

#095 WHAT ARE THE FIRST LESSONS YOU ARE LEARNING FROM THIS HEALTH CRISIS?



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Contrary to many analysts, who point out that the crisis has highlighted the vulnerability of global supply chains, I would like to say that, on the contrary, it has shown the strength of the global logistics system on which they are based.

The Covid-19 has thus had little direct effect on the logistics service providers who enable the worldwide movement of flows.

Unlike international passenger transport, which is based on strong social proximity, international goods transport requires few human resources per tonne transported, and has therefore been able to operate (almost) as before. In the same way, warehouses and their large surface areas, if they have experienced cases of Covid-19, have been able to apply social distancing, and some have been running at full speed, as in distribution! Logistics service providers were thus only indirectly affected, because certain industrial sectors were at a standstill (drop in supply), or certain products were less consumed (drop in demand).

Although structurally, Covid-19 did not prevent the continuity of logistics services, it led to a logistical disruption in places where goods/services are produced based on strong social proximity: factories, theatres, shops, etc. It is in these places that everyone is now asking «logistics» questions! The question is how to integrate social distancing in order to re-produce courses in schools, shows in theatres, haircuts at hairdressers, etc. The challenge is thus to replace the principle of just-in-time production with a principle of «just gap» production.

To sum up, what the crisis reveals is less the fragility of global supply chains than our double dependence: on certain resources that are only available abroad; on certain goods and services industries with strong social proximity, which because of the Covid-19 have been shut down! ”

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