

DFDS CEO Torben Carlsen speaks - vlog 12

“Good afternoon again, sending from the terrace in Copenhagen in sunny weather.

DFDS has faced unprecedented challenges with Covid-19.

We have done excellently in a number of areas. Health wise, we have been able to keep our people safe. We have followed guidelines and instructions from governments and health authorities that have enabled us to keep our operations going. We have to continue with that, not relax just because we have succeeded so far. This is a key thing for DFDS to succeed during this crisis. We have experienced operational challenges with crew changes and drivers from Turkey who were difficult to relocate with lack of protective stuff, etc. etc. that made it difficult for us. But also there we continue to operate.

We have seen slow volumes, over Easter in particular, both in Turkey, the North Sea and everything involved with automotive. And we maintain our services everywhere, but at reduced capacities and frequencies. We will now, fortunately, begin to see car factories opening again already next week and the following weeks. So hopefully there is some light at the end of the tunnel, with volumes both on our ferry routes and in our different logistics activities.

More than 2000 colleagues are now no longer working but sent home under different government schemes. I know that's a tough situation. You can feel a little bit on your own. Remember to go to The Bridge to get information. I can assure you that we are starting to look into how we can restart activities, how we can ramp up activities again. We have to, of course, do that with due consideration to how the world potentially looks like post Covid-19. And as soon as we know what we can do from governments and what we are able to do in terms of demand, you will hear back from us.

The situation for DFDS is very serious due to Corona. We think you got that message. But it's also a very serious situation for many of our competitors, for many of our suppliers and for many of our customers.

This also means that there will be opportunities that we had not thought about and had not been able to tap into before, that may come out of this. We are also spending some of our resources trying to look into what those possibilities could be, how DFDS can benefit from these, so we are ultimately coming out stronger from the crisis than we went into it. I'm very optimistic that we will see many such opportunities.

With this, please remember to stay safe, protect your loved ones and have a have a nice weekend.”