extent that Alfredo Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, she inherited and owns a portion of that claim. Upon knowledge, information and belief, she became a naturalized U.S. citizen prior to March 12, 1996. She resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

15. Plaintiff Susannah Valentina Blanco is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). She is Alfredo Blanco Rosell's granddaughter. To the extent that Alfredo Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, she inherited and owns a portion of that claim. Upon knowledge, information and belief, she became a naturalized U.S. citizen prior to March 12, 1996. She resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

16. Plaintiff Hebe Blanco Miyares is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). She is Byron Blanco Rosell's daughter. To the extent that Byron Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, she inherited and owns a portion of that claim. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen on September 23, 1970. She resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

17. Plaintiff Lydia Blanco Bonafonte is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). She is Byron Blanco Rosell's daughter. To the extent that Byron Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, she inherited and owns a portion of that claim. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen on November 17, 1971. She resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

18. Plaintiff Jacqueline M. Delgado is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). She is Byron Blanco Rosell's daughter. To the extent that Byron Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, she inherited and owns a portion of that claim. She

became a naturalized U.S. citizen on February 18, 1970. She resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

19. Plaintiff Byron Blanco, Jr. is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He is Byron Blanco Rosell's son. To the extent that Byron Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, Byron Blanco, Jr. inherited and owns a portion of that claim. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen before March 12, 1996. He resides in Orange County, California.

20. Plaintiff Magdalena Blanco Montoto is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). She is Florentino Blanco Rosell's daughter. To the extent that Florentino Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, she inherited and owns a portion of that claim. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen on June 21, 1977. She resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

21. Plaintiff Sergio Blanco is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He is Florentino Blanco Rosell's son and Enrique Blanco Rosell's nephew. To the extent that Florentino Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, Sergio Blanco inherited and owns a portion of that claim. In addition, to the extent Enrique Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, Sergio Blanco inherited and owns all of that claim. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen on January 25, 1983. He resides in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

22. Plaintiff Florentino Blanco de la Torre is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He is Florentino Blanco Rosell's son. To the extent that Florentino Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, Florentino Blanco de la Torre inherited and owns a portion of that claim. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen on February 1, 1978. He resides in Gauynabo, Puerto Rico.

23. Plaintiff Joseph E. Bushman is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He is the surviving husband of Florentino Blanco Rosell's daughter, Maria Elena Blanco. To the extent that Florentino Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, Joseph E. Bushman inherited and owns a portion of that claim. He was born a U.S. citizen on March 14, 1947 and has remained a U.S. citizen his entire life. He resides in Sumter County, Florida.

24. Plaintiff Carlos Blanco de la Torre is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He is Florentino Blanco Rosell's son. To the extent that Florentino Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, Carlos Blanco de la Torre inherited and owns a portion of that claim. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen on February 26, 1985. He resides in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

25. Plaintiff Guillermo Blanco de la Torre is a United States national within the meaning of 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A). He is Florentino Blanco Rosell's son. To the extent that Florentino Blanco Rosell's claim does not remain with his Estate, Guillermo Blanco de la Torre inherited and owns a portion of that claim. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen on August 3, 1982. He resides in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

## **II. Defendants**

26. Defendant CMA CGM S.A. ("CMA CGM" or "Defendant")<sup>2</sup> is a Société Anonyme organized under the laws of France with its principal place of business at Boulevard Jacques Sandé, 4 Quai d'Arenc, 13235 Marseille Cedex 2. The marine transportation company is one of the world's leading container carriers. Through subsidiaries (including U.S. Lines, Progeco, and

---

<sup>2</sup> For clarity, wherever the term "Defendant" (singular and by itself) is used herein, it refers to Defendant CMA CGM S.A. (a/k/a CMA CGM The French Line; a/k/a/ CMA CGM Group). As defined below, all references to co-Defendant CMA CGM (AMERICA) LLC appear as CMA CGM America.



Traveller's Club), it operates a fleet of around 540 vessels that serve more than 420 ports around the globe and maintains a network of about 600 facilities in some 160 countries. Other services, provided by Defendant through subsidiaries, including relevant non-party CEVA Logistics (also known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), which operates a logistics platform at the Port of Mariel on land that Cuba confiscated from the Blanco Rosell Siblings.

27. According to its website, Defendant CMA CGM is the self-described “U.S. Leader”.

The U.S. Leader

CMA CGM Group holds the United States’ top slot in combined import and export market share thanks to the expertise of our staff and our focus on the complete customer experience. Our innovative solutions make our services smarter and more efficient across our portfolio of maritime, inland and logistics offerings, providing our customers with the best end-to-end services in the country. Contact our sales team to book your next shipment with CMA CGM!<sup>3</sup>

28. CMA CGM’s website displays the following Key Metrics about its first place position in the United States market:<sup>4</sup>

**Key Figures**



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cma-cgm.com/local/united-states> (last visited July 22, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

29. CMA CGM's offices are spread out across the United States in Newport Beach, CA, New York, NY, Houston, TX, Chicago, IL, Alpharetta, GA and Norfolk, VA.<sup>5</sup>

30. CMA CGM's website list 21 US ports where it is active: Freeport, TX, Savannah, GA, New York, NY, Norfolk, VA, Dutch Harbor, AK, Port Everglades, FL, Philadelphia, PA, Los Angeles, CA, Long Beach, CA, Tacoma, WA, Oakland, CA, Seattle, WA, Miami, FL, Charleston, SC, Honolulu, HI, Baltimore, MD, Mobile, AL, Port Huenne, CA, Tampa, FL, Houston, TX, Los Angeles, CA, and New Orleans, LA.<sup>6</sup>

31. CMA CGM tailors its global network for the United States market and solicits customers and shipping business in Florida, including in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and throughout the United States for its commercial container shipping business from Florida.<sup>7</sup>

32. As discussed more fully below (*infra* at ¶¶ 97 - 136), CMA CGM has trafficked and continues to traffic in the Confiscated Property, the claims to which are owned by Plaintiffs, since the opening of the Port of Mariel, more than 6 years ago. According to the International Maritime Organization ("IMO"), a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping, vessels operated and directed by CMA CGM have repeatedly trafficked in the Confiscated Property by "calling" at the Terminal de Contenedores del Mariel ("TCM" or "Container Terminal"), which is part of the Port of Mariel within the Zona Especial de Desarrollo

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cma-cgm.com/local/united-states/offices-contacts> (last visited on July 22, 2021).

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cma-cgm.com/ebusiness/schedules/port/detail?CountryCode=US&PortCode=&CountryName=UNITED+STATES&PortName=&ActualPOLDescription=UNITED+STATES+%3B+US&POLDescription=UNITED+STATES+%3B+US&POLCountryCode=&POLPortCode=&IsDeparture=True&DelayFrom=2&DelayTo=14&search=Search> (last visited on July 22, 2021).

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cma-cgm.com/local/united-states> (last visited on July 22, 2021).

Mariel (“ZEDM”) (a/k/a Mariel Special Economic Zone) and within the Bay of Mariel,<sup>8</sup> and while calling at the Container Terminal, engaged in commercially beneficial transactions and other commercial activities with the Container Terminal, Almacenes Universales S.A. (also known as “AUSA”),<sup>9</sup> and/or the ZEDM. CMA CGM profits by, from and through the business activities of the CMA CGM operated vessels that call at the Port of Mariel.

33. “Calling” at a port in the container shipping industry means that containers are either offloaded or loaded at a Port of Call. See <https://www.marineinsight.com/life-at-sea/what-does-the-term-port-of-call-means/> (last visited July 21, 2021). While calling at the Port of Mariel, Defendant’s ships dock and utilize wharf space, offload and/or load containers, hook up to water and electricity, utilize crane service, container storage yards, warehouses and other storage space to store the containers, as well as road, rail and wheeled means of conveyance for the containers it unloads. CMA CGM contracts for and pays for these and other services at the Port of Mariel with the TCM, AUSA, and/or the ZEDM.

34. As discussed more fully below (*infra* at ¶¶ 44 - 45, 97 - 108, 127 - 136), Defendant’s trafficking includes Defendant, through its wholly-owned subsidiary CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), entering into an agreement with AUSA to operate and develop a

---

<sup>8</sup> As used in this Complaint, the “Port of Mariel” comprises more than 2,300 feet of wharf space, four super Post-Panamax cranes, and the capacity to handle 820,000 cargo containers annually through the Port’s Container Terminal which is the single largest user of the ZEDM. *See* Mariel is Cuba’s big industrial gamble. Could U.S. companies be among investors? Miami Herald, Oct. 23, 2017, available at <https://www.miamiherald.com/article180057406.html> (last visited July 21, 2021). Exhibit A hereto. *See also* Port of Mariel New Transport Hub for the Americas, [https://www.caribbeanshipping.org/images/CSEC2016/Presentation\\_TC\\_Mariel\\_English\\_170516.pdf](https://www.caribbeanshipping.org/images/CSEC2016/Presentation_TC_Mariel_English_170516.pdf) (last visited July 21, 2021) Exhibit B hereto (redacted to remove data regarding other Cuban ports).

<sup>9</sup> AUSA is a subsidiary of Grupo de Administración Empresarial SA (or GAESA), an umbrella group controlled by the Cuban military. In December 2020, the U.S. Treasury Department added GAESA to its “Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons” list, barring American individuals and companies from doing business with the company. *See* Notice of OFAC Sanctions Action, 85 Fed. Reg. 84468 (Dec. 28, 2020).

logistics platform on the Port of Mariel and to operate a 17 hectare logistics platform with AUSA which includes 12,000 square meters of warehouses and 5,000 cubic meters of reefer (refrigerated) warehouses.<sup>10</sup> The logistics platform is known as CARILOG. CEVA Logistics handles export consolidation, container distribution, import and export warehousing, storage of full and empty containers, and unbundling of other goods for distribution across Cuba. CARILOG, and the warehouses located thereon, as pictured on the ZEDM's website,<sup>11</sup> occupies, utilizes and exploits land that is part of the ZEDM that was confiscated by Cuba from the Blanco Rosell Siblings.

35. As discussed more fully below (*infra* at ¶¶ 117 – 126), Defendant's trafficking includes Defendant acting as the carrier for cargo shipments from multiple U.S. Ports, including PortMiami in Miami-Dade County, Florida, to the Port of Mariel. According to Bills of Lading on file with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Defendant has served as the carrier for at least 602 cargo shipments from various U.S. Ports to the Port of Mariel, the final destination declared. Defendant first carries the containers to Kingston, Jamaica, where the containers are off-loaded and then loaded onto other ships (including some ships owned by Defendant) and are then carried to the Port of Mariel, the declared final destination.

36. For example, Defendant was the "Carrier" on Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3935482, dated June 26, 2020, a cargo shipment from PortMiami on the vessel CONTSHIP ICE (IMO 9517422) to the Port of Mariel as the "Final Destination Declared." Defendants' U.S. subsidiary, CMA CGM America (defined in the next paragraph below), signed for "Carrier CMA CGM SA ... as agent for the Carrier."

---

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.cmacgm-group.com/en/news-medias/the-cma-cgm-group-signs-an-agreement-to-operate-a-logistics-platform-in-cooperation-with-a-cuban-company-in-the-presence-of-the-president-of-the-french-republic-> (last visited on July 22, 2021).

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.zedmariel.com/en/infrastructure> (last visited July 22, 2021).

VESEL (11) CONSHIP ICE 0UA65S1MA	PORT OF LOADING (1) MIAMI
PORT OF DISCHARGE FROM VESSEL (13) EL MARIEL	FOR TRANSHIPMENT

IN WITNESS WHEREOF ZERO

Bills of Lading all of like tenor, have been executed, ONE of which being accomplished, the other shall stand void.

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	BL/No. CMDU
26	JUN	20	NAM3935482

Signed for the Carrier CMA CGM SA by  
CMA CGM (AMERICA) LLC as agent for the Carrier

*M. Luby*

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(a side)

37. Defendant CMA CGM (AMERICA) LLC (“CMA CGM America”) is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey with a principal place of business in the State of Virginia. CMA CGM America is authorized to – and does – transact business in the State of Florida. CMA CGM America first obtained authorization to transact business in Florida in 2008 and has filed an annual report with the Florida Department of State every year for the past 13 years so that it may continue to transact business in Florida. The business that CMA CGM America transacts in Florida includes trafficking in the Confiscated Property by acting as Defendant’s agent for Defendant’s carrying of containers from PortMiami to the Port of Mariel. The Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3935482, referred to above in Paragraph 36 and signed by CMA CGM America, is one example of CMA CGM America trafficking in the Confiscated Property.

**III. Relevant Non-Parties**

38. The Terminal de Contenedores del Mariel (“TCM” or “Container Terminal”) is a 100% Cuban state-owned entity.

39. Non-party Almacenes Universales S.A. (also known as “AUSA”) is a 100% Cuban state-owned entity that is a comprehensive logistics operator that, *inter alia*, runs the container storage yard in the ZEDM. AUSA is a subsidiary of Grupo de Administración Empresarial SA (or GAESA), an umbrella group controlled by the Cuban military. On November 9, 2017, the U.S. State Department listed GAESA, AUSA, and the TCM as Restricted Entities and Subentities Associated with Cuba. *See* The State Department’s List of Entities and Subentities Associated with Cuba (Cuba Restricted List), 82 Fed. Reg. 52089 (Nov. 9, 2017).

40. In December 2020, the U.S. Treasury Department added GAESA to its “Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons” list, barring American individuals and companies from doing business with the company. *See* Notice of OFAC Sanctions Action, 85 Fed. Reg. 84468 (Dec. 28, 2020).

41. The TCM and AUSA container storage yard are physically located in the Port of Mariel. As described more fully herein (*infra* ¶¶ 97 - 108), the ZEDM is a special economic zone created by Cuban statute. The TCM and AUSA are physically located in the Port of Mariel which is within and part of the ZEDM. TCM, AUSA and ZEDM are all agencies or instrumentalities of the Republic of Cuba as defined in 28 U.S.C. § 1603(b).

42. TCM, AUSA and the ZEDM, while aware that the Confiscated Property had been confiscated from the Blanco Rosell Siblings, knowingly and intentionally traffic in the Confiscated Property because they each individually and collectively, “transfer[], distribute[], dispense[], broker[], manage[] ... lease[], receive[], possess[], obtain[] control of, manage[], use[], or otherwise acquire[] or hold[] an interest in” the Confiscated Property. *See* 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(i). In plain terms, the TCM, AUSA and/or the ZEDM manage the land, concessionaires and users of the ZEDM and contract with companies, including CMA CGM, that

do business in the ZEDM and with the TCM and AUSA—for example by offloading and/or loading containers from CMA CGM ships at the TCM and parking/storing them at the container storage yard operated by AUSA.

