



The development of the highway network in Poland and the future development of polish ferry shipping

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to emphasize the role of the developing network of roads and motorways in the Polish economy and its impact upon expanding competitive solutions in alliance with the ferry shipping industry. The paper begins with an assessment of Poland within its geographical location in Europe and of its economic connections with other European nations. The first part of the paper presents the current situation of road infrastructure in Poland. The second part presents the proposed transport corridors which cross a series of European countries and the plans for development of the sections of these routes located in Poland. The next part assesses the advantages for Poland and for ferry shipping in particular.

Keywords: Highways; Ferry shipping; Poland.

Introduction

One of the Baltic Sea countries, Poland is located on four European transit routes North–South and East–West. Its strategic transit location provides an important opportunity for development for Poland as a whole. The ports of the Scandinavian countries and Denmark in particular assume the foreground for Polish ports and these countries are characterised by a high level of economic development and living standard for their inhabitants. Meanwhile the countries lying along the North-South transport corridor such as: Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Austria (the Central European states), and Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, the countries of the former Yugoslavia and North Italy (the South–East European states) are the hinterland for Polish ports. This basic hinterland should also include Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia (Kaliningrad), Belarus and West Ukraine. The hinterland for the port of Szczecin-Swinoujscie in north-west Poland is also Germany and includes about 40 million citizens. The countries belonging to the near hinterland for the Polish based ferry shipping industry occupies an area almost 50% bigger than the area of the foreground (over 1780 km²) and more than 143 million people live there.

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