# East Coast Ports Union Plans Strike Preparation Meeting

### Description

The International Longshoremen's Association union, which represents 45,000 workers at major container ports from Texas to Maine, is in negotiations for a new contract. They are requesting a substantial 77 percent pay increase over the life of the contract, significantly higher than what their West Coast counterparts received last year. The talks have hit a roadblock as the union and the United States Maritime Alliance employer group discuss pay raises, automation, healthcare, and retirement benefits. The current contract is set to expire on September 30, and if a new agreement is not reached, there is a possibility of a strike starting on October 1.

This potential strike could have serious implications for key ports like New York/New Jersey, Houston, and Charleston, South Carolina, causing disruptions ahead of the holiday season and the U.S. presidential elections. Companies that rely on these ports have been proactive, bringing in goods earlier to mitigate any potential risks. Despite efforts from both sides to restart talks, concerns about a strike continue to grow each day without a resolution.



The National Retail Federation, along with other industry associations, has called for both parties to return to negotiations to avoid any disruptions that could impact retailers, consumers, and the economy. The situation is being closely monitored by various stakeholders and government agencies to ensure a swift and fair resolution.

*Adapted from Reuters with modifications for language level.*

## Vocabulary List:

1. **Negotiations** /nɪˌgoʊʃiˈeɪʃənz/ (noun): Discussions aimed at reaching an agreement.
2. **Substantial** /səbˈstænʃəl/ (adjective): Of considerable importance size or worth.
3. **Disruptions** /dɪsˈrʌpʃənz/ (noun): Interferences that interrupt an expected process or event.
4. **Mitigate** /ˈmɪtɪˌgeɪt/ (verb): To make less severe or serious.
5. **Proactive** /proʊˈæktɪv/ (adjective): Taking action to control a situation rather than just responding to it.
6. **Stakeholders** /ˈsteɪkˌhoʊldərz/ (noun): Individuals or groups with an interest in the outcome of a project or situation.

## Comprehension Questions

**Multiple Choice**

1. How many workers does the International Longshoremen's Association union represent?
   Option: 10,000
   Option: 25,000
   Option: 45,000
   Option: 60,000

2. What percentage pay increase is the union requesting over the life of the new contract?
   Option: 50%
   Option: 60%
   Option: 77%
   Option: 85%

3. When is the current contract set to expire?
   Option: August 30
   Option: September 15
   Option: September 30
   Option: October 1



4. Which ports could be impacted by a potential strike?
   Option: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle
   Option: New York, Chicago, Miami
   Option: New York/New Jersey, Houston, Charleston
   Option: Boston, Atlanta, Dallas

5. What proactive measure have companies taken to mitigate risks?
   Option: Delaying shipments
   Option: Increasing production
   Option: Bringing in goods earlier
   Option: Reducing workforce

6. Who has called for both parties to return to negotiations to avoid disruptions?
   Option: International Maritime Organization
   Option: National Retail Federation
   Option: United Nations
   Option: World Trade Organization

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. 45,000 2. 77% 3. September 30 4. New York/New Jersey, Houston, Charleston 5. Bringing in goods earlier 6. National Retail Federation

## Vocabulary quizzes

**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. What can enhance the functionality of a web browser?

   Option: Plugins
   Option: Hardware
   Option: Operating system
   Option: Firewall

2. A system is considered vulnerable when it is easily susceptible to what?

   Option: Malware
   Option: Updates
   Option: Firewall
   Option: Antivirus



3. What provides a record of presence or absence?

   Option: Calendar
   Option: Alarm
   Option: Clock
   Option: Attendance register

4. Which approach involves taking action before problems occur?

   Option: Reactive
   Option: Passive
   Option: Proactive
   Option: Indecisive

5. What process involves discussions aimed at reaching agreements?

   Option: Coercion
   Option: Negotiations
   Option: Dictation
   Option: Confrontation

6. What involves working together towards a common goal or purpose?
   - Option: Isolation
   - Option: Competition
   - Option: Collaboration
   - Option: Conflict

7. Which term refers to the state or fact of exclusive rights and control over something?
   - Option: Possession
   - Option: Sharing
   - Option: Borrowing
   - Option: Ownership

8. What is the quality of being thankful and appreciative?
   - Option: Envy
   - Option: Complacency
   - Option: Skepticism
   - Option: Gratitude

9. Which term means showing great attention to detail?
   - Option: Carelessly
   - Option: Rapidly
   - Option: Meticulously
   - Option: Sporadically



10. Who are individuals or groups with an interest in the success of an organization?
   - Option: Critics
   - Option: Detractors
   - Option: Opponents
   - Option: Stakeholders

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. ________________________ thinking leads to groundbreaking discoveries and solutions.

12. Success is often the result of hard work and ________________________.

13. To ________________________ risks companies implement various safety measures.

14. Natural disasters can cause significant ________________________ to businesses.

15. Each individual has a ________________________ set of skills and characteristics.

16. Event planners coordinate all the ________________________ for a successful function.

17. Societal ________________________ guide behavior and expectations within a community.

18. Some businesses adopt ________________________ marketing strategies to dominate the market.

19. Managers use various techniques to ________________________ their employees.

20. Investors are advised to be ________________________ when considering high-risk ventures.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

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| 21. Sophisticated software is used for early of security threats. |
| 22. Teams must effectively to achieve project goals. |
| 23. The investment brought returns over the years. |
| 24. With determination and effort one can in any endeavor. |
| 25. Being in problem-solving can prevent future issues. |
| 26. A positive can greatly impact productivity and well-being. |
| 27. Taking of your mistakes is a sign of maturity. |
| 28. Companies that embrace ideas often lead in their industries. |
| 29. Expressing towards others can strengthen relationships. |
| 30. is key in overcoming challenges and achieving goals. |



## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Plugins 2. Malware 3. Attendance register 4. Proactive 5. Negotiations 6. Collaboration 7. Ownership 8. Gratitude 9. Meticulously 10. Stakeholders
**Gap-Fill:** 11. Innovative 12. Persistence 13. Mitigate 14. Disruptions 15. Unique 16. Arrangements 17. Norms 18. Aggressive 19. Motivate 20. Cautious
**Matching sentence:** 1. Detection 2. Collaborate 3. Substantial 4. Succeed 5. Proactive 6. Mindset 7. Ownership 8. Innovative 9. Gratitude 10. Persistence

**CATEGORY**

1. Business - LEVEL3

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