43. TCM, AUSA and the ZEDM also engage in commercially beneficial transactions and commercial activities in which they use and benefit from the land that was confiscated from the Blanco Rosell Siblings that underlies the ZEDM and from the 70-year Concession rights to execute, maintain, and exploit the docks, wharves, warehouses and storage areas in the Port of Mariel which is within the Bay of Mariel.

44. CEVA Logistics AG (also known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG) (“CEVA Logistics”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Switzerland, with its principal place of business at Grabenstrasse 25 Baar, 6340 Switzerland. CEVA Logistics is a wholly-owned subsidiary of CMA CGM and provides global supply chain solutions for large and medium-size national and multinational companies, offering customers complete supply chain design and implementation in contract logistics and freight management, alone or in combination. Together with CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), CMA CGM offers end-to-end logistics solutions. In Cuba, CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), in partnership with AUSA, operates a commercial logistics platform (known as CARILOG) in ZEDM sector A5, on land that that is part of the ZEDM and that was confiscated by Cuba from the Blanco Rosell Siblings. In 2015, CMA CGM signed an agreement in Cuba to develop and operate a logistics platform on the port of Mariel. *See* <https://www.cmacgm-group.com/en/news-medias/the-cma-cgm-group-signs-an-agreement-to-operate-a-logistics-platform-in-cooperation-with-a-cuban-company-in-the-presence-of-the-president-of-the-french-republic-> (last visited on July 22, 2021).

45. CMA CGM's Mariel deal put CMA CGM in business with a firm (GAESA) and its subsidiaries that have been identified by U.S. authorities as subverting international trade restrictions. GAESA is a conglomerate that plays a vital role in the island's economy and propping up the Cuban government. It is headed by Gen. Luis Alberto Rodriguez Lopez Calleja, who was married to one of Raul Castro's daughters.

46. CMA CGM's logistics platform (known as CARILOG) on the Port of Mariel in the ZEDM includes warehouses as pictured on the ZEDM's website,<sup>12</sup> and occupies, utilizes and exploits land that is part of the ZEDM that was confiscated by Cuba from the Blanco Rosell Siblings.

47. Double Ace Cargo, Inc. ("Double Ace"), a company organized under the laws of Florida, with its principal place of business at 2175 NW 115th Ave., Miami, Florida, 33172-4920, is primarily engaged in furnishing shipping information and acting as agents in arranging transportation for freight and cargo. Double Ace is listed as the "Exporter" on the Bills of Lading on which CMA CGM was the carrier for multiple cargo shipments from PortMiami in Miami-Dade County, Florida to the Port of Mariel during 2017 – 2021. *See infra* ¶¶ 117 – 126.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

48. Defendants are subject to the personal jurisdiction of this Court as follows:

a. Defendant CMA CGM America is subject to personal jurisdiction of this Court pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(k)(1)(A) and pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 48.193 including subsections § 48.193(1)(a)1, 2 and 6 and § 48.193(2) thereof, because (a) CMA CGM America committed and continues to commit acts of trafficking as defined in the Helms-Burton Act, 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13) within the state of Florida and within this judicial District and thus is

---

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.zedmariel.com/en/infrastructure> (last visited July 22, 2021).



subject to personal jurisdiction in the state courts of Florida and in this Court; and (b) because CMA CGM America, personally or through its agents, is operating, conducting, engaging in, or carrying on a business or business venture in Florida, and has an office or agency in Florida, and within this District.

b. Defendant CMA CGM is subject to personal jurisdiction of this Court pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(k)(1)(A) and pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 48.193 including §§ 48.193(1)(a)1, 48.193(1)(a)2, 48.193 (1)(a)6, and 48.193(2) thereof, because, *inter alia*, (a) Defendant is engaged in substantial and not isolated activity within this State; (b) Defendant committed and continues to commit acts of trafficking as defined in the Helms Burton Act, 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13) within the state of Florida and within this judicial District and thus is subject to personal jurisdiction in the state courts of Florida and in this Court; (c) Defendant, personally or through its agents, is operating, conducting, engaging in, or carrying on a business or business venture in Florida, including the business of carrying containers from PortMiami to the Port of Mariel (*see* ¶¶ 35 – 37; 117 – 126); and/or (d) Defendant is causing injury to persons who reside in this state arising out of acts or omissions by Defendant and/or its agents outside this State while Defendant and/or its agents were engaged in the solicitation of service activities within this State.

49. In the alternative, to the extent CMA CGM is not subject to jurisdiction in any state, personal jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court over CMA CGM by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(k)(2), because Plaintiffs' Helms-Burton Act claims arise under federal law; CMA CGM is not subject to jurisdiction in any state's courts of general jurisdiction; and exercising jurisdiction over CMA CGM based on its nationwide contacts is consistent with the U.S. Constitution and laws.

50. Exercise of personal jurisdiction by this Court over Defendant pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(k)(2) is consistent with the U.S. Constitution and U.S. laws because Defendant has systematic and continuous contacts with Florida and the United States, it has purposefully availed itself of the benefits and protections of Florida and the United States, and this action arises from or relates to such contacts and purposeful availment. *See* ¶¶ 27 – 31; 35 – 37; 117 – 126.

51. In addition, in the alternative to personal jurisdiction alleged above, to the extent Defendant is not subject to jurisdiction in any state, personal jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court over Defendant by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(k)(2), because Plaintiffs' Helms-Burton Act claims arise under federal law; Defendant is not subject to jurisdiction in any state's courts of general jurisdiction; and exercising jurisdiction over the Defendant for its conduct purposefully directed at the United States is consistent with the U.S. Constitution and laws. The exercise of personal jurisdiction by this Court over Defendant is consistent with the U.S. Constitution and U.S. laws because Defendant committed intentional torts purposefully directed at U.S. nationals in the United States which caused harm that Defendant knew or reasonably should have anticipated would be suffered in the United States by certain U.S. nationals.

52. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because Plaintiffs' claims arise under the laws of the United States, specifically Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, 22 U.S.C. §§ 6081–85.

53. The amount in controversy in this action exceeds \$50,000, exclusive of interest, treble damages, court costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees. 22 U.S.C. § 6082(b). Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this District.

54. Contemporaneous with this filing, Plaintiffs have paid the special fee for filing an action under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, 22 U.S.C. § 6082(i).

### **THE HELMS-BURTON ACT**

#### **I. Background**

55. The Helms-Burton Act, signed into law on March 12, 1996, had several goals, including to “protect United States nationals against confiscatory takings and the wrongful trafficking in property confiscated by the Castro regime.” 22 U.S.C. § 6022(6). Further, Congress determined that “‘trafficking’ in confiscated property provides badly needed financial benefit, including hard currency, oil, and productive investment and expertise to the ... Cuban Government and thus undermines the foreign policy of the United States,” which foreign policy includes “protect[ing] claims of United States nationals who had property wrongfully confiscated by the Cuban Government.” 22 U.S.C. § 6081(6).

56. Congress found that international law “lacks fully effective remedies” for the “unjust enrichment from the use of wrongfully confiscated property by governments and private entities at the expense of the rightful owners of the property.” 22 U.S.C. § 6081(8).

57. Congress thus decided that “the victims of these confiscations should be endowed with a judicial remedy in the courts of the United States that would deny traffickers any profits from economically exploiting Castro’s wrongful seizures.” 22 U.S.C. § 6081(11). The result was Title III of the Helms-Burton Act – “Protection of Property Rights of United States Nationals” – which imposes liability on persons trafficking in property confiscated from a U.S. national (including property confiscated from a person who became a U.S. national before March 12, 1996) by the Cuban Government on or after January 1, 1959, and which authorizes a private right of action for damages against such traffickers. *See* 22 U.S.C. § 6082.

58. The Helms-Burton Act authorizes the President (or his delegate, the Secretary of State) to suspend for periods of up to six months at a time (1) the Title III private right of action, 22 U.S.C. § 6085(c); and/or (2) the effective date of Title III of August 1, 1996, 22 U.S.C. § 6085(b).

59. Although President Clinton suspended the private right of action under Title III on July 16, 1996 for six months, the August 1, 1996 effective date was never suspended. Title III of the Act came into effect on August 1, 1996. Starting on that date, traffickers in confiscated property were liable to U.S. nationals with claims to that property but could not be sued while the private right of action remained suspended.

60. President Clinton and subsequent administrations renewed the suspension of the Title III private right of action, typically for six months at a time, by decision of the President or Secretary of State. There was never any guarantee that additional suspensions of the private right of action would be granted indefinitely into the future, and the operative provisions of the Act have remained in effect continuously since 1996.

61. On April 17, 2019, Secretary of State Pompeo announced that the Trump Administration would no longer suspend the right to bring an action under Title III, effective May 2, 2019. On May 2, 2019, upon the expiration of the last suspension, the right to bring an action under Title III was activated.

## **II. The Helms-Burton Act's Private Right of Action**

62. Title III of the Helms-Burton Act provides the following private right of action:

(1) Liability for trafficking. — (A) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person that, after the end of the 3-month period beginning on the effective date of this title, traffics in property which was confiscated by the Cuban Government on or after January 1, 1959, shall be liable to any United States national who owns the claim to such property for money damages...

22 U.S.C. § 6082(a)(1).

63. The Act defines “person” as “any person or entity, including any agency or instrumentality of a foreign state.” 22 U.S.C. § 6023(11).

64. The Act defines “United States national” to include “any United States citizen[.]” 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15).

65. The Act adopts the definition of “agency or instrumentality of a foreign state” under 28 U.S.C. § 1603(b), *see* 22 U.S.C. § 6023(1) (“Agency or Instrumentality of a Foreign State.— The term “agency or instrumentality of a foreign state” has the meaning given that term in section 1603(b) of title 28, United States Code.”).

66. A person “traffics” in confiscated property if that person “knowingly and intentionally”:

- (i) sells, transfers, distributes, dispenses, brokers, manages, or otherwise disposes of confiscated property, or purchases, leases, receives, possesses, obtains control of, manages, uses, or otherwise acquires or holds an interest in confiscated property,
- (ii) engages in a commercial activity using or otherwise benefiting from confiscated property, or
- (iii) causes, directs, participates in, or profits from, trafficking (as described in clause (i) or (ii)) by another person, or otherwise engages in trafficking (as described in clause (i) or (ii)) through another person, without the authorization of any United States national who holds a claim to the property

without the authorization of any United States national who holds a claim to the property.

22 U.S.C. § 6023(13).

67. The Act defines “property” as “any property (including patents, copyrights, trademarks, and any other form of intellectual property), whether real, personal, or mixed, and any

present, future, or contingent right, security, or other interest therein, including any leasehold interest.” 22 U.S.C. § 6023(12).

68. The Act defines “confiscated” in relevant part as:

[T]he nationalization, expropriation, or other seizure by the Cuban Government of ownership or control of property, on or after January 1, 1959

- (i) without the property having been returned or adequate and effective compensation provided; or
- (ii) without the claim to the property having been settled pursuant to an international claims settlement agreement or other mutually accepted settlement procedure.

22 U.S.C. § 6023(4)(A).

69. The term “knowingly” under the Act means “with knowledge or having reason to know.” 22 U.S.C. § 6023(9).

70. The Helms-Burton Act adopts the definition of “commercial activity” under 28 U.S.C. § 1603(d), *see* 22 U.S.C. § 6023(3), which defines the term as “either a regular course of commercial conduct or a particular commercial transaction or act. The commercial character of an activity shall be determined by reference to the nature of the course of conduct or particular transaction or act, rather than by reference to its purpose.” 28 U.S.C. § 1603(d).

71. Under the Act,

- (A) The term “Cuban Government” includes the government of any political subdivision of Cuba, and any agency or instrumentality of the Government of Cuba.
- (B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term “agency or instrumentality of the Government of Cuba” means an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state as defined in section 1603(b) of title 28, United States Code, with each reference in such section to “a foreign State” deemed to be a reference to “Cuba.”

22 U.S.C. § 6023(5).

72. Since August 1, 1996, when Title III of the Helms-Burton Act went into effect, it has been clear that companies doing business with Cuba or in Cuba incurred potential liability under the Helms-Burton Act if they knowingly and intentionally traffic in confiscated property.

73. Companies doing business in and/or with Cuba have therefore been on notice since August 1, 1996 that they would face potential liability under the Helms-Burton Act for trafficking in confiscated property.

### **III. Remedies Under the Helms-Burton Act's Private Right of Action**

74. A person who “traffics” in a U.S. national’s confiscated property under the Helms-Burton Act is liable to a plaintiff for money damages equal to:

- (i) the amount which is the greater of —
  - ...
  - (II) the amount determined [by a court-appointed special master], plus interest; or
  - (III) the fair market value of that property, calculated as being either the current value of the property, or the value of the property when confiscated plus interest, whichever is greater[.]

22 U.S.C. § 6082(a)(1)(A)(i).

75. Interest under the Act accrues from “the date of confiscation of the property involved to the date on which the action is brought.” 22 U.S.C. § 6082(a)(1)(B). Interest is calculated “at a rate equal to the weekly average 1-year constant maturity Treasury yield, as published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System” for the calendar week preceding the date of confiscation and compounded annually. 28 U.S.C. § 1961(a) (incorporated by reference in 22 U.S.C. § 6082(a)(1)(B)).

76. A person who “traffics” in a U.S. national’s confiscated property under the Act is also liable for plaintiffs’ court costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees. *See* 22 U.S.C. § 6082(a)(1)(A)(ii).

77. The Act provides for “Increased Liability”

... If the claimant in an action under this subsection... provides, after the end of the 3-month period described in paragraph (1) notice to —

- (i) a person against whom the action is to be initiated, or
- (ii) a person who is to be joined as a defendant in the action,

at least 30 days before initiating the action or joining such person as a defendant, as the case may be, and that person, after the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date the notice is provided, traffics in the confiscated property that is the subject of the action, then that person shall be liable to that claimant for damages computed in accordance with subparagraph (C).

*See* 22 U.S.C. §§ 6082(a)(3)(B) and 22 U.S.C. 6082(a)(3)(C)(ii) (allowing damages “3 times the amount determined applicable under paragraph (1)(A)(i)”).

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### **I. The Confiscated Property**

78. Plaintiffs are U.S. nationals and/or representatives of the Estates of U.S. nationals as defined by 22 U.S.C. § 6023(15)(A), who own claims to the Confiscated Property, which includes a 70-year Concession to develop docks, warehouses and port facilities on Mariel Bay and land holdings.

