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Transport Logistics of the Republic of Belarus

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Transport logistics is a system of organizing the movement of various goods from the starting point to the final one, having determined the most optimal route of movement. This route provides for the shortest delivery time, with minimal financial costs and danger for the cargo. Any transport company pays great attention to such a system, since the costs of moving goods are significant and affect the bottom line. Transport logistics plays a key role, associated not only with the large share of transport costs of the total logistics costs but also due to the fact that it is impossible to advance the material flow without transportation.

Today a logistics expert doesn't only plan effective cargo transportation but also deals with packaging and warehousing of products, marketing transportation. Besides, he develops a reliable and stable transportation scheme and solves different problems that arise during transportation.

For the Republic of Belarus, located at the crossroads of major transport routes and connecting Western Europe with the countries of the East, the problem of compliance with general global trends and strengthening its position in the market of transport and logistics services as the most important logistics sector is becoming more and more urgent.

For objective reasons of a historical, political, economic nature, there is a certain technological lag in the field of logistics. This is due to a number of reasons:

- sufficiently strong links are needed between manufacturers, suppliers and consumers, which must be combined into one system;
- the creation of logistics systems requires capital investments and sometimes quite significant ones;
- the pace of development of the production, technical and technological base of logistics in various sectors of the economy in recent years is very high and requires almost constant improvements or the introduction of new products, which requires significant one-time costs.

One of the basic priorities of the domestic and foreign policy of Belarus in modern conditions should be the accelerated integration of its trade and transport complexes into the global logistics space, the creation of favorable conditions for the free movement of goods, services, capital and labor.

Transport, serving almost all types of international economic relations, is the most important source of foreign exchange earnings in the Republic of Belarus, which acts on the international market as an exporter of transport services.

By the end of 2019, the share of the transport sector in the gross domestic product of the Republic of Belarus made up 5.9%. Transport services account for almost 42% of the country's total services exports and more than 50% of the balance of foreign trade in services. In 2019 the export of transport services generated more than \$4 billion, with the trade surplus in this sector at \$2.1 billion.

Around 11,300 organizations of various forms of ownership and 33,900 individual entrepreneurs operate in the transport sector of the Republic of Belarus.

In the Republic of Belarus, all types of transport are included in a single transport system, which has a very complex structure. All cargo transportation carried out in the country and abroad is classified according to the method of delivery (mode of transport):

- Trucking;
- Air transportation;
- Rail transportation;
- Sea and river (water) transportation;
- Pipeline transport [1].

The most important thing to consider when choosing a particular type of transport is information about the features of each type separately. In terms of logistics, each vehicle has its own advantages and disadvantages [3].

Road and rail networks are well-developed in Belarus. The road network in Belarus incorporates all types of road, including modern highways, which are the components of the Pan-European transport corridors. The country's public roads have a total length of 101,6 km, with more than 86 % of paved roads.

Belarusian Railway National Union is a railway network operator in Belarus, which handles 75 % of the total freight traffic and more than 50 % of the total passenger traffic.

Belarusian air transport is composed of companies, which provide their freight and passenger air transportation services performed both inside and outside the country. All of them are state-owned companies, which are under the authority of the Aviation Department of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications of the Republic of Belarus.

The major pipelines, that are necessary for the transportation of Russia's energy resources to the European energy market, cross the territory of Belarus. The total length of the pipeline network is 11,657 km, almost two-thirds of which are gas pipelines. The Druzhba pipeline and the Yamal Europe gas pipeline run across the territory of Belarus.

Ten river ports and forwarding companies, offering inland and maritime transportation services, operate in the river transportation system of Belarus [2].

In 2020, the transport industry in Belarus faced a major challenge associated with the covid-19 pandemic. The decrease in the volume of transported goods and cargo turnover affected all types of transport. Rail and air travel were exposed significantly by the covid-19 pandemic.

There is a relationship between the level of economic development (as measured in terms of GDP per capita), the composition of a national economy, and logistics costs. But despite a high GDP per capita, Australia has a higher share of logistics costs than comparable countries because of the importance of mining in the economy, for example.

Anyway, the transport logistics of the Republic of Belarus is constantly moving forward and has very serious development prospects. All the problems faced by government agencies can be solved. All measures taken to eliminate the shortcomings are associated with the improvement of the legislative framework at various levels of government and close interaction of a large number of sectoral departments, the business community, educational, law enforcement, regulatory and other structures.

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