



Cooperation Between Belarus and Latvia in the Transit Area



Belarus remains one of the most important partners of Latvia in the transit area. Belarusian goods take second place in transit of cargo volumes by rail and transshipment in ports. For our country Latvia with its system of railway communication and advanced port infrastructure was, is and will be one of the most important partners in the market of international transport, including the framework of the Eurasian transport corridor.

Two trans-European transport corridors go through the territory of Belarus, their total length is 1520 km. More than one million transit cargo vehicles are passing them annually.

With a view to increase attractiveness of the Belarusian directions in development of the European Union's trade with Asian countries Belarus is actively working on establishment of a modern logistics infrastructure. It is planned that it will serve trade flows in direction from the EU to Russia, Kazakhstan, and China. Great opportunities of transit potential of the Republic of Belarus are opened by its membership in the Customs Union and ongoing work on establishment of a single economic area of Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan.

In its turn, Belarusian direction is attractive for building backlink transit flows from countries of the Customs Union through Belarus to Latvia, to markets of the EU and other countries.

The main feature of the logistic network construction in the Republic of Belarus is its multimodality, i.e. possibility to use various modes of transport: by road, rail, air, water.

Main priorities of the state transport policy of our country are rational development and improvement of technical condition of network of roads and railways, development of airport management and complete satisfaction of needs of economy and population in transport services. At the same time special attention is paid to integration of Belarusian transport complex to international transport system.

A significant role in the economy of the Republic of Belarus is given to the rail transport. Belarusian railway makes about 80% of all cargo transportation and more than 40% of passenger traffic. In addition, it serves as a reliable link between East and West, North and South. Railway infrastructure allows transporting of freight trains weighing up to 7 thousand tons and with a length of up to 1500 meters.

Taking into consideration a global trend towards containerization of cargoes, transport of goods in containers is organized, including block container trains. In 2009 a container train "Zubr" was working on the route Estonia-Latvia-Belarus, which aims to refocus container transport from road to rail. Successful departure of the train is a result of a joint collaboration of the Latvian and Belarusian rail-

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