Intermodal transport between Europe and Asia: opportunities and challenges of Latvia

Vigo Legzdins
State Secretary
Latvia and international transport corridors
Trans-Siberian Railway
International “North – South” transport corridor
Multimodal transport infrastructure
Through the territory of Latvia in the East – West direction the annual cargo turnover exceeds 40 mill tons.

In 2003, 72% of Latvia's international trade was with the EU.

In 2003, total cargo turnover of Latvian ports exceeded 54 mill tons, with 85% of transit cargo. Cargo turnover during the period of January – August 2004 has reached 39.3 mill tons.

In 2003, 48 mill tons of cargo were transported by rail, transit cargo making around 85%. Cargo turnover during the period of January – August 2004 has reached 34.6 mill tons.

Transport and communications comprise about 16 to 17 per cent of the GDP.
Cargo turnover in ports of Latvia
1999–2004 (mill t)
Freight transported by the Latvian railway
1996 – 2004 (mill t)

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1999</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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Transit cargo transported by the Latvian Railway in 2003

Total transit ~ 40.9 million tons
Transit via ports ~ 37.2 million tons

- Domestic: 5%
- Export: 2%
- Import: 9%
- Transit cargo: 84%
Freight transported by the Latvian railway to/from Ukraine 2001 – 2004 (thsd t)
The long term strategic goal of the national transport policy is to provide a safe, efficient, multimodal, balanced, environmentally friendly and competitive transport system, integrated into the European transport system.
Development priorities

- Investment in TEN elements
- Development of logistics industry and distribution centres in Freeports and Special Economic Zones
- Facilitation of multimodal transport and short sea shipping
TEN network – priority for investments

- Development of the Via Baltica and East-West road corridors
- Modernization of the East-West rail corridor and improvement of the safety level
- Further development and increase of competitiveness of port infrastructure and services according to the international demands
- Balanced development of port access roads and rail infrastructure, including railway junctions
Resources of the EU funds for transport infrastructure (mill EUR / year)

Before accession
- ISPA/ Cohesion fund: 24.1
- PHARE/ ERDF: 4.8

After accession
- ISPA/ Cohesion fund: 80
- PHARE/ ERDF: 30
Development of logistics and distribution centres in Latvia

- Favourable geographical location – in the middle of the Baltic States
- Modern, well equipped ports' terminals
- Territories available for the development in Freeports and SEZ
- Efficiently working customs warehouses
- Beneficial tax regime for development of CIS orientated distribution centres
- Long time work experience with Russia and CIS
- Governmental support for the development of logistics and distribution centres' infrastructure
- Low administrative barriers
Facilitation of multimodal transport and short sea shipping

- Development of environmentally friendly modes of transport
- Mode shift from roads to railways, inland waterways and short sea shipping: Marco Polo program
- Project: Motorways of the Sea
Thank you for your attention!

3, Gogola Str, LV 1743,
Riga, Latvia

satmin@sam.gov.lv
www.sam.gov.lv
www.transport.lv

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA