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Transport and Logistics of the Republic of Belarus

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Belarus is an important transport corridor connecting the West and East, the black sea coast regions with the Baltic sea countries. Every year, more than 100 million tons of European cargo pass through the country, of which about 90 % is between the Russian Federation and the European Union. Therefore, Belarus is considered to be the most important transport artery of the Eurasian space, which fully ensures the efficiency and security of transit. Transport services are provided by rail, road, air, river and pipeline transport. Further development of the logistics system is extremely important, especially in terms of accelerating globalization processes and integrating our country into the world economic and information space on this basis. In 2016, a new Republican program for the development of the logistics system and transit potential for 2016-2020 was adopted. Its main goal is to effectively integrate the national logistics system into the international system of financial and labor resources distribution, increase the transit attractiveness of the state, and increase the profitability of logistics services export. As part of the implementation of the program, an active increase in the volume of logistics services has begun, especially in the field of building modern transport and logistics centers. At the beginning of the second half of 2019 in the Republic of Belarus, there were 58 logistics centers of various directions, 20 of them were created within the framework of the first program for the development of the logistics system until 2015,

and 38 outside of it. The most attractive regions for the construction of logistics centers are the Minsk and Brest regions, which is predetermined, in the first case, by the trans-European transport corridors II and IX, and in the second – by the border with Poland. The main priorities of the second Republican program for the development of the logistics system and transit potential for the period up to 2020 are the active use of innovative management and automation technologies, legal support, development of international cooperation in the field of logistics, attracting foreign investment, increasing the volume and quality of logistics services. There is a non-profit organization that unites forwarding and logistics organizations of various forms of ownership on the basis of voluntary membership. This organization is called the Association of international freight forwarders and logistics “BAME”. The activity of the BAME is aimed at developing cooperation and business activity of transport and logistics organizations, protecting the interests of members of the professional community, forming institutional and legal mechanisms to increase the logistics attractiveness of Belarus and maximize the use of the country's transport and logistics potential in cargo distribution [1].

In order to improve the efficiency of transport and logistics enterprises, the Association cooperates with the Ministry of transport and communications, government agencies, specialized unions and associations. BAME is a member of the Union of non-profit organizations “Confederation of Industrialists and entrepreneurs (employers)”, the international Federation of forwarding associations (FIATA). The Association is the founder of the periodical “Compass of the forwarder and carrier”, together with the center “BAME-Forwarder” produces annual reference books “Forwarder”, “Transport and logistics of the Republic of Belarus”, as well as other thematic publications, reference and

educational literature on freight forwarding and logistics activities, international cargo transportation.

One of the most important areas of Belarus in the field of logistics is the interaction within the framework of the Silk Road Economic belt project. In this context, the Belarusian-Chinese cooperation is of particular importance, which has already reached the level of a trust-based comprehensive strategic partnership. The Ministers of transport of Belarus and China signed an agreement on the development of international freight transport. It is planned to deepen cooperation on transport aspects, harmonize norms and technological standards in the field of logistics, create favorable conditions for the movement of goods flows between Europe and Asia, promote economic, safe and effective access of enterprises to the international market for rail and road transport services, develop warehouse logistics and international multimodal transport. Of course, this will create favorable conditions for the operation of logistics centers in Belarus, as well as the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park “Great stone”, which is assigned a special role in the framework of the “one belt, one road” strategy [2].

The strategy of innovative development of the transport complex until 2030 defines the formation of priority areas that ensure the competitiveness, safety, quality and availability of transport services, increase the efficiency of the use of transport infrastructure, and create favorable conditions for the introduction of innovations in transport activities. It provides for the balanced development of all types of transport, the growth of gross national income from transit through the territory of the Republic, the formation of a network of multimodal transport and logistics centers that allow using modern information and communication technologies and containerization of transport to take advantage of all types of transport and provide door-to-door cargo delivery services.

In order to develop the logistics system in rural areas, in the village of Bolbasovo, Vitebsk region, an investment project for the construction of a multi-modal industrial and logistics complex “Bremino-Orsha” is being implemented. The complex includes warehouse, transport, production facilities and companies that serve them.

Transport activities are carried out in the Republic within the framework of an extensive legal field. The current relevant legislation defines the legal, economic and organizational bases for regulating relations related to the use of roads, air space, rail and road transport, etc. As a complex industry, transport activity is guided not only by the system of special regulatory legal acts, but also by acts of other branches of legislation or their separate parts (customs legislation, legislation on Finance and credit, etc.), implementing the tasks of further development of logistics, improving the system of transportation of passengers and cargo [3].

Thus, the logistics system formed in the Republic of Belarus covers various areas of activity. Major logistics centers operate on the main routes of commodity flows, which are designed to increase the volume of export-import and transit cargo.

References:

1. National library of Belarus [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://infocenter.nlb.by/>. – Date of access: 20.03.2020
2. Ministry of transport and communications of the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://www.mintrans.gov.by/ru/>. – Date of access: 20.03.2020
3. National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=3871&p0=C21600345>. – Date of access: 19.03.2020.