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## **Development of International Multimodal Transportation**

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The participation of Belarus in the implementation of the «One Belt and One Road» project (the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road of the XXI century) contributes to the development of relations between Belarus and China. The initiative was launched by China in 2013 with the aim of building a trade and logistics infrastructure connecting Asia with Europe and Africa. The Republic of Belarus, despite its small scale, is an active participant in the implementation of this global investment project [1].

Multimodal transportation is the transportation of goods that is carried out by different modes of transport, but within the framework of a single contract. The type of transport does not matter – it can be rail, water, road, and so on. Multimodal international transport is used in such cases: there is no direct single mode of transport communication between the sender and the recipient of the cargo; direct single mode of transport communication is not suitable for the consignee due to the high price or long delivery time [2].

Intermodal transportation is the transportation that is carried out by different modes of transport, and the customer may involve several companies for transportation (Figure 1, 2). The type of transport in the case of intermodal transport can also be any, and the responsibility is evenly distributed among all participants.

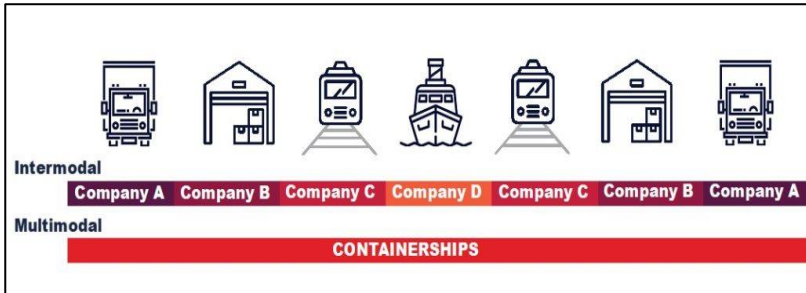


Figure 1 – Intermodal Transportation

The advantages of multimodal transport are reflected in their features. The most significant advantages are:

1. It can be used when there is no direct single-mode communication between the shipper and the recipient.

2. Reduction of risks and costs due to the fact that the customer places an order in one company. The client does not have to fill out a large number of documents. This allows you to save time and effort, solve the issue as quickly and efficiently as possible.

3. Reduced waiting time for cargo. The logistics company will independently involve reliable, proven contractors in the execution of the order. Thanks to the well-coordinated work, they will deliver the cargo to the destination on time, without delay.

4. Security. The client does not risk anything by entrusting the execution of the order to a reliable company. The full responsibility of the transport operator for the safety of delivery.

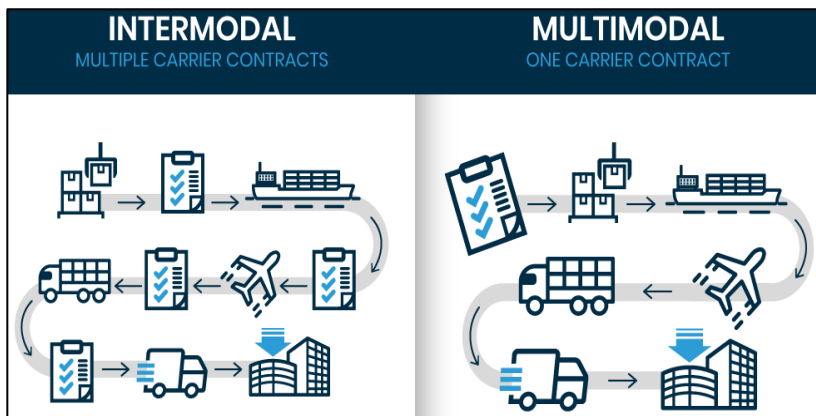


Figure 2 – Intermodal and Multimodal Transportation

The Republic of Belarus implements a multi-vector foreign economic policy and actively participates in international integration processes. Belarus is an export-oriented state with a well-developed manufacturing sector and agriculture. 61% of the products produced are exported. Belarus maintains trade relations with more than 200 countries around the world [3].

The commodity structure of Belarusian exports includes more than 1000 commodity items. The most important export items are oil and refined products, potash and nitrogen fertilizers, metal products, trucks and cars, tractors, tires, dairy and meat products, furniture.

By the end of 2020, according to Belstat, the foreign trade turnover of goods of the end of 2019 – 72,278. 4), including exports – 29,040. 5 million dollars, imports – 32,618. 8 million dollars. If compared with the level of 2019, based on current prices, the turnover of foreign trade in goods amounted to 85.1%. Exports – 88.1%, imports-82.6%. According to the results of 2020, compared to 2019, exports of goods in physical terms decreased Republic of Belarus amounted to 61,659. 3 million US dollars by 0.4%. Imports decreased by 9.5%.

Average export prices decreased by 11.5%, while import prices decreased by 8.7% [4].

In practice, when determining the route, a combination of several modes of transport is used:

- marine-automobile;
- marine-railway-automobile;
- sea-rail;
- air-road;
- air-railway;
- air-railway-automobile.

International cooperation in the field of logistics will increase the volume and improve the quality of logistics services in the Republic of Belarus. This cooperation can be developed within the framework of a strategic partnership between Belarusian and foreign participants in logistics activities, including in the implementation of the "One Belt and One Road" initiative [1].

References:

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