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TRANSPORT LOGISTICS AND ITS DEVELOPMENT IN BELARUS

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Logistics involves the delivery of products or services for the client with assured quality and quantity. The discipline of logistics has a long history with its first mention in an article going back to 1898. Nowadays logistics has a larger meaning: it is the management of the materials' flow through an organization, from raw materials to finished goods. Logistics is responsible for delivering the right product to the right place at the right time. Logistics implies the process of planning, implementing, and controlling the effective and efficient flow of goods and services from the point of origin to the point of consumption. It is a highly demanded field in each country that brings great profit to the economy. The logistics industry also depends on the timeliness in which products are delivered to a destination. Promptness is of utmost importance, as delayed delivery can result in significant losses to the recipient of the consignment in most cases. Logistics is divided into different types such as transport, warehousing, procurement, production, information logistics and others.

As we are going to speak about transport logistics in Belarus it is necessary to mention the definition of this term. *Transport logistics* is a system of delivering organization of various material items, substances and so on from one place into another by optimal route. The main notions of of transport logistics also include:

- 1) staff, that deals with realizing of these problems
- 2) classification of vehicles
- 3) pricing

Transport logistics infrastructure includes:

- Transport ways of all means of transport (pipeline, transport nodes: sea, river and air ports, container terminals, railway transshipment and sorting stations, terminals of combined transport)
- Buildings, which help to realize warehousing and storage with their technical equipment, which fulfill tampering with loads and implementation of main functions, for example, complication, decomplication and package.
- Elements of logistics nodal infrastructure, such as distribution centers, centers of logistics services, transport-warehousing objects.
- Devices and means of recycling and information transmission together with appropriate software.

As we know, Belarus stands on the crossroads of centuries-old trade routes from Russia to western Europe, and the Baltic to the Black Sea. As a result the country has developed a good transport infrastructure and it is determined to build on this strength, predominantly through foreign investment. ***On the whole the country is considered to be a very important logistics hub and there is a good opportunity for the republic to make money.***

If we have a look at a special European transportation scheme we will notice that major pan-European transport corridors go through Belarus. These corridors are as follows

- Corridor II connects Berlin via Warsaw and Minsk with Moscow and Eastern regions of Russia;
- Corridor IX b links Scandinavian and Baltic countries via St. Petersburg and Minsk with Kyiv, Chisinau and South European countries
- Corridor IX: joins Helsinki with Chisinau via St. Petersburg, Moscow and Kiev.

Although transport logistics system is a highly profitable field of economy, in Belarus it is still underdeveloped. The main problems in this sphere are:

- low level of communicative sphere and development of infrastructure;
- deficient volume of transmission of logistics functions at outsourcing;
- lack of software;
- a great rate of wear conveyances;
- complexity of custom and tax legislation;
- undeveloped roadside service.

To improve the situation the government has decided to make several construction projects in logistics and warehouse real estate. There were made specific strategic directions and schemes. Here are some of them.

1. Transport infrastructure is a state-owned sector, but a programme for the participation of the private sector is under preparation. According to the solution, transport services and logistics are open to private participation.

2. A special state programme for the development of a logistical system in the Republic of Belarus until 2015 is being implemented. Main goals of the Program:

- development of measures to improve logistical system;
- creation of favourable conditions for investors in the logistical system and logistical and transport infrastructure;
- 39 sites in various regions of Belarus are earmarked for construction of logistical centers, 32 sites of them are already under construction. Almost all new logistical centres are private.

The development of transport logistics will have a crucial influence on the country's progress on the whole. For instance, the advance in road transport: will lead to the growth of petrol stations, accommodations and other facilities with special benefits for investors under the State development programme, and the modernisation of road services such as speed control systems.

Though our country has to contribute much into logistics, there exist several investors that are eager to cooperate with Belarus. *AOI Logistic Park* was developed at Minsk Airport through a Belgian-Lithuanian joint-venture established in 2007. The project was carried out in the Free Economic Zone "MINSK" under a 99 year lease. *BLT Logistics (USA)* opened the first modern logistics centers in Belarus in 2007. The hub, on the outskirts of Minsk, offers a full range of services including freight loading and unloading, storage, packing and labeling facilities. BLT now invests in a new hub, in Obchak, 8 km from Minsk's main orbital road, which will increase its capacity four-fold. *TDMR Dis (Turkey)* is in talks to establish a river terminal and a port station on the River Dnepr in Bragin District near Gomel, set to attract international cargoes and to expand capacities of freight transportation by water between Belarus and Ukraine.

In conclusion, we'd like to say that with ever increasing volumes in freight transport, Belarus needs to find solutions to develop logistics. The country is in need of highly-qualified specialists that will bring benefits to the whole economy.

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