# ARGUS OIL AND FUTURE FUELS FORUM 2025 Evolution of Road Fuels Markets

Moderator



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### European refining has lost competitiveness, and so shrunk

- European refineries are struggling with rising costs and falling local demand for some products.
- Rising costs include gas without Russia, wages and carbon costs.
- European refineries also tend to be small and old.



Source: Energy Institute Statistical Review of World Energy, 2024

### European gasoline supply rises – but exports flounder

#### European gasoline balances



#### European gasoline exports



Source: Eurostat, Kpler, Argus Media

Source: Kpler

kb/d

### Key demand outlets in the Atlantic Basin are narrowing



#### US gasoline imports vs crude output



#### Source: Kpler, EIA

### Argus benchmarks robust in Europe...and further afield



## Time for a Mideast Gasoline Benchmark



- Almost 1mn b/d of rising supply is exported from India and the MEG a region absent of independent pricing benchmarks.
- Singapore netbacks are outdated and at the mercy of volatile freight rates more representative benchmarks are needed!
- Argus is working with the market to develop fob Mideast Gulf 92R pricing benchmarks to better capture regional values.

### Singapore netbacks outdated, freight rates volatile

#### Mideast Gulf, India gasoline export destinations





## **Introducing MEBOB**

### A new Argus gasoline price for the Middle East and India

#### How will the new MEBOB price be assessed?

• The new FOB Mideast Gulf 92R gasoline price will be published as an outright daily price.

#### What is the proposed methodology?

- Fixed Price trade normalised to the midpoint of a 15-30-day loading window
- 14:00 UAE time, 18:00 Singapore, (10:00 GMT)
- 92 RON / 82 MON 10 ppm Sulphur oxygenated specification that reflects a blend, production and finish grade standard for the region with seasonality (Winter - November to February)
- Basis: FOB Fujairah (UAE), Jebel Ali (UAE), and Sohar (Oman) cargoes of 300,000 b/d +/-5%

#### Is alternative delivery acceptable?

- Alternative Ports: Red Sea, Arab Gulf, and West Coast India
- Alternative Delivery: ITT, in-situ, ex-pipe
- Small Parcels: 150,000 bbls and 200,000 bbls

### Diesel supply routes to Europe are longer since the war

- Exclusion of Russian diesel in 2022-23 cut off supply routes that took 3-4 days and replaced it with routes that take 3-4 weeks.
- Journey times grew again when Houthi attacks shut off Gulf of Aden in 2024.
- As well as costs, long routes introduce risk of disruption, e.g. Houthis.



### Prices, tanker freight rates for Russian oil products



- Discounts for Baltic and Black Sea diesel, gasoline, naphtha, fuel oil and VGO vs. non-Russian prices and implied outright prices.
- Freight rates for key routes from the Baltic and Black Sea to new destinations.

| Russian products and price            | caps     |       | \$/bl |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                                       | Low      | High  | ±     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Premium products (price cap \$100/bl) |          |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gasoline                              |          |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Baltic                            | 68.57    | 73.37 | +1.17 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Diesel                                |          |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Baltic                            | 77.55    | 80.24 | +0.51 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Black Søa                         | 81.71    | 84.40 | +0.27 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gasoil                                |          |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Black Sea                         | 68.58    | 77.31 | +0.17 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| VGO                                   |          |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Baltic                            | 55.15    | 57.15 | -0.77 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Black Sea                         | 60.15    | 62.15 | -0.77 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Discounted products (price cap        | \$45/bl) |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Naphtha                               |          |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Baltic                            | 52.56    | 55.37 | nc    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Black Sea                         | 51.97    | 57.02 | -0.09 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fuel oil                              |          |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Baltic                            | 45.30    | 51.69 | +0.20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fob Black Sea                         | 44.86    | 51.21 | +0.20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Now 3-4x as many 30kt cargoes load at ARA, vs. arriving there

mn tonnes

- Argus is pricing 30kt fob ARA cargoes, based on activity in an Argus Open Markets (AOM) screen and daily market survey.
- The fob ARA price relates transparently to cif prices at different European ports — just add freight.
- The fob ARA 30kt trade is 3-4x more liquid than the cif ARA 30kt trade now, so it's easy to participate.

Source: Vortexa

Diesel and gasoil on 30kt vessels loading from / arriving at ARA.



## Argus Open Markets (AOM) screen for diesel cargoes

| DIESEL FOB ARA CARGO |           |     |     |        | + BID | + ASK |        |     |     |           | × |
|----------------------|-----------|-----|-----|--------|-------|-------|--------|-----|-----|-----------|---|
|                      | DATE      | BRO | PRI | QTY    | PRICE | PRICE | QTY    | PRI | BRO | DATE      |   |
| R                    | 11-15 Feb |     | TRA | 30,000 | -3.00 | +2.50 | 30,000 | LIT | *   | 11-15 Feb |   |
|                      |           |     |     |        |       |       |        |     |     |           |   |

- Here we see Trafigura bidding and Litasco offering 30kt fob ARA cargoes in the AOM screen in a recent session.
- Optionality expanded to allow bids and offers for different regional specs with volumes of 30kt, 15kt or 10-15kt.

### European biofuels demand expected to double by 2035



Growth in biofuels consumption expected in 2025



~ Argus Analytics

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### HVO market from strength to strength – tripling in spot market liquidity and record paper trade



#### **Argus News & Analysis**



## **Geopolitics shape Europe's HVO supply**



### Biofuels reality: Advanced waste biofuels demand is rising, but feedstock supply uncertain



#### **European Advanced waste** feedstock demand