

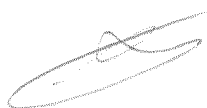
## AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian - Czech Joint Committee meeting on International Road  
Transport held in Riga, 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between the Republic of Latvia and the Czech Republic.
2. Social issues in road transport, including road transport initiatives of the European Commission, proposals for amending the posting directive, minimum wage issue in the EU and control practices.
3. Exchange of information on implementation practice of Regulation (EU) No 165/2014 regarding tachograph checks and liability of workshops performing such controls.
4. Transport of goods by road, including exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system and cabotage.
5. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in bus transport.
6. Miscellaneous, including:
  - a. Checking validity of a Community licence and copies of Community licence over a public website;
  - b. Exchange of information on practices of suspending and withdrawal of the Community licences due to reported infringement and exchanging of such type of information via ERRU;
  - c. Planned implementation of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/403 of 18 March 2016 supplementing Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the classification of serious infringements of the Union rules, which may lead to the loss of good repute by the road transport operator, and amending Annex III to Directive 2006/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council;
  - d. Exchange of information on Uber type of taxi services and existing legal frameworks for such type of services;
  - e. Functioning of road tolling systems in both countries.

The composition of both delegations is annexed to the protocol (Annex 1).



## **1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between the Republic of Latvia and the Czech Republic**

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both countries and about the organization of the road transport sectors in each of them. The Latvian delegation presented information on passenger and goods transport by road in Latvia, as well as information on international trade between Latvia and the Czech Republic.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2015 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in EUR to the Czech Republic increased by 17,7% and the import volume from the Czech Republic increased by 15.5%. Conversely in tons export volume increased by 48.9%, but import volume increased by 2,0%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2015 increased by 16,5% and constituted 399,8 million EUR. At the same time trade turnover in tons increased by 28,6%.

In EUR the import of goods from the Czech Republic to Latvia exceeds export from Latvia to the Czech Republic 1,3 times but in tons export from Latvia to the Czech Republic exceeds import of goods from the Czech Republic 1.9 times. It means that more valuable goods are imported from the Czech Republic to Latvia.

The Latvian side informed that main types of goods imported from the Czech Republic are machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical equipment (28,8%), transport vehicles (24,1%), articles of stone, plaster, cement, glassware and ceramic products (8,8%). Main types of goods exported to the Czech Republic are machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical equipment (40,4%), base metals and articles of base metals (12,8%), wood and articles of wood (8.8%).

The Czech delegation noted that their statistical data show similar tendencies.

Both sides expressed hope that the trade turnover and the number of international goods transport operations between Latvia and the Czech Republic will increase in the future.

## **2. Social issues in road transport, including road transport initiatives of the European Commission, proposals for amending the posting directive, minimum wage issue in the EU and control practices.**

The delegations expressed their concerns about the extending of minimum wage law in Germany and France to foreign international road transport companies and administrative barriers related to that as well as about interpreting the Directive on posting of workers in a similar way by some other western countries. It was also noted that the ban introduced by Belgium and France to spend regular weekly 45-hour rest period in a vehicle and very high fines



applied in case of non-compliance shall be regarded as social protectionism measures.

Both delegations shared the viewpoint that the outcome of the infringement procedure in case of Germany and the pilot case on minimum wage requirements in France is going to be of great importance for forming social policies in the EU countries. It was agreed to join efforts for stopping social protectionism practices in the EU area.

### **3. Exchange of information on implementation practice of Regulation (EU) No 165/2014 regarding tachograph checks and liability of workshops performing such controls**

Taking into consideration that Regulation (EU) No 165/2014 provides the necessity to ensure that fitters and workshops are competent and reliable and for that purpose a set of clear national procedures shall be established and published the delegations exchanged information on developing national legislation on activities of tachograph workshops and problems related to that as well as on control practices and sanctions in case of tachograph manipulations.

### **4. Transport of goods by road, including exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system and cabotage**

The delegations noted that the ECMT quota system is experiencing serious problems because of existing numerous restrictions and protectionism policies of some countries. It was stressed that the further functioning of the quota is of high importance and both countries are going to join their efforts to continue functioning of the system.

The delegations exchanged their positions on initiatives of the European Commission concerning cabotage. It was noted that both countries consider that there is no need to amend the existing provisions regulation haulage cabotage in the EU area and that in a long term period cabotage operations should be liberalized.

### **5. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in bus transport**

The Latvian delegation informed that there are six bilateral regular passenger lines and four transit lines operated and that the application has been submitted for opening a new bilateral line Riga- Hradec-Kralove - Prague. The Czech delegation confirmed the given information and the fact that the mentioned new application has been received.

With regard to the implementation of Regulation 181/2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 (further – Regulation 181/2011) the Latvian delegation informed that

responsible for the enforcement of this Regulation is the Road Transport Administration and it is also dealing with personal claims of bus passengers as an appeal body. Latvia has opted to implement exceptions for domestic regular services and bus lines to third countries by March 2017 and plans to extend these exceptions for another four year period by March 2021.

The Czech delegation informed that the competent authority for passenger rights in Czech Republic is the Ministry of Transport and personal claims of bus passengers shall be submitted to it directly and that it is also planning to extend exceptions under Regulation 181/2011 related to domestic regular services and bus lines to third countries for another four year period.

The positions were exchanged on the draft Protocol to the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) regarding the international regular and special regular carriage of passengers by coach and bus launched recently by the European Commission.

## **6. Miscellaneous:**

### **a. Checking validity of a Community licence and copies of Community licence over a public website**

The Latvian delegation presented the system of checking validity of a Community licence and copies of Community licence over a public website. The Czech delegation indicated that there is a similar type of register available starting as from the beginning of 2016 and that it has been connected to ERRU since April, 2016.

### **b. Exchange of information on practices of suspending and withdrawal of the Community licences due to reported infringement and exchanging of such type of information via ERRU**

Both delegations exchanged information on the existing practices of suspending and withdrawal of the Community licences due to reported infringement and exchanging of such type of information via ERRU. The Latvian delegation stressed that there are cases when the information on infringements received via ERRU is incorrect or insufficient therefore companies under discussion are asked to submit written explanations prior examining compliance with the good repute criteria.

### **c. Planned implementation of Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/403 of 18 March 2016 supplementing Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the classification of serious infringements of the Union rules, which may lead to the loss of good repute by the road transport operator, and amending Annex III to Directive 2006/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council**



Both delegations exchanged information on identified problems regarding implementation of Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/403. The Latvian delegation stressed that one of the difficulties is that in case of repeated infringements by one and the same company the seriousness which may lead to the loss of good repute is evaluated on the basis of a number of drivers employed by a particular company but such type of information is not fixed in any of public data bases. It was also noted that the deadline for implementation is very short – 01.01.2017 and that a range of amendments should be made in a national legislation to comply with the Regulation. The Czech delegation pointed out that in their country institutions, having right to sanction carriers and drivers, differ.

**d. Exchange of information on Uber type of taxi services and existing legal frameworks for such type of services**

It was noted that in a number of cases Uber type of taxi services has caused distortion of competition and a special legal regulation is needed. Both countries are in a process of developing such legislation and experience was exchanged thereof.

**e. Functioning of road tolling systems in both countries**

The delegations exchanged information on road charges in both countries.

The Latvian delegation provided information on number of purchased vignettes by Czech hauliers within the period of last two years. The Czech delegation is going to provide such type of information in a written form as soon as possible.

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Czech delegation invited the Latvian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting to Czech Republic in the year 2017. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon by correspondence.

Done at Riga on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016 in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation:



**Ms. Annija Novikova**

For the Czech delegation:



**Mr. Pavol Baran**