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**2016 – a better year for most
of the Top 10 Baltic container ports**

For most of the Baltic Top 10 container ports 2016 occur to be the better year in terms of throughput than 2015. In total they handled over 7.1 mln TEU, +5.3% then the year before. The highest peace o growth was recorded in Gdansk, the second largest port within the Baltic Sea region (+19.1%). It is worth to mention that in October last year the main container terminal in Gdansk –DCT- which handles almost all containers that pass through that port, was enlarged by the second deepwater berth (T2). New berth is able to accommodate ships with a capacity of over 20,000 TEU. The investment has doubled the handling capacity of DCT Gdansk to 3 million TEU per year.

Last year, apart from Gdansk, two-digit growth was also noticed in HaminaKotka and Klaipeda. In Riga, throughputs after drop in 2015, increased by 8.6% and almost returned to the level recorded in 2014. In Aarhus and Helsinki second year in the row one-digit grow was observed. St. Petersburg on the other hand, after significant decrease in 2015, in 2016 noted slight increase. However, three out of four largest container terminals in St. Petersburg experienced declines. Only Container Terminal St. Petersburg recorded increase in container traffic, which in fact was quite impressive (+40%). This together with the major decline (-30%) in throughput in First Container Terminal, gave CTSP the leader position in port of St. Petersburg.

In the case of three ports, Gothenburg, Gdynia and Rauma, 2016 was a second year in a row when the decrease in container volumes was recorded. In Gothenburg, according to the port explanations, drop was connected with labour dispute with the Dockworkers' Union, which has escalated and resulted in major disruptions. In the case of Gdynia the peace of decrease reduced significantly comparing to the -19.4% noted in 2015, but still was noticeable. In the last years Gdynia has been losing some of the container volumes in favour of Deepwater Container Terminal in Gdansk. In Rauma, peace of decrease also slowed down. What's worth to mention Rauma is investing in extension of existing container terminal. In April 2016, Port of Rauma launched a major building project, which consists of building more berths for container ships and a new storage area for containers.

Table 1. Container throughput in the TOP 10 Baltic container ports in 2016 (TEU)

	Port	2015	2016	2016/2015
1	St. Petersburg	1 715 139	1 745 182	1.8%
2	Gdańsk	1 091 202	1 299 373	19.1%
3	Gothenburg	820 000	798 000	-2.7%
4	Gdynia	684 796	642 195	-6.2%
5	HaminaKotka	555 373	631 334	13.7%
6	Aarhus	442 000	456 652	3.3%
7	Helsinki	430 562	451 266	4.8%
8	Klaipeda	392 674	443 312	12.9%
9	Riga	355 241	385 937	8.6%
10	Rauma	262 567	255 905	-2.5%
Total		6 749 554	7 109 156	5.3%

Port Monitor is a series of periodic reports regarding the seaports markets in the Baltic Sea, as well as on European and global scale. The reports are prepared by team of experts of Actia Forum, Gdynia, Poland.

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