

## **Prospects for rail transit in Ukraine**

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The importance of modern railway technologies will increase, because the transport users require higher speeds, reliability, capacity and effectiveness.

Relocation of goods by the railway is more attractive than motor transportation due to the rapid growth of the world trade, long hauls and less expenses. At the same time the high speed railways are considered to be the substitution for short air transportation, and the use of railways increases the airport capacity for long-haul flights maintenance.

New railway technologies allow to expand the railway system capacity. Railway transport popularity is enhanced by natural disasters such as storms, heavy snow-falls that prove that railways play an important role in transportation of people and goods in emergency cases.

Also, roads and airports overload causes the cargo and passengers delay. So railway transport is becoming more and more important factor of the global trade.

Favorable geographical location of Ukraine, just in the centre of Eurasian transport system determines its development as a transit nation. Trans-European railway E 30, which starts in Berlin intersects Ukraine on the route Mostyska – Lviv – Kyiv and follows to Moscow. On the territory of Poland it is intersected by highways E 59 and E 65 and creates the opportunity for the fast railway communication between almost all European countries.

But the transit potential of our country is not used enough: the cargo traffic between Europe and Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus is 5 times more than the cargo traffic through the territory of Ukraine. In 2007 the total transit volume was 387 mln tons and in 2011 it was 2.6 time less. Because of some problems, there is a risk of transit cargo reorientation bypass Ukraine, and it will cause some loses in the State Ukrainian budget revenue. But state policy strategic priorities should increase the effective use of Ukrainian transit potential.