



Belarus Transport Week: the New Silk Road, the Great Stone and Sky Way Technologies

The events of the 10th – anniversary – *Belarus Transport Week* took place in Minsk at the beginning of October and were attended by **Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Austria, France, Sweden, Germany, Kyrgyzstan and China.**

The *Transport and Logistics 2016* exhibition featured 80 companies, several meetings, conferences, seminars, presentations, round table discussions and cooperation agreements.

Lithuanian and Belarusian transport cooperation building foundation for the Silk Road

At the Lithuanian-Belarusian transport forum Rimantas Sinkevičius, the Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania, emphasized the importance of partnership between the two neighbouring countries in the field of transport and logistics for the development of economic relations between Asia and the EU countries. "Belarus is one of the largest markets for Lithuanian export and it keeps increasing. The positive results are achieved by developed transport infrastructure, close and long-term cooperation between transport companies and the ministries of transport of both countries with the goal of having bilateral economic benefits," said Mr Sinkevičius, the Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania.

During the first quarter of this year alone multi-modal cargo transportations between the two countries made up to 10.1 million tonnes. The transit cargo flow from Belarus via Klaipėda port increased by 2.5 per cent, i.e. by up to 7.1 million tonnes and reached 35.5 per cent of the total port's turnover.



Continuing its record-breaking results this year as well, the port of Klaipėda, also referred to as the Eastern gate to Western Europe, is the only port of the Baltics working with so much success. During the forum it was emphasized that the active cooperation between Lithuania and Belarus in implementing large scale projects with partners from China would secure both countries a significant place on the New Silk Road.

The forum of the two countries was attended by the speaker Yu Minghua, the representative of China Merchants Group and the Deputy General Manager of the Commerce and Logistics Cooperation *China Merchants China-Belarus*, while the topic of the New Silk Road was a great introduction for further discussions of *Belarus Transport Week*.

New transport and logistics opportunities for Lithuania – an industrial park in Belarus

"Lithuania highly appreciates the successful implementation of the joint Belarusian and Chinese project – the development of the *Great Stone Industrial* part – and is ready to provide the residents of the park with high quality transport and logistics infrastructure and services," said the Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania during the opening of the international *Transport and Logistics* exhibition.

The development of the *Great Stone Industrial* park is regarded as one of the most important phases of the Chinese state project of the New Silk Road Economic Belt. The park, situated only 25 km away from Minsk, should become the gate to Europe for Central Asian countries.

At the industrial park the Chinese company China Merchants Group is implementing a logistics project, which as well closely cooperates with AB Lie-



tuvus geležinkeliai (Lithuanian Railways) and Klaipėda State Seaport. The leaders of the *Great Stone* park see the port of Klaipėda as an important sea gate to Western Europe.

Lithuania also actively supports the Chinese strategy of *One Belt, One Road*, the purpose of which is to ensure a smooth transport infrastructure between East and West with simplified customs procedures and promotion of information technologies in the fields of transport and logistics.

"Currently one of the major tasks for both of our countries is the development of transport connections between Asia and Europe. It will allow us to ensure close cooperation between the states of the two continents in the field of transport and logistics, as well as bring bilateral benefits for business," said Mr Sinkevičius.

Flying around the world using Sky Way?

Aside from the *Great Stone*, closely followed by investors and other interested subjects, another point of attraction was an investment project, implemented by the engineering company UAB Stygins technologijos (Eng. *String Technology*), led by Anatoly Yunitskiy. The company has built actual live examples of an essentially new, fast and environmental-friendly transport – the *Sky Way*. The project partner and initiator of architectural solutions – the Belarusian Company Beltransnet, which introduced the history and opportunities of the project during the congress of the *Transport Week* – received huge visitors' attention.

This transport will be used for both passengers and cargo.

The modules that will fly at the speed of 500 km/h and even more above cities, fields and rivers on special strings, were brought to the exhibition in Minsk right from *Inno Trans*, the largest European international innovative transport exhibition, where they had received an unprecedented interest. The idea is also supported by the Belarusian government, which has allocated a considerable plot of land for experimenting on the former military grounds that will soon become an eco-technological park. The initiators and implementers of the project say that string transport, just like the internet twenty five years ago, will change the world. It seems that we are truly standing on the verge of changes. The first trial flight at the eco-technological park using the *Sky Way* is planned for November.

Could it be that we'll fly around the world using *Sky Way* in just a few years?

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