##### **A. Maritima Mariel SA and the 70-Year Concession**

79. Maritima Mariel SA (“Maritima Mariel”) was a Cuban corporation set up in 1954 and owned in equal parts by the Blanco Rosell Siblings, who are among the Plaintiffs in this case: Odette Blanco Rosell; the Estate of Alfredo Blanco Rosell, Jr; the Estate of Byron Blanco Rosell; the Estate of Enrique Blanco Rosell; and the Estate of Florentino Blanco Rosell.

80. On August 15, 1955, the Cuban Government granted to Maritima Mariel a 70-year Concession:



‘Maritima Mariel, SA’ is hereby granted the concession to plan, study, execute, maintain, and exploit public docks and warehouses in the Bay of Mariel Bay, province of Pinar del Rio Province, and the construction of new buildings and works, without prejudice to the rights acquired by third persons or entities under previous concessions still in force, for the purposes stated in this paragraph.

Decree 2367 published in the Cuban Official Gazette dated August 15, 1955 at 13864 (English translation). When the 70-Year Concession was granted to Maritima Mariel, there were no previous concessions in force for the purposes stated in the foregoing quoted paragraph.

81. The 70-Year Concession also authorized Maritima Mariel to exercise a series of exceptional rights in the Bay of Mariel, including:

- a) The occupation and use, either temporary or permanent, of the lands and waters in the public domain or under private ownership and those of the State, province, or municipality, whenever they are essential for the execution and exploitation of the aforementioned projects and works.
- b) The right of mandatory expropriation, in accordance with Decree No. 595 of May 22, 1907 or any other later provision regarding ownership, possession, or use of any real estate or private property rights for land that must be occupied for the work, uses, and services mentioned in Section One, a procedure that may also be used with regard to any rights granted by the State, province, or municipality with regard to the maritime-land zone or public domain land or property of those entities of the Nation.
- c) The right to impose, on privately owned property, any class of easement for the construction of any type of roads, traffic, access, movement, and parking of vehicles, the establishment of power lines (either overhead or underground), pipes and ducts for water, gas, ventilation, or drainage, and, in general, for anything that is inherent or deemed to be necessary for the purposes of carrying out, maintaining, and exploiting the works that the aforementioned paragraph one deals with, also with the power to attend those cases of forced expropriation, as provided for in the preceding subparagraph.
- d) The right to evict any tenants, sharecropper, squatter, or occupant of any other description from any property or facilities that must be occupied, either temporarily or permanently, for the projects referred to repeatedly in Section One, making a payment as compensation to the parties evicted equal to the amount of one year of rent paid in each case.
- e) The right to carry out the aforementioned acts by means of applying the provisions contained in Law-Decree No. 1015 of August 7, 1953 and No. 1998

of January 27, 1955, whereby the National Finance Agency of Cuba will provide the financing of those projects.

*Id.* at 13865-13866 (English translation).

82. These exceptional rights granted in the 70-year Concession gave Maritima Mariel and the Blanco Rosell Siblings priority rights over any other rights in the Bay of Mariel, including any such rights acquired by third persons or entities under previous concessions still in force at the time the 70-year Concession was granted to Maritima Mariel. The 70-year Concession granted Maritima Mariel the right to exclude any other person or entity from planning, studying, executing, maintaining, or exploiting public docks and warehouses in the Bay of Mariel.

83. Both Maritima Mariel and the 70-Year Concession are part of the Confiscated Property and were specifically identified in Resolution 436 as being confiscated from the Blanco Rosell Siblings by the Cuban Government.

**B. Central San Ramón, Compañía Azucarera Mariel S.A.,  
and Land**

84. In addition to the 70-year Concession and Maritima Mariel, the Blanco Rosell Siblings owned several other companies, including the sugar mill then known as the Central San Ramón, which they purchased in 1949. Central San Ramón was owned and operated by Compañía Azucarera Mariel S.A. (“Azucarera Mariel”), a company wholly owned by the Blanco Rosell Siblings.

85. The Blanco Rosell Siblings also had extensive land holdings (approximately 11,000 acres) southeast, south and west of Mariel Bay which they owned through Central San Ramón and Azucarera Mariel. Those approximately 11,000 acres included numerous improvements such as roads, railways, buildings, and utilities.

86. Azucarera Mariel, Central San Ramón and the 11,000 acres of land are part of the Confiscated Property that were specifically named and confiscated from the Blanco Rosell Siblings by the Cuban Government, in Resolution 436.

**II. Cuba's Confiscation of The Confiscated Property and Plaintiffs' Claims to The Confiscated Property are Publicly Known**

**A. Cuba's Confiscation of The Confiscated Property was Publicly Announced in the Cuba Official Gazette on September 29, 1960**

87. On September 29, 1960, per Resolution 436, the Cuban Government announced the confiscation without compensation of all assets and rights, whatever their nature, then owned by the Blanco Rosell Siblings and which are herein defined as the Confiscated Property. Such Confiscated Property includes, *inter alia*, Maritima Mariel, the 70-year Concession, Central San Ramón, Azucarera Mariel, as well as all the "all shares or stock certificates representing capital of the entities listed in the [other] Whereas of [Resolution 436]," which included, *inter alia*, the 70-Year Concession and all the lands owned by these entities. *See* Resolution 436 at 23406.

88. More specifically, on September 29, 1960, the Cuban Government published Resolution 436 in its Official Gazette on the confiscation without compensation of the following:

One: To confiscate, on behalf of the Cuban State, all of the property and rights, whatever their nature, forming the assets of the persons listed in the first Whereas, with the exception of property and rights that are strictly of a personal nature.

Two: To confiscate, on behalf of the Cuban State, all shares or stock certificates representing capital of the entities listed in the [other] Whereas of this resolution, along with all of their properties, rights, and shares that are issued and in circulation.

Three: To order the transfer of the properties, rights, and shares forming the assets of the legal entities listed in the preceding provision to the National Institute for Agrarian Reform (I.N.R.A.).

Four: This resolution to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE of the Republic for purposes of notification and fulfillment of what is provided for by Law No. 715 of 1960.

Resolution No. 436(1) published in the Cuban Official Gazette dated September 29, 1960 at 23406 (English translation).

89. In addition to expressly naming the 70-year Concession and the above-referenced legal entities, Resolution 436 also expressly named the five Blanco Rosell Siblings as owners of, *inter alia*, the 70-year Concession, Maritima Mariel, Central San Ramon, and Compania Azucarera Mariel.

90. But for Cuba's confiscation in Resolution 436 published in the official Cuban Gazette on September 29, 1960, the 70-year Concession granted in Decree 2367 issued in 1955 would still be in force. In any event, the 70-year Concession was cut short by Cuba's confiscation of the 70-year Concession.

91. According to the Cuban Official Gazette as published on September 29, 1960, the confiscation of the Confiscated Property occurred on August 19, 1960. The story of the confiscation by the Cuban Government was reported by the *Revolución* newspaper on September 8, 1960. Both the Cuban Official Gazette and the newspaper *Revolución* (now known as *Granma* following the merger of the *Revolución* and *Hoy* newspapers) are available to the public.

**B. Plaintiffs' Claims to the Confiscated Property have Received Wide-Spread Media Coverage since 2019**

92. The fact of the confiscation of the Blanco Rosell Siblings' property in Cuba was so well known that, on April 18, 2019, the day after the Trump Administration announced that it would allow Helms-Burton Act lawsuits under Title III to go forward, stories published on both Radio Marti and TV Marti identified Plaintiffs' claims to the Mariel Special Development Zone:

The Mariel Special Development Zone, the star Cuban project to attract investment, was built on nationalized land where the Carranza-Bernal, Carbonell-González and Blanco-Rosell families owned sugar and hemp processing plants.<sup>13</sup>

93. Since December 20, 2020, Plaintiffs have sued two major U.S. container cargo shipping companies and the world's largest container cargo shipping company for trafficking in the Confiscated Property, the claims to which are owned by Plaintiffs.<sup>14</sup>

94. Plaintiffs' lawsuits and Plaintiffs' claims to the Confiscated Property have received U.S. and international news coverage, including shipping company media news coverage, for example:

- a. On December 24, 2020, World News Today published a detailed story about Plaintiffs' first two lawsuits, wherein Plaintiffs' claims were discussed in detail.<sup>15</sup>
- b. On December 25, 2020, On Cuba News published a story titled "Two other lawsuits under Helms-Burton Act set sights on Port of Mariel."<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.radiotelevisionmarti.com/a/propiedades-que-ya-podr%C3%ADan-reclamar-en-tribunales-de-eeuu/236777.html/> (last visited July 22, 2021).

<sup>14</sup> *Odette Blanco de Fernandez, et al., v. Seaboard Marine, Ltd.*, Case 1:20-cv-25176-BB (S.D. Fla., Dec. 20, 2020); *Odette Blanco de Fernandez, et al., v. Seaboard Corporation*, 1:21-cv-01052 (D. Del.); *Odette Blanco de Fernandez v. Crowley Maritime Corporation*, Case 3:20-cv-01426-BJD-PDB (M.D. Fla., Dec. 20, 2020); *Odette Blanco de Fernandez, et al., v. Crowley Maritime Corporation et al.*, Case 1:21-cv-20443 (S.D. Fla., Feb. 2, 2021); *Odette Blanco de Fernandez, et al. v. A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S et al.*, Case 2:21-cv-00339 (E.D. La., Feb. 17, 2021).

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.world-today-news.com/florida-companies-sued-for-doing-business-on-land-confiscated-by-cuban-regime/> (last visited on July 28, 2021).

<sup>16</sup> <https://oncubanews.com/en/cuba-usa/two-other-lawsuits-under-helms-burton-act-set-sights-on-port-of-mariel/> (last visited on July 21, 2021).

c. On February 24, 2021, TradeWinds, the self-described “Global Shipping News Source ran an article titled “US-Cuba lawsuits show no signs of slowing down as Maersk sued.”<sup>17</sup>

d. The U.S. - Cuba Trade and Economic Council, Inc. publishes a widely-disseminated blog which reports each and every Helms-Burton lawsuit filing including Plaintiffs’ pending lawsuits.<sup>18</sup>

95. The Confiscated Property has never been returned nor has adequate and effective compensation ever been provided, including for the 70-Year Concession or any other property interests belonging to Plaintiffs. Nor have the claims to the Confiscated Property been settled pursuant to an international claims settlement agreement or other settlement procedure.

96. Plaintiffs never abandoned their claims to the Confiscated Property.

**III. The Cuban Government Incorporated the Confiscated Property into The Zona Especial de Desarrollo Mariel (“ZEDM”) (a/k/a Mariel Special Economic Zone)**

97. The Zona Especial de Desarrollo Mariel (“ZEDM”) (*a/k/a* Mariel Special Economic Zone) is an agency or instrumentality of the Cuban Government. Created by statute, the ZEDM is a special economic zone in Cuba with its own legal structure.

---

<sup>17</sup> US-Cuba lawsuits show no signs of slowing down as Maersk sued | TradeWinds (tradewindsnews.com) (last visited July 21, 2021).

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.cubatrade.org/blog/2020/12/23/agdh6liz2sexx0emhpw0nrqaphmbnr> Seaboard Marine Is 31st Libertad Act Lawsuit- Plaintiff Targets Mariel Special Economic Zone Operations (last visited on July 21, 2021).

<https://www.cubatrade.org/blog/2020/12/23/5ms3f5lr8xytqozz63dfr176qxose9> (Crowley Maritime Corporation Is 32nd Libertad Act Lawsuit- Plaintiffs Target Use Of ZEDM Port) (last visited on July 21, 2021).

<https://www.cubatrade.org/blog/2021/2/18/maersk-worlds-largest-container-shipping-company-is-third-to-be-defendant-in-libertad-act-lawsuit> (last visited on July 21, 2021).

98. As stated above, the ZEDM has been referred to in the media as “the star Cuban project to attract investment.”

99. Cuba incorporated the Confiscated Property into the ZEDM without the authorization of Plaintiffs and therefore the ZEDM traffics in the Confiscated Property.

100. Starting in or around 2009, the Government of Cuba and various non-Cuban corporate partners rebuilt the Port of Mariel and constructed a Container Terminal in the ZEDM.

101. The ZEDM’s Container Terminal subsumes the 70-year Concession rights, pursuant to which the Blanco Rosell Siblings possessed the right, among other things, “to plan, study, execute, maintain, and exploit public docks and warehouses in the Bay of Mariel, province of Pinar del Rio, and the construction of new buildings and works...” *See* Decree 2367 at 13865.

102. The Blanco Rosell Siblings’ extensive land holdings on the southeast, south and west sides of Mariel Bay, all of which are part of the Confiscated Property, cover virtually every square meter of ZEDM sector A5, which the ZEDM operates as a logistics zone.

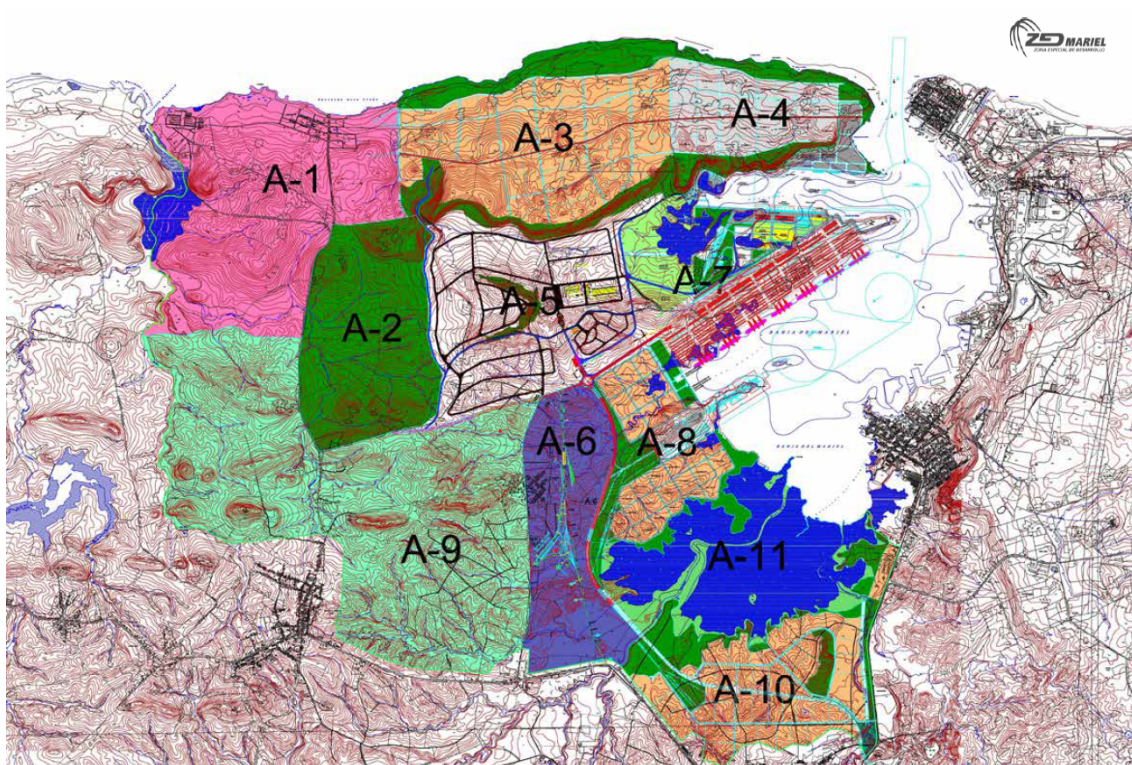
103. The 70-year Concession encompasses all of Mariel Bay, including, but not limited to ZEDM Sector A5, where AUSA’s container storage yard is located, and Sector A7, where the ZEDM’s Container Terminal is located. CEVA Logistics (also known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), a subsidiary of CMA CGM has an agreement with AUSA to develop and operate a logistics platform (known as CARILOG) on the Port of Mariel in sector A5.

