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TRANSPORT LOGISTICS IN BELARUS: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT

Logistics involves the delivery of products or services for the client with assured quality and quantity. Transport Logistics is a system of delivering by optimal route of various material items, substances from one place to another.

As international experience shows, the most important factor of economic growth is the formation of the logistics system, covering various activities in the country. In industrialized countries, logistics for a long time has been servicing as an instrument of enhancing the efficiency of traffic control of material flow.

Transport logistics system is a highly profitable field of economy, but in Belarus it is still underdeveloped.

The main problems in this sphere are:

- low level of communication sphere and infrastructure development;
- deficient volume of logistics functions transmission at outsourcing;
- lack of software;
- a great rate of ware conveyances;
- complexity of custom and tax legislation;
- underdeveloped road side service;
- concentration of the lion's share of the logistic business is in the hands of the state.

But Belarus has an advantageous geographical position: it is at the crossroads of the major pan-European transport corridors (West-East and North-South). These corridors are as follows:

- corridor II connecting Berlin via Warsaw and Minsk with Moscow and Eastern regions of Russia;
- corridor IXb connecting Scandinavian and Baltic countries via St. Petersburg and Minsk with Kyiv, Chisinau and South European countries;
- corridor IX connecting Helsinki to Chisinau via St. Petersburg, Moscow and Kiev.

Strategic directions, specific schemes and incentives:

- transport infrastructure is a state-owned sector, but the programme for the participation of the private sector is under preparation;
- the State programme for the development of logistical system in the Republic of Belarus until 2015 is being implemented.

The main goals of the Program are:

- Development of measures for improving logistical system.
 - Creation of favorable conditions in the logistical system and logistical transport infrastructure for investors.
 - 39 sites in various regions of Belarus are earmarked for construction of logistical centers, of them 32 are already under construction.
 - Specific investment projects include plans to upgrade the Belarusian stretch of the Moscow-Paris railway network and the Warsaw-Moscow motorway, as well as many regional roads and by-passes.
- Business opportunities, establishment of transport facilities and services for:
- Road transport: the development of petrol stations, accommodations and other facilities with special benefits for investors under the State development programme, the modernization of road services such as speed control systems.
 - Inland water transport: several rivers and canals provide international transportation with access to the Black Sea, including 10 ports with cargo processing and transportation. Additional equipments and enhanced services are to be developed.