



French transportation workers were out in full force on Tuesday to protest the recent labor reform laws passed by the French Parliament. Paris airports ORY and CDG will be disrupted for the week due to a coordinated strike by technicians, engineers and air traffic controllers. A 24-hour strike called by the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) union for Tuesday could be extended, and a separate 24-hour strike may start at 11 AM on Thursday, May 19, [says The Connexion](#).

Truck drivers blocked several roads to cities in France on early Tuesday morning, among them Nantes, Caen, Marseille, Bordeaux, Rennes, Lorient and Le Mans. Major port routes to Le Havre, Marseille, Dunkirk and Calais have also been blockaded by truck drivers—two 24-hour strikes have been called at the ports by worker unions on Tuesday and Thursday.

The strikes and protests come after the results of a controversial labor reform bill in France: the el-Khomri bill, which could potentially extend the current workweek and allow the dismissal of employees on economic grounds. Conceived by current president François Hollande and his administration, the bill has been denounced by unions like CGT, FO, FSU, Solidaires, and l'Unef. This week's protests are not the first instance of public backlash against the bill—[three weeks ago, France24](#) reported that 20% of flights at the ORY airport were cancelled during a nation-wide protest.

KWE has reached out to its branches in Europe to ascertain logistical contingency solutions, and will update as more information is brought to light.

For on-going coverage of this and other matters of concern to the shipping community, you may also follow us on Twitter at:

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