104. CEVA Logistics (also known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG) has planned and is operating a commercial, for profit, logistics platform (known as CARILOG) in ZEDM Sector A5. CMA CGM profits from CEVA Logistics’ planning, development and operation of the logistics platform on the Port of Mariel in ZEDM Sector A5 by and through CEVA Logistics, because



CEVA Logistics is CMA CGM's subsidiary and because CMA CGM carries containers to the Port of Mariel where they are offloaded and stored at the CEVA Logistics facility in ZEDM Sector A5.

105. The following map illustrates that ZEDM Sector A5 where AUSA and CEVA Logistics' (also known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG) facilities are located, as well as ZEDM Sector A7 which encompasses the shoreline of Mariel Bay and land adjacent to the shoreline, areas that are subject to the 70-Year Concession:



106. The ZEDM, Container Terminal, AUSA, and CEVA Logistics (also known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG) are trafficking in the Blanco Rosell Siblings' Confiscated Property within the meaning of Title III because the ZEDM:

- (i) ... transfers, distributes, dispenses, brokers, manages, or ... leases, receives, possesses, obtains control of, manages, uses, or otherwise acquires or holds an interest in [the Confiscated Property];
- (ii) engages in a commercial activity using or otherwise benefitting from [the Confiscated Property],



- (iii) causes, directs, participates in, or profits from trafficking (as described in clause (i) or (ii) by another person, or otherwise engages in trafficking (as described in clause (i) or (ii) through another person

without the authorization of any United States national who holds a claim to the property.

22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A).

107. Those who “plan, study, execute, maintain and exploit public docks and warehouses in Mariel Bay, Pinar del Rio Province, and the construction of new buildings and works” (Decree 2367 at 13865) are trafficking in Plaintiffs’ Confiscated Property, including the 70-year Concession.

108. CMA CGM, as a result of its agreement signed in Cuba, by and through CEVA Logistics (also known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG) has planned, studied, executed, and now maintains and exploits public docks and warehouses in Mariel Bay, Pinar del Rio Province, and has also constructed new buildings and works in Sector A5 of the ZEDM where it occupies, utilizes and exploits land that was confiscated by Cuba from the Blanco Rosell Siblings. CMA CGM also profits from trafficking by CEVA Logistics in Mariel Bay.

**IV. Defendants are Trafficking in the Confiscated Property Without Plaintiffs’ Authorization**

**A. Defendant Traffics in the Confiscated Property by Operating Vessels that Call at the Port of Mariel Without Plaintiffs’ Authorization**

109. Since the opening of the Port of Mariel more than six years ago, Defendant has trafficked in the Confiscated Property, by knowingly and intentionally directing container ships to call at the Container Terminal—which is part of the Port of Mariel within the ZEDM and within the Bay of Mariel in Cuba—either directly or by causing, directing, participating in, or profiting from trafficking by or through one or more other persons.

110. “Calling” at a port in the container shipping industry means that containers are either offloaded or loaded at a Port of Call. See <https://www.marineinsight.com/life-at-sea/what-does-the-term-port-of-call-means/> (last visited July 21, 2021). While calling at the Port of Mariel, Defendant’s ships dock and utilize wharf space, offload and/or load containers, hook up to water and electricity, utilize crane service, container storage yards, warehouses and other storage space to store the containers, as well as road, rail and wheeled means of conveyance for the containers it unloads. CMA CGM contracts for and pays for these and other services at the Port of Mariel with the TCM, AUSA, the ZEDM and/or CEVA Logistics.

111. According to the International Marine Organization (“IMO”), a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping, the vessel CONTSHIP PRO, (IMO # 9235622), while being operated by CMA CGM called at the Port of Mariel on multiple occasions between May 2019 and June 2021.

112. According to the IMO, the vessel CMA CGM VENTANIA, (IMO # 9376907), while being operated by CMA CGM called at the Port of Mariel on multiple occasions between January 2020 and June 2021.

113. According to the IMO, the vessel CONTSHIP RAY, (IMO # 9388338), while being operated by CMA CGM called at the Port of Mariel on multiple occasions between August 2019 and January 2020.

114. According to IMO, the vessel JPO ARIES, (IMO # 9220328), operated by CMA CGM, called at the Port of Mariel on multiple occasions between February 2019 and April 2020.

115. According to IMO, the vessel PAVO J, (IMO # 9355458), operated by CMA CGM, called at the Port of Mariel on multiple occasions between May 2019 and July 2020.

116. According to IMO, the vessel IMEDGHASSEN, (IMO # 9459125), operated by CMA GGM called at the Port of Mariel in December 2020.

117. Defendant further traffics in the Confiscated Property by serving as the carrier for several cargo shipments from U.S. Ports to the Port of Mariel.

118. More specifically, Bills of Lading (“BOL”) on file U.S. Customs and Border Protection, show that as of July 2, 2021, Defendant, beginning in 2014, has served as the carrier for 602 cargo shipments from various U.S. Ports to the Port of Mariel, the final destination declared.

119. For example, according to the BOLs, CMA CGM was the carrier for the following cargo shipments from PortMiami in Miami-Dade County, Florida to the Port of Mariel, the final destination declared:

- (a) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM4470122, June 3, 2021
- (b) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM4384619, April 2, 2021
- (c) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3935482, June 26, 2020
- (d) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3657740, October 4, 2019
- (b) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3636383, September 21, 2019
- (c) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3458515, April 5, 2019
- (d) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3415838, February 24, 2019
- (e) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3288188, November 10, 2018
- (f) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3278386, October 17, 2018
- (g) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM2935211, December 9, 2017
- (h) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM2922397, November 18, 2017
- (i) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM2874180, October 7, 2017

(j) Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM2843196, September 17, 2017

Non-party Double Ace is listed as the “Exporter” for the aforementioned cargo shipments.

120. Defendant CMA CGM carried the aforementioned containerized cargo from Miami-Dade County, Florida to the Port of Mariel in Cuba, the final destination declared *via* Kingston, Jamaica, where the cargo was then offloaded at the TCM and stored/warehoused/maintained by AUSA and/or CEVA Logistics in the ZEDM. *See e.g., supra*, ¶¶ 35 – 36. CMA CGM America “signed [the Bills of Lading] for the Carrier CMA CGM SA ... as agent for the Carrier.” *Id.* As one example, on June 26, 2020, CMA CGM America signed Bill of Lading No. CMDUNAM3935482 for a shipment loaded in Miami-Dade County, Florida destined for the Port of Mariel in Cuba.

121. More specifically, Defendant CMA CGM carried the containers carrying the cargo identified in the above-referenced bills of lading from PortMiami to Kingston, Jamaica, where the containers were offloaded and then then loaded onto other ships that were owned or operated by Defendant on Defendant’s “Indigo Service” route. After Kingston, Defendant’s Indigo Service calls at the Port of Mariel where the containers containing cargo identified in the above-referenced bills of lading cargo were off-loaded.<sup>19</sup>

122. In essence, the cargo that Defendant carries is loaded onto ships at PortMiami in Miami-Dade County, Florida and then Defendant carries the cargo from PortMiami to the Port of Mariel utilizing a “bank shot” off of Kingston, Jamaica.

---

<sup>19</sup> Defendant’s Indigo Service begins in Progreso, Mexico, and then includes the following Ports of Call: Santiago de Cuba, in southern Cuba, then to Kingston, Jamaica, then to the Port of Mariel, and back to Progreso. This route runs roughly every week to 10 days and uses two ships: the CMA CGM VENTANIA and the CONTSHP PRO, both of which are operated by CMA CGM.

123. Defendant purposefully and repeatedly directed the CMA CGM VENTANIA, CONTSHIP PRO, CONTSHIP RAY, IMEDGHASSEN, JPO ARIES AND PAVO J to call at the Container Terminal, which is part of the Port of Mariel within the ZEDM and within the Bay of Mariel, where each of them, for themselves and on behalf of and/or at the direction of Defendant, called at the Container Terminal (which is part of the Port of Mariel within the ZEDM and within the Bay of Mariel) and while there engaged in commercially beneficial transactions and other commercial activities with the Container Terminal, AUSA, and/or the ZEDM including, but not limited to, offloading and loading containers, thereby using or otherwise benefiting from the Confiscated Property which constitutes trafficking as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(ii).

124. Defendant knowingly and intentionally directed the CMA CGM VENTANIA, CONTSHIP PRO, CONTSHIP RAY, IMEDGHASSEN, JPO ARIES AND PAVO J to call at the Port of Mariel to engage in commercially beneficial transactions and other commercial activities—including, but not limited to, calling at the Container Terminal, which is part of the Port of Mariel within the ZEDM and within the Bay of Mariel, and offloading and loading containers at the Container Terminal multiple times.

125. As a result of the calls at the Port of Mariel by the CMA CGM VENTANIA, CONTSHIP PRO, CONTSHIP RAY, IMEDGHASSEN, JPO ARIES AND PAVO J, Defendant, caused, directed, participated in, or profited from trafficking by another person, or otherwise engaged in trafficking through another person without the authorization of Plaintiffs which constitutes trafficking as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(iii).

126. When at the Port of Mariel, the container ships call at and/or otherwise use, benefit, and profit from the Container Terminal in the ZEDM including the ZEDM's ports, docks, warehouses, and facilities. Containers from Defendant's ships are offloaded at the Container

Terminal in ZEDM Sector 7 and stored in the container storage yard operated by AUSA and/or CEVA Logistics in ZEDM Sector A5. Defendant also engages in commercially beneficial activities and arrangements using or otherwise benefitting from the Plaintiffs' Confiscated Property and acts of trafficking by the Container Terminal, AUSA and the ZEDM which make Defendant's container business at the Port of Mariel possible and profitable.

**B. Defendant Traffics in the Confiscated Property By and Through Defendant's Subsidiary, CMA CGM LOG's (now CEVA Logistics) Operation of a Logistics Platform in the Port of Mariel Without Plaintiffs' Authorization**

127. In 2015, CMA CGM signed an agreement with the Cuban government to operate a logistics platform in the Port of Mariel.

128. As announced on Defendant's website:

The CMA CGM Group is pleased to announce that Rodolphe Saadé, CMA CGM Group's Vice-Chairman, signed in Cuba in the presence of President François Hollande and of Mr Matthias Fekl the French Minister of State for Foreign Trade, on May 11th, an unprecedented agreement. This agreement covers the operation and development of a logistics platform on the port of MARIEL, in cooperation with the major Cuban logistics company: AUSA.

CMA CGM LOG [now CEVA Logistics, but still known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG],<sup>20</sup> the CMA CGM Group's subsidiary dedicated to logistics, will contribute to the operations of this new area.

The platform will be part of MARIEL ZEDM – Zona Especial de Desarrollo Mariel, Cuba Special Economic Zone project. ZEDM is a strategic 4,600 ha logistics and industrial project area for Cuba. This agreement is symbolic regarding Cuba's goods and services development.

CMA CGM LOG [now CEVA Logistics, but still known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG] will operate a 17 ha logistics platform with AUSA, including:

- 12,000 square meters warehouses
- 5,000 cubic meters of reefer warehouses

CMA CGM LOG [now CEVA Logistics, but still known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG] will be in charge of:

---

<sup>20</sup> CMA CGM LOG became part of CEVA Logistics in 2019 after CMA CGM completed a corporate takeover of CEVA. *See*: <https://www.cevalogistics.com/en/who-we-are/about-ceva-logistics/our-history> (last visited on July 22, 2021). The name CMA CGM LOG is still used in Cuba.

- the goods unbundling and distribution on the island
- the exports consolidation
- the import and export goods warehousing
- containers distribution
- empty and full containers storage.

CMA CGM has been present in Cuba since 2000 and is one of the only three shipping companies to call the country. It is the first international company to sign such a logistics development agreement in Cuba.

Created in 2001, CMA CGM LOG [now CEVA Logistics, but still known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG] is the CMA CGM Group's subsidiary specialized in freight forwarding and logistics solutions. Its 1,000 experts offer logistics solutions that are complementary to maritime services in 36 countries, including air freight, multimodal transport, custom clearance, warehousing and distribution... After a sustained growth in 2014 and the opening of offices in 6 new countries, CMA CGM LOG [now CEVA Logistics, but still known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG] accelerates its development in 2015.

129. CMA CGM's Mariel deal put CMA CGM in business with a firm that has been identified by U.S. authorities as subverting international trade restrictions. AUSA is a subsidiary of Grupo de Administración Empresarial SA (or GAESA), an umbrella group controlled by the Cuban military.<sup>21</sup> In December 2020, the U.S. Treasury Department added GAESA to its "Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons" list, barring American individuals and companies from doing business with the company. The GAESA conglomerate plays a vital role in the island's economy and is an agency or instrumentality of the Cuban government. GAESA is headed by Gen. Luis Alberto Rodriguez Lopez Calleja, who was married to one of Raul Castro's daughters.

