

Logistics tightening for greener transport: a case study in the Paris region

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The urban remoteness of warehouses and distribution centres, known as logistics sprawl, has been observed for several decades. According to some, this increase in distances between logistics facilities and hypercentres contributes to the environmental worsening of transport operations, especially in densely populated places such as the Paris metropolitan area. Therefore, the question of logistics tightening – the opposite phenomenon – arises in the context of reducing pollutant emissions in the territories concerned.

The objective of this work is to clarify the "hidden" mechanisms of freight transport services. It evaluates, through a simulation, the carbon footprint and operational efficiency of logistics tightening in the city of Paris. The input data we use comes from a large courier service company that can be regarded as an interesting case study when it comes to the Paris region.

In our scenario, the ecological consistency of the journeys and the logistical requirements of the transport chain may be contested. Indeed, the inner resettlement of hubs for greener deliveries suggests the actual scheme of the company gets closer to optimum and ironically illustrates the relevance of the current locations. Logistics sprawl mainly focuses on the last mile, but the multiple links of the chain prove such a problem is complex and each situation has its own peculiarities.

Keywords: *logistics tightening, transport chain, carbon footprint, operational efficiency*