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a
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CONSEQUENCES FOR POLISH RAIL TRANSPORT IN THE EVENT OF AN ARMED CONFLICT IN EASTERN EUROPE

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Abstract

The article presents the consequences for Polish rail transport in the face of an increasingly likely military conflict in Eastern Europe. The previous year (2021) brought perturbations on the border with Belarus, while at the beginning of 2022 there is a real risk of restrictions on the border with Ukraine. Ultimately, on 24 February 2022 the armed forces of the Russian Federation carried out an armed aggression on the territory of Ukraine. Although the transport in the East has always been accompanied by some political uncertainty, it can be safely said that from the very beginning when the above-mentioned borders were shaped after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the situation has never been so complicated. In the case of the border with Belarus, due to the immigration crisis, the border is practically completely closed to road transport and severe restrictions are imposed on rail transport. The prospect of changes seems distant in time, and the eventual bringing the situation from the past to a relatively stable situation may never happen again. All the more so in this situation, a real armed conflict in Ukraine and the resulting chaos has changed all transport models for Poland for many years to come.

Keywords

rail freight; rail operations; border crossing

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