130. The logistics platform known as CARILOG remains operational.

131. Defendants' subsidiary CEVA Logistics [known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG] provided (and continues to provide) logistics services at the Port of Mariel within the ZEDM and

---

<sup>21</sup> Business filing database and <https://diplomatictimes.net/2020/12/21/u-s-blacklists-cuba-military-owned-companies-gaesa-fincimex-kave-coffee-s-a/> (last visited on July 22, 2021).

within the Bay of Mariel, where it for itself and on behalf of and/or at the direction of Defendant engages in commercially beneficial transactions and other commercial activities with the Container Terminal, AUSA, and/or the ZEDM including, but not limited to providing logistics services, thereby using or otherwise benefiting from the Confiscated Property which constitutes trafficking as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(ii).

132. Defendant knowingly and intentionally directed its subsidiary CEVA Logistics to engage in commercially beneficial transactions and other commercial activities at the Port of Mariel—including, but not limited to, providing logistics services at the Port of Mariel within the ZEDM and within the Bay of Mariel, whereby Defendant, caused, directed, participated in, or profited from trafficking by another person, or otherwise engaged in trafficking through another person without the authorization of Plaintiffs which constitutes trafficking as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(iii).

133. CMA CGM, by and through CEVA Logistics [known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG], has planned, studied, executed, and now maintains and exploits public docks and warehouses in Mariel Bay, Pinar del Rio Province, and has also constructed new buildings and works in Sector A5 of the ZEDM where it occupies, utilizes and exploits land that was confiscated by Cuba from the Blanco Rosell Siblings, which constitutes trafficking as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(iii).

134. CMA CGM, by and through CEVA Logistics, has profited from trafficking by CEVA Logistics because CEVA Logistics planned, studied, executed, and now maintains and exploits public docks and warehouses in Mariel Bay, Pinar del Rio Province, and has also constructed new buildings and works in Sector A5 of the ZEDM where it occupies, utilizes and



exploits land that was confiscated by Cuba from the Blanco Rosell Siblings, which constitutes trafficking as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(iii).

135. In addition, CMA CGM, by and through its subsidiary CEVA Logistic profits from CEVA Logistics' commercial, for profit operation of the logistics platform on the Port of Mariel in ZEDM Sector A5 because CMA CGM carries containers to the Port of Mariel where they are offloaded and stored at the CEVA Logistics facility in ZEDM Sector A5, which constitutes trafficking as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(iii).

136. In sum, and as the facts demonstrate in Paragraphs 97 – 135, *supra*, CMA CGM and CMA CGM America traffic in the Confiscated Property because:

(a) TCM, AUSA, ZEDM, CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG], and CARILOG all use an interest in the Confiscated Property pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(i);

(b) TCM, AUSA, and ZEDM all manage, distribute, dispense, broker, possess, have obtained control of or otherwise have acquired an interest in the Confiscated Property pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(i);

(c) TCM, CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), and CARILOG all lease or have otherwise acquired or hold an interest in the Confiscated Property pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(i);

(d) CMA CGM, CMA CGM America, CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG) and CARILOG all engage in business activities using or otherwise benefitting from the Confiscated Property pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(ii);

(e) CMA CGM, CMA CGM America, CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG) and CARILOG all engage in business activities with TCM, AUSA,

ZEDM and each other for the purpose of making money which they could not otherwise do if there were not ports, docks, and warehouses that had not been planned, studied, developed, built, maintained, and available to be used and exploited in the Bay of Mariel pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(ii);

(f) CMA CGM and CMA CGM America profit from trafficking by TCM, AUSA, ZEDM, CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), and CARILOG as described in (a) through (e) of this paragraph pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(iii);

(g) CMA CGM and CMA CGM America profit from trafficking through CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), and CARILOG as described in (a) through (e) of this paragraph 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(iii);

(h) CMA CGM and CMA CGM America cause, direct and/or participate in trafficking by CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), and CARILOG as described in (a) through (e) of this paragraph 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(iii);

(i) CMA CGM and CMA CGM America cause, direct, participate in and/or engage in trafficking through CEVA Logistics (known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG), and CARILOG as described in (a) through (e) of this paragraph 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A)(iii);

(j) All of the above (a) through (i) are done without the authorization of Plaintiffs.

**V. Plaintiffs Notified Defendants that Defendants are Trafficking in the Confiscated Property, the Claims to Which are Owned by Plaintiffs**

137. On September 17, 2020, Plaintiffs, through counsel, sent Defendants letters pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 6082(a)(3)(D) (“CMA CGM Notice Letters”) notifying Defendants that they are trafficking in confiscated property as defined in the Helms-Burton Act, the claims to which

are owned by Plaintiffs, without the authorization of Plaintiffs. The CMA CGM Notice Letters were delivered to Defendants.

138. On November 16, 2020, Plaintiffs, through counsel, sent CEVA Logistics a letter pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 6082(a)(3)(D) (“CEVA Notice Letter”) notifying CEVA Logistics that it is trafficking in confiscated property as defined in the Helms-Burton Act, the claims to which are owned by Plaintiffs, without the authorization of Plaintiffs. The CEVA Notice Letter was delivered to CEVA Logistics.

139. Defendants’ trafficking has continued since receipt of the Notice letters.

140. According to the IMO, the vessel CONTSHIP PRO, (IMO # 9235622), while being operated by CMA CGM called at the Port of Mariel on multiple occasions between October 2020 and June 2021.

141. According to IMO, the vessel CMA CGM VENTANIA, (IMO # 9376907), operated by CMA CGM, called at the Port of Mariel on multiple occasions between January 2021 and June 2021.

142. According to IMO, the vessel IMEDGHASSEN, (IMO # 9459125), operated by CMA CGM, called at the Port of Mariel in December 2020.

143. CMA CGM continues to traffic by and through its subsidiary CEVA Logistics [known in Cuba as CMA CGM LOG], which continues its operation of the logistics zone at the Port of Mariel today, well after receipt of the Notice Letters.

144. CMA CGM America continues to traffic by carrying cargo from PortMiami to the Port of Mariel.

145. Because Defendants did not obtain the authorization of Plaintiffs with regard to these acts of trafficking, Plaintiffs were injured by Defendants' acts of trafficking in the Confiscated Property to which Plaintiffs own claims.

146. Plaintiffs have been injured by Defendants' unauthorized acts of trafficking in the confiscated property to which Plaintiffs own claims because, *inter alia*:

(a) Defendants are profiting without obtaining consent from or paying adequate compensation to Plaintiffs;

(b) Plaintiffs are not receiving the benefit of their interests in the Confiscated Property;

(c) Defendants are profiting without obtaining authorization or paying adequate compensation to Plaintiffs for authorization to traffic in the confiscated property;

(d) Defendants are profiting or otherwise benefiting from trafficking in the Confiscated Property by or through others without obtaining authorization from, or paying adequate compensation to, Plaintiffs;

(e) Defendants' trafficking in the Confiscated Property has undermined Plaintiffs' rights to compensation for the Confiscated Property;

(f) Defendants have profited from its use of the Confiscated Property at Plaintiffs' expense;

(g) Defendants have denied Plaintiffs the ability to obtain economic rent that could have been negotiated for in exchange for their authorization to Defendants to traffic in the Confiscated Property;

(h) Defendants have appropriated from Plaintiffs the leverage from the Helms-Burton Act that Plaintiffs would have had on the Cuban Government to negotiate compensation for their Confiscated Property;

(i) Defendants have injured Plaintiffs by trafficking in the Confiscated Property without Plaintiffs' authorization and without making any payment of compensation to Plaintiffs because in the Helms-Burton Act, Congress provided the rightful owners of confiscated property with the right to be compensated from defendants who have economically exploited the confiscated property;

(j) Defendants have injured Plaintiffs by trafficking in the particularized Confiscated Property to which Plaintiffs own claims without seeking or obtaining Plaintiffs' authorization to traffic in that particularized Confiscated Property and as a result Defendants' failure to do so has resulted in concrete and particularized monetary harm and injury to Plaintiffs; and

(k) The harms and injuries suffered by Plaintiffs as a result of Defendants' failure to obtain Plaintiffs' authorization to traffic in the Confiscated Property have a close relationship to traditionally recognized common-law actions for unjust enrichment, trespass, trespass to chattels, and conversion.

**CLAIM FOR DAMAGES**  
**TITLE III OF THE HELMS-BURTON ACT**

147. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the foregoing Paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

148. This case is brought pursuant to Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, 22 U.S.C. § 6082.

149. Defendants did traffic, as the term “traffic” is defined in 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13)(A), in the Confiscated Property without authorization of Plaintiffs who own claims to the Confiscated Property. Defendants are therefore liable to Plaintiffs under the Helms-Burton Act.

150. Defendants have trafficked in the Confiscated Property, by knowingly and intentionally directing container ships to call at the Port of Mariel in Cuba, either directly or by causing, directing, participating in, or profiting from trafficking by or through another person. When in the Port of Mariel, the container ships call at and/or otherwise use, benefit, and profit from the Container Terminal in the ZEDM including the ZEDM’s ports, docks, warehouses, and facilities. Defendants also engage in commercially beneficial activities using or otherwise benefitting from the ZEDM and Plaintiffs’ Confiscated Property.

151. Defendants are therefore trafficking in Plaintiffs’ Confiscated Property and benefit or profit from the trafficking of the Container Terminal, AUSA, and the ZEDM in Plaintiffs’ Confiscated Property.

152. Defendants also knowingly and intentionally participated in, benefitted from, and profited from the Container Terminal, AUSA, and the ZEDM’s trafficking in the Confiscated Property including, but not limited to, the 70-year Concession, without the authorization of Plaintiffs.

153. Defendants engage in commercially beneficial activities using or otherwise benefitting from the Confiscated Property, including, but not limited to, the 70-year Concession.

154. Defendants also cause, direct, participate in, or profit from trafficking by the Container Terminal, AUSA, and the ZEDM in the Confiscated Property, including the 70-year Concession.

155. Defendants have had actual knowledge of Plaintiffs' claims to the Confiscated Property since at least September 2020 due to Plaintiffs' Notice Letters mentioned above in Paragraphs 137 – 139, 143.

156. Prior to Defendants' receipt of Plaintiffs' Notice Letters, Defendants knew or had reason to know that Plaintiffs own claims to the Confiscated Property.

157. Prior to Defendants' receipt of Plaintiffs' Notice Letters, Defendants knew or had reason to know that the ZEDM was trafficking in the Confiscated Property.

158. Defendants' continued trafficking in the Confiscated Property, including in the 70-year Concession, more than 30 days after its receipt of Plaintiffs' Notice Letters subjects Defendants to treble damages. 22 U.S.C. § 6082(a)(3).

159. The Container Terminal, AUSA, and the ZEDM did not ever seek or obtain Plaintiffs' authorization to traffic in the Confiscated Property, including the 70-year Concession, the land, or any other Confiscated Property at any time.

160. The Container Terminal, AUSA, and the ZEDM's knowing and intentional conduct with regard to the Confiscated Property constitutes trafficking as defined 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13).

161. Defendants did not seek nor obtain Plaintiffs' authorization to traffic in the Confiscated Property, including in the 70-Year Concession or any other property interests at any time.

162. Defendants' knowing and intentional conduct with regard to the Confiscated Property constitutes trafficking as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 6023(13).

163. As a result of Defendants' trafficking in the Confiscated Property, Plaintiffs have been injured, as explained herein, including in Paragraph 146, *supra*. Defendants are liable to

Plaintiffs for all money damages allowable under 22 U.S.C. § 6082(a) including, but not limited to, those equal to:

- a. The amount which is the greater of: ... (i) the amount determined by a special master pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 6083(a)(2); or (ii) the current “fair market value” of the Confiscated Property, or the original fair market value of the Confiscated Property plus pre-filing interest;
- b. Three times the amount determined above (treble damages);
- c. Prejudgment interest; and
- d. Court costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees, and expenses.

### **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

- A. Awarding damages as allowed by law including treble damages and pre-filing interest as provided by the Act;
- B. Awarding prejudgment interest as allowed by law on any amounts awarded;
- C. Awarding attorneys’ fees, costs, and expenses; and
- D. Awarding such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs demand a jury trial on all issues so triable, and a trial pursuant to Rule 39(c), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, as to all matters not triable as of right by a jury.

Dated: July 30, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Baron (*pro hac vice* motion forthcoming)  
dbaron@bcr-dc.com  
Melvin White (*pro hac vice* motion forthcoming)  
mwhite@bcr-dc.com  
Laina C. Lopez (*pro hac vice* motion forthcoming)  
lcl@bcr-dc.com

s/ David J. Horr  
David J. Horr  
Florida Bar. No. 310761  
dhorr@admiral-law.com  
William R. Boeringer  
Florida Bar No. 347191  
wboeringer@admiral-law.com  
William B. Milliken  
Florida Bar No. 143193



Berliner Corcoran & Rowe LLP  
1101 17th Street, N.W., Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4798  
Tel: (202) 293-5555  
Facsimile: (202) 293-9035

Richard W. Fields (*pro hac vice* motion  
forthcoming)  
fields@fieldslawpllc.com  
Martin Cunniff (*pro hac vice* motion  
forthcoming)  
MartinCunniff@fieldslawpllc.com  
Fields PLLC  
1701 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Tel: (833) 382-9816

*Counsel for Plaintiffs*

wmilliken@admiral-law.com  
Horr, Novak & Skipp, P.A.  
Two Datan Center, Suite 1700  
9130 S. Dadeland Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33156  
Telephone: (305) 670-2525  
Facsimile: (305) 670-2526

John S. Gaebe  
Florida Bar No. 304824  
Law Offices of John S. Gaebe P.A.  
5870 SW 96 St.  
Miami, Florida 33156  
johngaebe@gabelaw.com

*Counsel for Plaintiffs*

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17) FLSD Revised 06/01/2017

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.) NOTICE: Attorneys MUST Indicate All Re-filed Cases Below.

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS** ODETTE BLANCO DE FERNANDEZ née BLANCO ROSELL; EMMA RUTH BLANCO  
**DEFENDANTS** CMA CGM S.A. (a/k/a CMA CGM THE FRENCH LINE; a/k/a CMA CGM GROUP);

**(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff** Miami-Dade (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  
 County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

**(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)**  
 David J. Horr, Horr, Novak & Skipp, P.A., Two Datan Center, 9130 S. Dadeland Blvd., #1700, Miami, FL 33156 (305)670-2525  
 Attorneys (If Known)

**(d) Check County Where Action Arose:**  MIAMI-DADE  MONROE  BROWARD  PALM BEACH  MARTIN  ST. LUCIE  INDIAN RIVER  OKEECHOBEE  HIGHLANDS

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  
 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff  3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)  
 2 U.S. Government Defendant  4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)  
 Citizen of This State: PTF  1 DEF  1  
 Citizen of Another State: PTF  2 DEF  2  
 Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country: PTF  3 DEF  3  
 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State: PTF  4 DEF  4  
 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State: PTF  5 DEF  5  
 Foreign Nation: PTF  6 DEF  6

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  
 Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729 (a))
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander		<b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine		<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application	<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<b>LABOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise			<input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
			<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
			<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<b>Habeas Corpus:</b>	<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations	<b>Other:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	<b>IMMIGRATION</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights		
		<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition		
		<input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement		

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  
 1 Original Proceeding  2 Removed from State Court  3 Re-filed (See VI below)  4 Reinstated or Reopened  5 Transferred from another district (specify)  6 Multidistrict Litigation Transfer  7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment  8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File  9 Remanded from Appellate Court

**VI. RELATED/ RE-FILED CASE(S)** (See instructions): a) Re-filed Case  YES  NO b) Related Cases  YES  NO  
**JUDGE:** **DOCKET NUMBER:** 1:20-cv-25176 (SD Fla)

**VII. CAUSE OF ACTION** Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and Write a Brief Statement of Cause (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
 Title III of the Helms-Burton Act 22 U.S.C. Sections 6081-85.. Trafficking in property confiscated by Cuba.  
 LENGTH OF TRIAL via 20 days estimated (for both sides to try entire case)

**VIII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**  CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 DEMAND \$ in excess of \$1 Billion CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  
**JURY DEMAND:**  Yes  No

ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE & CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE  
 DATE July 30, 2021 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD on behalf of David J. Horr

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**  
 RECEIPT # AMOUNT IFP JUDGE MAG JUDGE

# **EXHIBIT A**



HOME PAGE

# Mariel is Cuba's big industrial gamble. Could U.S. companies be among investors?

BY MIMI WHITEFIELD

OCTOBER 23, 2017 08:00 AM, UPDATED OCTOBER 23, 2017 09:37 AM



Twenty-eight miles west of Havana in Mariel, one of the biggest economic development projects in Cuba history is taking shape. Cuban officials hope to attract sustainable industries, advanced manufacturing and high-tech companies to the Mariel Spe BY EMILY MICHOT

ACCEPT COOKIES

We use cookies and similar technologies. By continuing to use this website, you consent to our Terms of Service and our Privacy Policy.



MARIEL, CUBA

After years of Cuba talking about the Mariel Special Economic Development Zone as the island’s economic future, the sprawling site 28 miles west of Havana is beginning to take shape with huge tracts of land leveled and ready for construction of two major manufacturing operations.

So far 27 companies, including firms from Spain, the Netherlands, Panama, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, Vietnam, France, Belgium, and Cuba itself, have been given the green light to set up shop in the 115,000-acre zone. Only nine are currently operating there.

But Cuba envisions the zone and the Mariel port — perhaps best known in the United States as the gritty departure point for 125,000 Cubans who came to the United States during the 1980 boatlift — as the beginning of a bustling commercial city built on high-tech, advanced manufacturing and sustainable development.

TOP ARTICLES



SKIP AD

When Cuban leader Raúl Castro and former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva toured the refurbished Mariel port in February 2014, Castro called the Mariel complex the most important project carried out by the Cuban Revolution in the past 50 years.

“I think the port of Mariel represents the possibility of an industrial revolution for Cuba,” said Lula. During his administration, Brazil’s National Bank of Economic and Social Development (BNDES) extended loans that paid for most of the cost of developing the Mariel container terminal.

Over the last few years, container operations have been shifted from the Port of

business delegations. Managed by Singapore-based PSA International, the container terminal is the zone's largest user.

"Sometimes there's a little confusion — especially among the American audience. They see the zone as a port. The zone has a competitive advantage, which is the existence of the port, but it is much more than a port," said Ana Teresa Igarza, managing director of the special zone, which is known by its Spanish acronym as ZED.

Until recently there wasn't much to see in the zone, which was inaugurated in November 2013. Roads and traffic circles had been built among the rolling hills, but the zone was mostly wide, open spaces.

Now 25 acres of land has been fenced in and leveled for construction of the BrasCuba factory — a joint venture between Brazil's Souza Cruz and Cuba's Tabacuba. The \$100-million plant will turn out Popular, Cohiba and H. Upmann cigarettes for export and the domestic market.

Across the street, a site has been prepared for a Cuban biotech factory, and Womy, a Dutch company that rents cranes and other heavy equipment, has just finished its building. Foreign companies such as BDC-Log and BDC-Tec also have begun operating in the zone's logistics sector.

Unilever, which currently has an importing operation in Cuba, has completed site preparation for a joint venture with Cuba's Intersuchel that will produce shampoo, deodorant, Lux soap, Omo detergent and Close-Up toothpaste. It hopes to be in production by 2018, said Igarza.

Rows of new warehouses with solar panels on their roofs that use only 10 percent of the energy they generate are nearing completion, and Mariel Solar, a French/U.K. venture, has won approval to build a solar farm at the zone.

Devox Caribe, a paint and coatings company with 100 percent Mexican capital, is among zone users that will be largely powered by solar energy. Its goal is to first produce for the Cuban market and then begin exporting to Mexico.

Two food companies, Richmeat de Mexico, which plans a processing plant and meat packing operation, and Profood Service, a Spanish company that plans to produce concentrated juice, cocktail mixes and powdered drinks to be used in drink dispensers, also have been approved.

But unless these companies can ramp up quickly to begin exporting, rather than just producing for the Cuban market, the zone's financial incentives are little more than subsidies for domestic production, said Richard Feinberg, a professor of international economic policy at the University of California, San Diego.

**ACCEPT COOKIES**

We use cookies and similar technologies. By continuing to use this website, you consent to our [Terms of Service](#) and our [Privacy Policy](#).

To meet development goals, Cuba has said it needs to attract \$2.5 billion in annual foreign investment, but it is still far from that goal.

Spain has the highest representation of any country in the zone with six approvals. So far no U.S. company has made the cut.

However, Igarza hints that may change soon. She said negotiations with three U.S. companies in the bio-pharmaceutical and heavy equipment industries are in the advanced stage. “Perhaps we’ll have some surprises at the International Fair of Havana,” she said. Until they have final approvals, she said the companies have asked that their names not be released.

The fair, which Cuba often uses to announce new foreign investment projects, will be held Oct. 30-Nov. 3.

“In our commercial relations we’ve decided to work with all countries,” said Igarza. “So trade with the United States and investment relations with the United States — which is a natural market for Cuba and Cuba is also a natural market for the United States — is in our work plan.”

But the thaw in U.S.-Cuba relations that began in December 2014 is threatening to freeze up again. In the wake of mysterious attacks that have affected the health of 24 American diplomats stationed in Havana, the United States has withdrawn all but key personnel from its embassy, expelled 15 diplomats at Cuba’s embassy in Washington, and has warned American travelers against visiting the island because some of the attacks on diplomats occurred at hotels.

The Trump administration also is writing new regulations that are expected to make it more difficult for Americans to do business with and travel to Cuba, but it hasn’t released them yet.

“We do see policies changing from those established under President Obama.... but in terms of interest by American firms, I don’t think it has diminished,” said Igarza. “We are constantly receiving entrepreneurs, state delegations or mayors here who are interested in the progress.”

Despite the travel warning, a delegation, which included council members and business executives from both St. Petersburg and Tampa, visited Cuba earlier this month and toured the special zone.

After the Obama administration’s opening to Cuba allowed limited U.S. investment and trade with the island, there was a flurry of interest by American businesses and even an announcement that Cleber, an Alabama company, had been approved to manufacture small tractors in the zone.

But that was premature, said Igarza. Even though Cleber had U.S. authorization to

**ACCEPT COOKIES**

We use cookies and similar technologies. By continuing to use this website, you consent to our [Terms of Service](#) and our [Privacy Policy](#).

it became clear the company wasn't bringing any clean or advanced manufacturing processes to the zone, its proposal was turned down, Igarza said.

Cleber had proposed tractor technology from the 1940s — which Saul Berenthal, one of Cleber's co-founders said was appropriate for small-scale agriculture in Cuba where some farmers still use oxen to till their fields. "We told him we weren't interested because the technology was obsolete," and the tractor also didn't meet current safety and work health requirements in Cuba, said Igarza.

The Cleber rejection was a disappointment for those hoping it would be a harbinger of a deeper U.S.-Cuba business relationship. Some American executives also have complained about the lengthy Cuban decision-making process for potential U.S. ventures.

Igarza disagrees with that characterization. Decisions are not slow, she said, and are generally made within 60 days. But she conceded the process can be lengthy. After a company fills out a preliminary questionnaire, Cuba makes a determination whether a project is of interest. Then companies must submit extensive documentation and technical specifications.

"[How long it takes] all depends on how prepared their negotiating teams are," Igarza said. Some companies have done all their paperwork in six months, she said.

The zone has received more than 400 applications from companies around the world, but not all have decided to go through the rigorous documentation process or have proposed projects that interest the Cubans. The zone works with 20 to 30 companies at a time on completing paperwork, said Igarza.

At port seminars in the United States, Charles Baker, managing director of the Mariel container terminal, has talked about the port's interest in serving as trans-shipment point. Big ships that have transited the [expanded Panama Canal](#) could call at Mariel where cargoes could be offloaded to smaller feeder vessels serving Tampa and other U.S. Gulf Coast ports that don't have deep enough water for the huge Neo-Panamax ships now using the canal expansion.

But other ports, including Balboa in Panama, also are eager to expand their transshipment business and will offer plenty of competition. Currently the Mariel container terminal is operating at less than half its capacity.

The entrance to the Mariel channel is dredged to a depth of 45-feet, seven inches — not deep enough for Neo-Panamax ships, but dredging is continuing in phases. The goal is to reach a depth of just over 52 feet. The shipping channel at PortMiami, which is big-ship ready, has been dredged to a depth of 50 to 52 feet.

As long as the U.S. embargo remains in effect, it will be difficult for Mariel to reach its potential as a trans-shipment and exporting port. "Look where Mariel is: facing the United States. The U.S. is the logical target," said Feinberg. "Overall Mariel faces two major problems: very little access to the U.S. market and the wage issue."

**ACCEPT COOKIES**



Even though workers in the zone receive a premium over other Cuban workers, foreign companies must do their hiring through state agencies and the government retains a big chunk of workers' earnings. "Even though the wages Cuban workers actually get are low, Cuba is not considered a low-wage destination and that's a problem for investors," said Feinberg.

Meanwhile, the pieces of Cuba's grand industrial project are slowly coming together.

A double-track rail line has already been completed from the zone to Havana, and a passenger terminal is under construction. Some 7,000 workers — many of them involved in construction projects — who now labor in the zone will be able to ride the train to work and take shuttles to their workplaces when the terminal is completed in January.

Outside Igarza's third floor office at the Pelicano Business Center, there is a huge rendering of the future Mariel zone with all the open land filled in with factories and warehouses.

"A port open to the world," it reads.

Follow Mimi Whitefield on Twitter: [@HeraldMimi](#)



Ana Teresa Igarza, director of the Mariel Special Economic Development Zone, points to a map of the Mariel Special Economic Development Zone during a power point presentation on Sept. 29, 2017. EMILY MICHOT [EMICHOT@MIAMIHERALD.COM](mailto:EMICHOT@MIAMIHERALD.COM)

[COMMENTS](#)

READ NEXT

TRENDING STORIES

FLORIDA KEYS

# Cuban migrants rescued off Keys on a raft, Coast Guard says. That's not where they stayed

BY GWEN FILOSA

APRIL 26, 2021 06:13 PM



Two Cuban migrants who were rescued off the Florida Keys last week were taken back to Cuba on Monday by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The two men were rescued Thursday by the motor tanker STI Brixton's crew, who saw them waving their arms on a raft about 70 miles southwest of Marathon, the Coast Guard reported.

KEEP READING →

A Florida model was offering drunken lap dances to strangers. Cops then stepped in

UPDATED 3 HOURS 57 MINUTES AGO

Broward Schools Chief Robert Runcie and district's top lawyer will resign

UPDATED APRIL 27, 2021 09:33 PM

The annual Mando Mock draft: Dolphins make two sexy picks then address beef in second round

UPDATED APRIL 28, 2021 09:58 AM

Genetically modified mosquitoes are being released in the Keys. They'll mate to kill

UPDATED APRIL 28, 2021 04:47 PM

It's our 30th annual mock draft, and the Dolphins get lucky ... twice | Opinion

UPDATED APRIL 28, 2021 05:54 PM

CUBA

### Cuban government detains opposition leader José Daniel Ferrer

UPDATED APRIL 23, 2021 09:52 AM

CUBA

### Broken record or new tune? Cuba's leaders preached continuity but some saw slivers of reform

UPDATED APRIL 22, 2021 11:50 PM

CUBA

### Cuba's Communist Party meet-up is closed door. Online, Cubans still have plenty to say

UPDATED APRIL 21, 2021 01:46 PM

AMERICAS

### Miguel Díaz-Canel is named Cuba's next Communist Party chief, replacing Raúl Castro

UPDATED APRIL 21, 2021 01:46 PM

POLITICS

### South Florida Republicans: Jump-start Cuban reunification program from Guantánamo Bay

UPDATED APRIL 19, 2021 07:47 PM

EDITORIALS

### Last Castro steps down. Unfortunately, too many Cuban exiles didn't live to see it | Editorial

UPDATED APRIL 19, 2021 11:22 AM

## Take Us With You

Real-time updates and all local stories you want right in the palm of your hand.

MIAMI HERALD APP →

VIEW NEWSLETTERS →

ACCEPT COOKIES

We use cookies and similar technologies. By continuing to use this website, you consent to our [Terms of Service](#) and our [Privacy Policy](#).

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- Start a Subscription
- Customer Service
- eEdition
- Vacation Hold
- Pay Your Bill

**LEARN MORE**

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Newsletters
- News in Education
- Public Insight Network
- Reader Panel
- Archives

**ADVERTISING**

- Place a Classified
- Media Kit
- Public Notices

**COPYRIGHT**

**COMMENTING POLICY**

**PRIVACY POLICY**

**TERMS OF SERVICE**

We use cookies and similar technologies. By continuing to use this website, you consent to our [Terms of Service](#) and our [Privacy Policy](#).

**ACCEPT COOKIES**

# **EXHIBIT B**



# Port of Mariel.

New transport hub for the Americas.



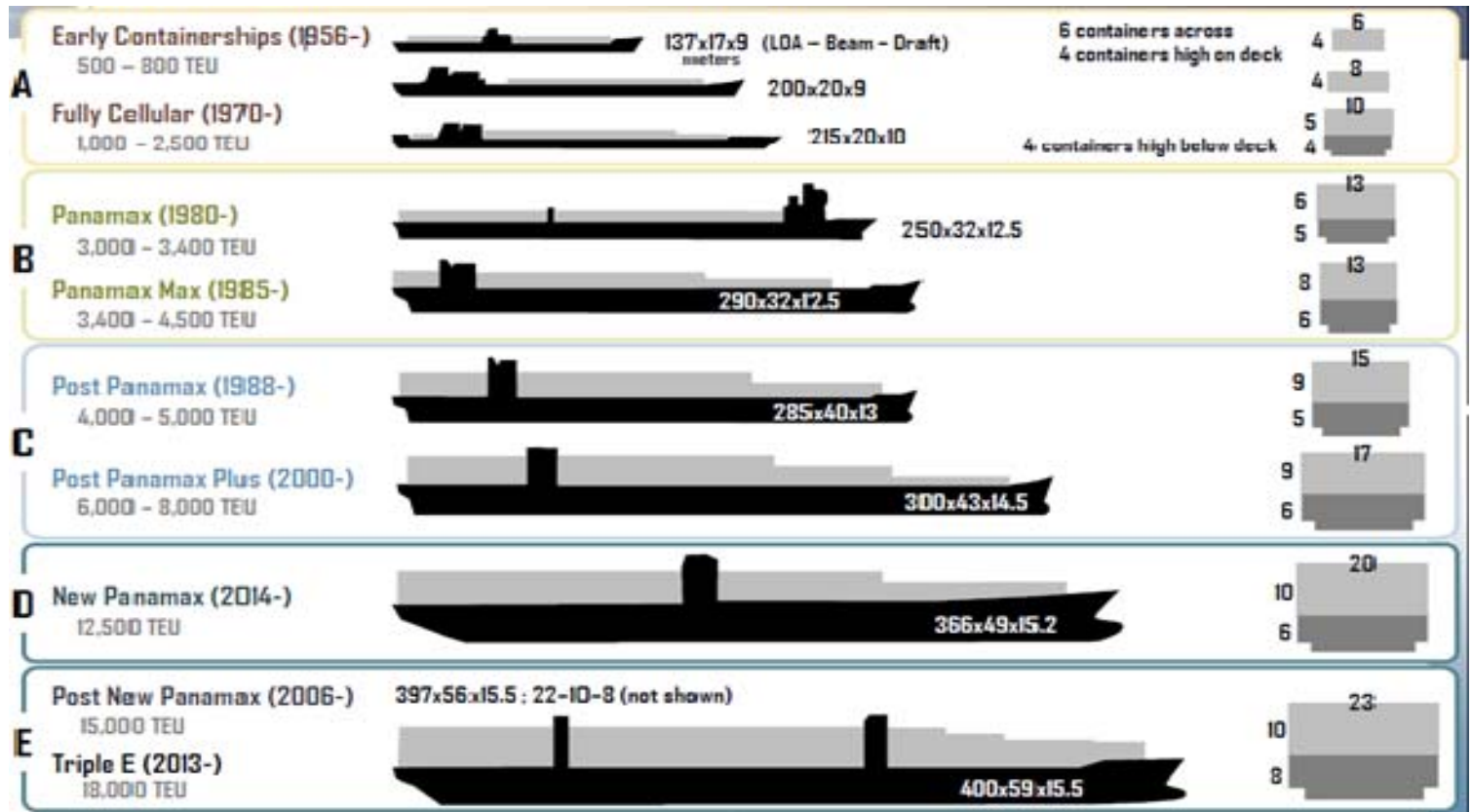


# PORT OF MARIEL



# EVOLUTION OF CONTAINER VESSELS

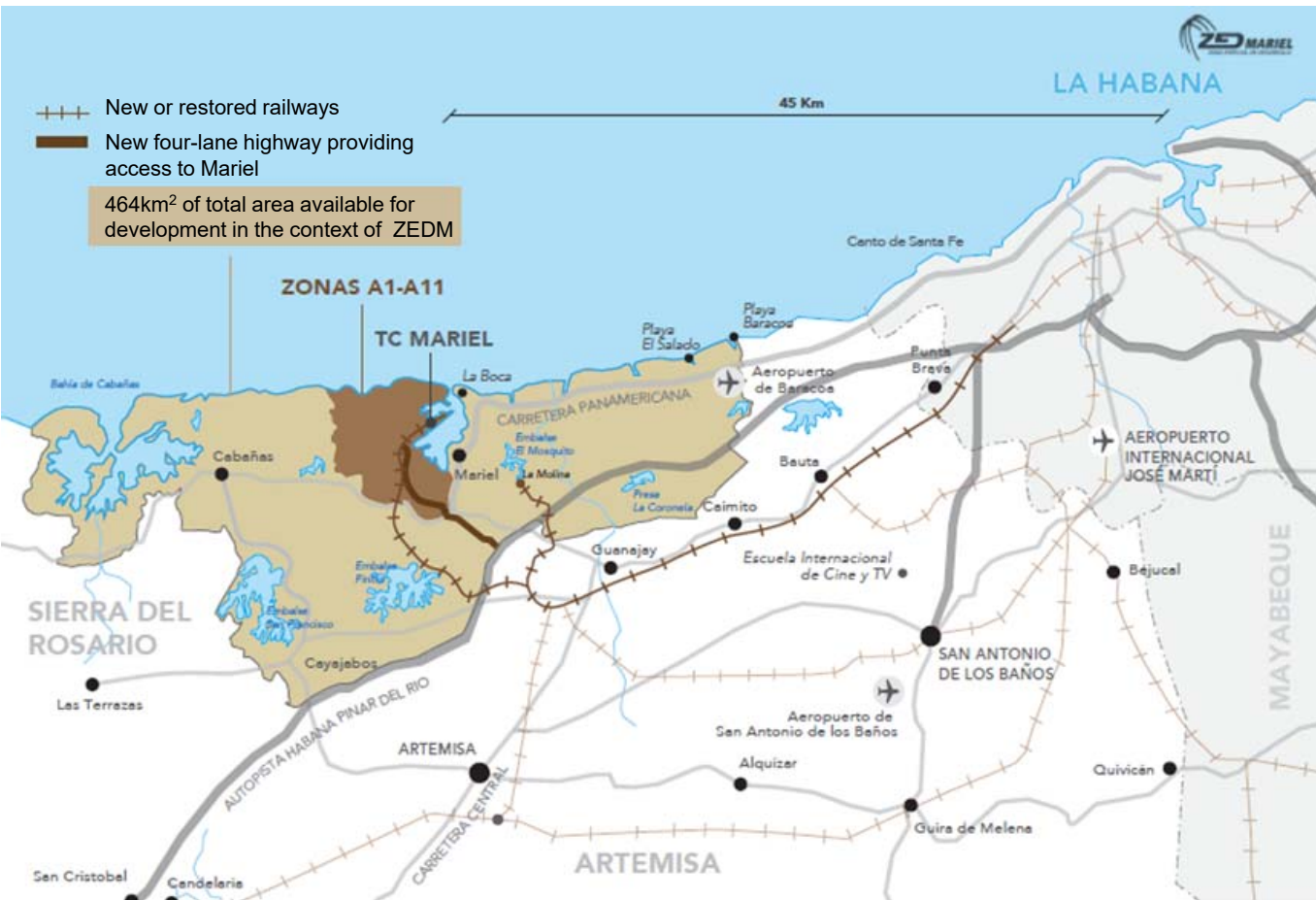
The maximum size for the "old" Habana terminal & port



TC Mariel is designed and built for the "New Panamax" class vessels



# Mariel Special Development Zone



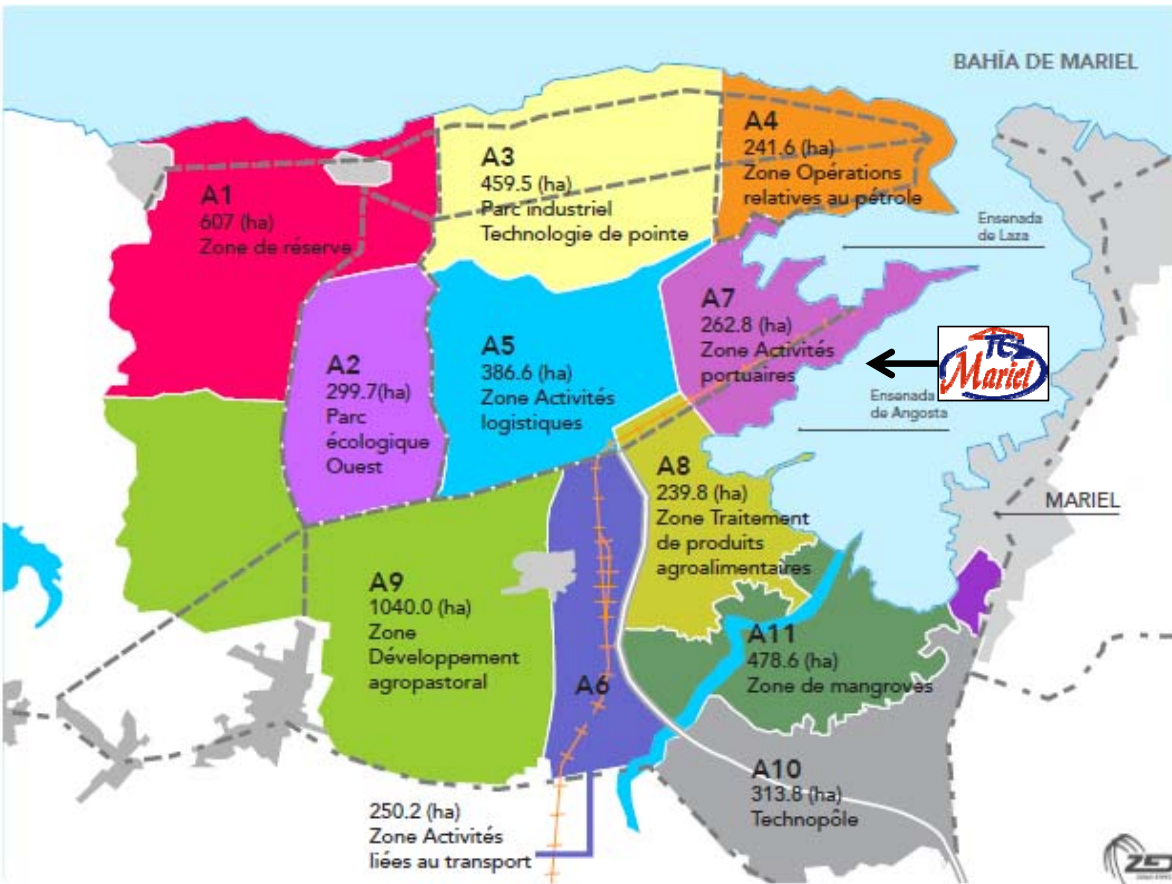
- Created in 2013 to drive foreign direct investment in economic development of Cuba.
- 45km from Cuba's capital city, Havana.
- Modern road & rail connections to Havana and beyond.
- No restrictions on foreign ownership, fast & agile project approval process, fiscal advantages versus other territories in Cuba.
- Significant international interest from investors to create manufacturing, production, farming activities.

[www.zedmariel.com](http://www.zedmariel.com)





# ZED Mariel (Zone A) - Investors gathering...



- TC Mariel first investor and user of the Mariel Special Development Zone (ZEDM)
- ZAL – Logistics Activity Zone opened in August 2015 (20,000m<sup>2</sup> dry and 5,000m<sup>3</sup> refrigerated warehousing.
- 8 additional projects under construction:
  - Meat processing plant
  - Industrial paints plant
  - Juices & drinks plant
  - Heavy equipment leasing & service centre
  - Logistics provider
  - Hotel supplies logistics provider
- Considerable international interest (current investors: Spanish, Mexican, Belgian, Cuban, French.....)



# ZED Mariel (Zone A) - Investors gathering...



722 million USD  
2 318 jobs



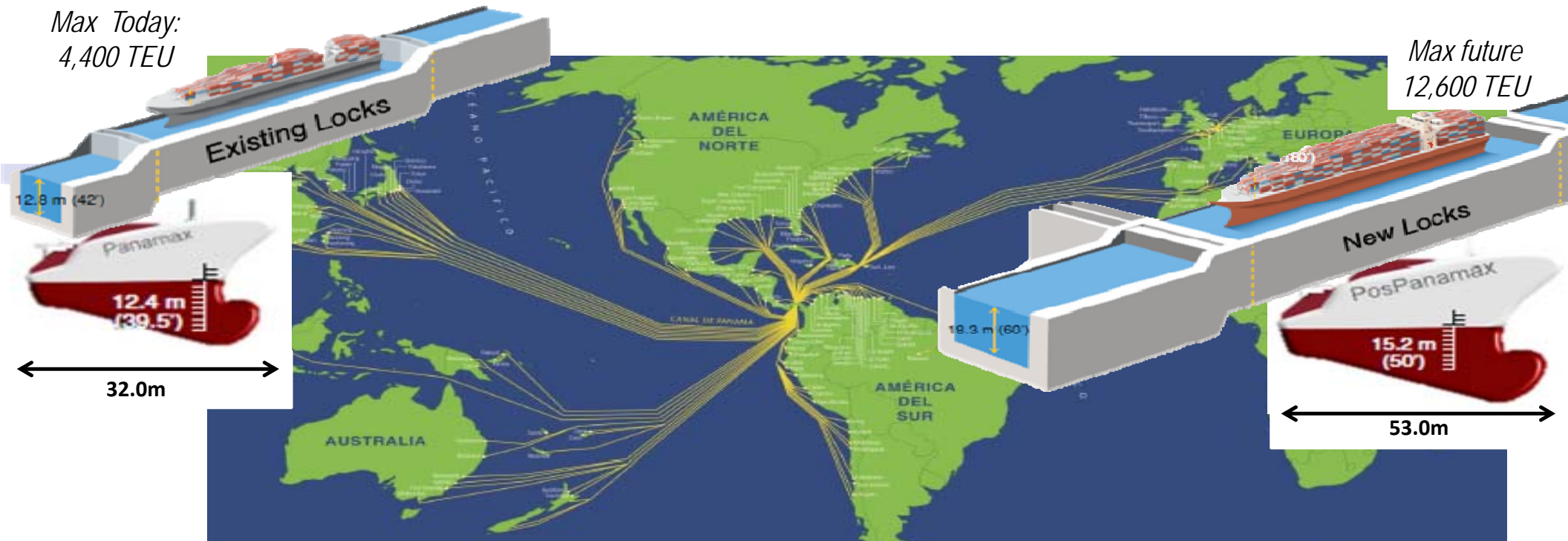
- 3 100% Cuban Capital
- 9 100% Foreign capital
- 2 Joint Ventures
- 1 AEI



# EXPANSION OF THE PANAMA CANAL

Max Today:  
4,400 TEU

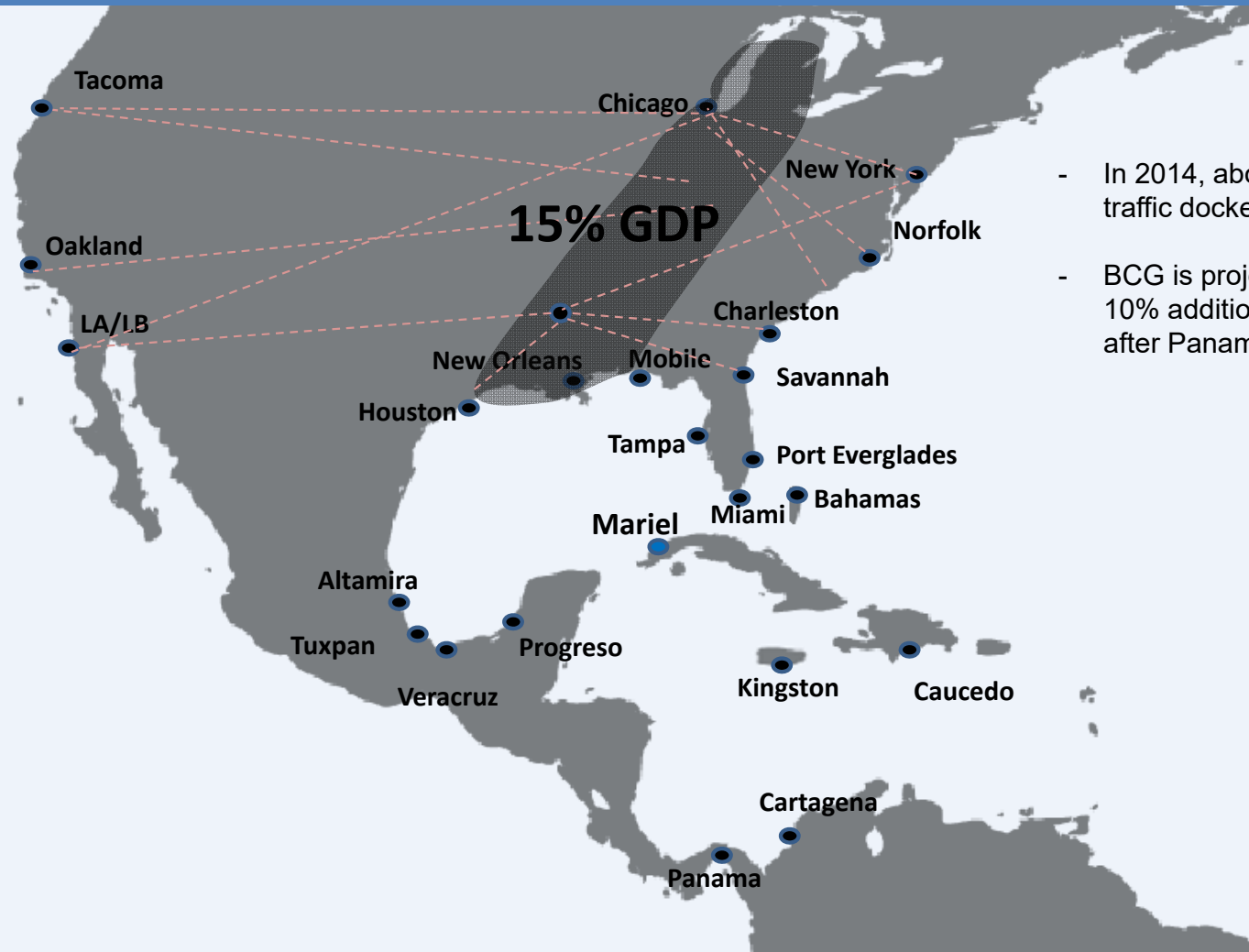
Max future  
12,600 TEU



- (3x) Larger ships producing economies of escale.
- Port call reduction on routes creates a demand for "Hub-Ports" (Large ports receiving and distributing containers from far and wide).
- A hub-port in Cuba will attract larger ships which will reduce the transshipment incidence to Cuban imp/exp cargo, generating benefits for the Cuban economy.



# US HINTERLAND CONNECTIVITY



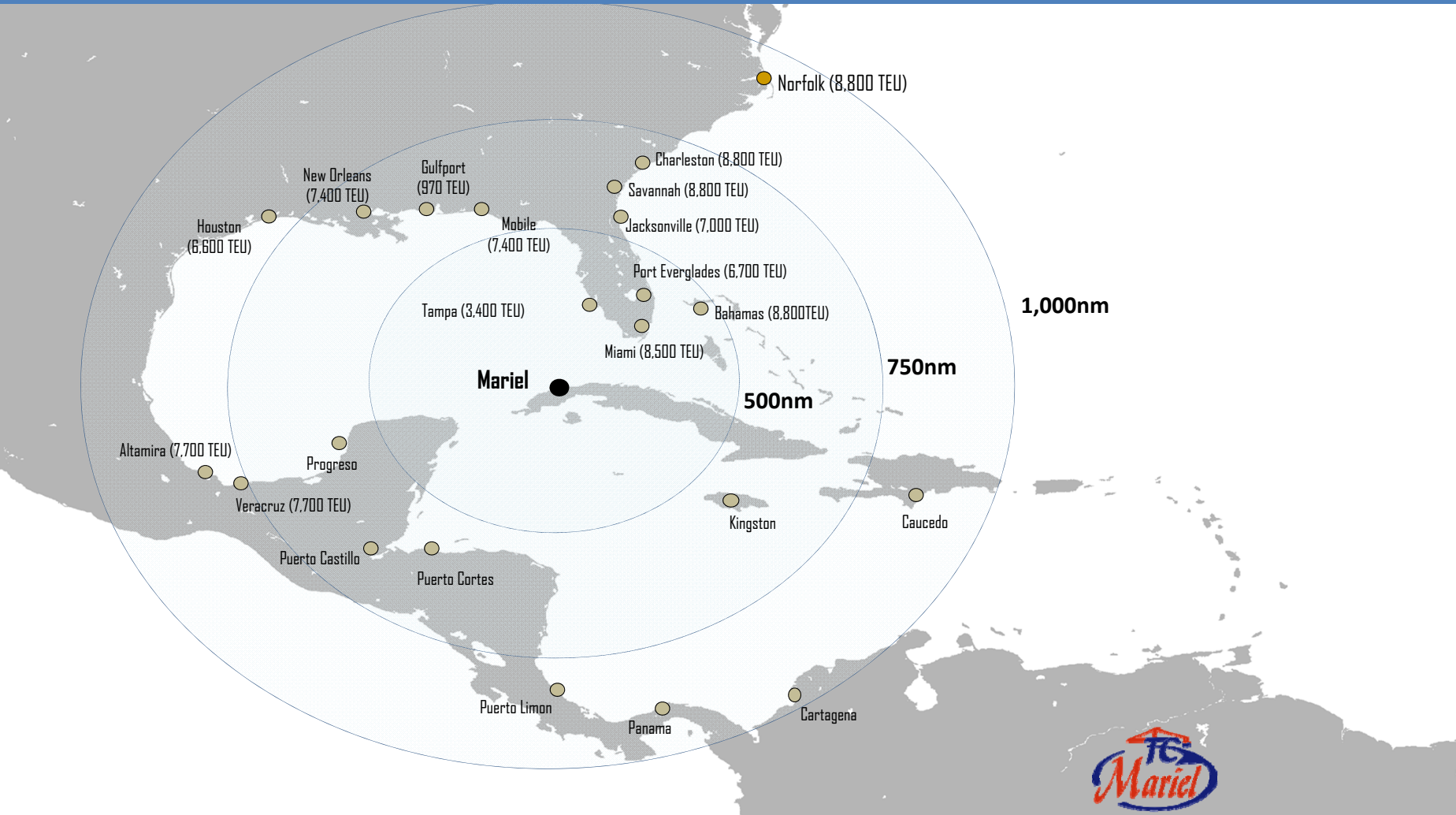
- In 2014, about 35% of East Asia Container traffic docked on the US East Coast.
- BCG is projecting East Coast Ports will gain 10% additional share of FE-US container traffic, after Panamá Canal Expansion, for 2020.



# US PORT – DRAFT ISSUES

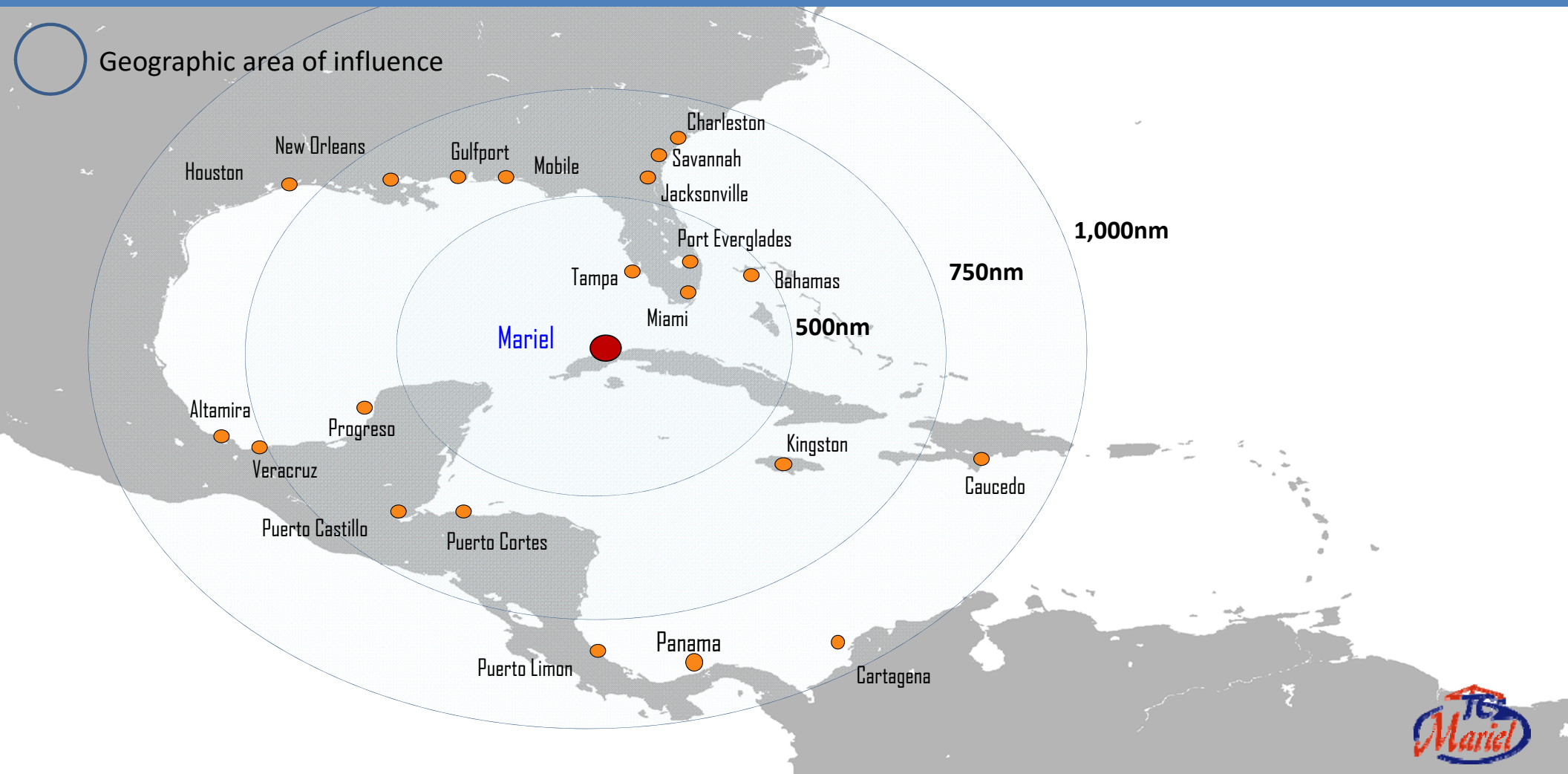


# BIGGEST VESSELS CURRENTLY CALLING





# “THE LOCATION” FOR USEC & GULF COAST



# Hub & spoke direct to gateway ports





# TC MARIEL'S HISTORY

- *Official Creation Date: **16 November 2010.***
- *Equity: **100% cuban.***
- *Owner: **Almacenes Universales S.A.** (The largest transportation and logistics group in Cuba).*
- *Managed by : **PSA International** (Number one port operator in the world).*
- *First Commercial Ship: **Mv. K Breeze** (operated by Crowley Marine), on 26.01.2014*
- *Official Inauguration: **27 January 2014.***
- *June 2014: Completed transfer of all liner services from Havana Old Port to Mariel.*
- *July 1st, 2014: Rail terminal opens with rail services crossing country.*
- *2014 FY: **197** vessel calls, **160k** TEUs.*
- *2015 FY: **298** vessel calls and **330k** TEUs (106% YOY).*
- *2016 Est. **360~370k TEUs** (10~15% growth YoY)*
- *Approx. 500 employees (5 foreign staff in total).*



# INFRAESTRUCTURE

Infrastructure	2015	Future
Berth length	702	2400
Max draft (m)	17.0	17.9
Gaintry cranes SPP	4 (6*)	24
RTG	12	72
Prime movers	22	132
Empty C. Handlers	4	18
Reachstackers	2	3
Area (ha)	27.7	95
Reefer plugs	1140	2500
Total capacity(TEU)	800,000	3,000,000
* With no need for additional work on the dock		
<b>Railway facility</b>		
RMG	2	2
Railway tracks	4	4
Capacity (TEU)	120 000	300.000



# LOCATION FOR A HUB PORT



**Access Channel Works**

In 2016: Panamax

In 2017: Neo-Panamax



# TC MARIEL HELPING TO CREATE NEW HORIZONS

