

**Agreed Minutes
of the Latvian – Georgian Joint Committee
Meeting on International Road Transport
11 - 12 March, 2019, Riga**

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Georgia.
2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the road transport permit quota for 2019 and preliminary for 2020.
3. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in bus transport.
4. Exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system and implementation of the Quality Charter.
5. Miscellaneous.

The composition of both delegations is annexed to the Agreed Minutes.

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Georgia

The two delegations exchanged statistical information concerning trade relations between the two 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 Georgia.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2018 export volume from Latvia to Georgia in terms of money exceeded 37 million EUR, and compared to the previous year it has risen by 12.3%, while import from Georgia has reached almost 6 million EUR thus increasing by 0.5%. Export volume expressed in tons reached 8777 tons and in comparison with 2017 declined by 7.6%, while import volume amounted to 1658 tons showing a slight drop by 0.3%, yet remaining well behind the volume of export both in terms of money and tonnage.

Total trade turnover expressed in EUR between both countries increased by 10.5%, totalling over 43 million EUR during 2018. While total trade turnover expressed in tons declined by 6.5%.

In regard to the entire period from the previous Latvian and Georgian Joint Committee meeting held in 2015, export cargo turnover in terms of tons has increased by 92%, while import cargo turnover has grown in terms of tons reaching as much as 5.1% growth.



The main types of goods imported from Georgia include prepared foodstuffs (particularly beverages and alcoholic drinks), vegetable products etc.

Export from Latvia to Georgia includes prepared foodstuffs, machinery, mechanical appliances, products of the chemical or allied industries etc.

The Georgian delegation noted that their data on the trade exchange volume is similar to the data presented by the Latvian side.

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of their heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that the number of licensed Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations has grown by 5.9% in the year 2018 comparing to the previous year, reaching 4300 companies. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods has reached 16 038 units. Additionally, the Latvian delegation noted the increase of the number of vehicles corresponding to EURO VI and EURO V standard amounting to 64% of the entire fleet involved in the international operations.

The Georgian delegation presented the information on the structure of the vehicle fleet and noted that in 2018 there were about 5684 companies involved in international goods transport. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods in 2018 has reached 14 063 units.

Both sides signified their satisfaction in the positive development of trade between the two countries and expressed hope that the trade turnover and the number of international goods transport operations between Latvia and Georgia will continue upward trend in future.

2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the road transport permit quota for 2019 and preliminary for 2020

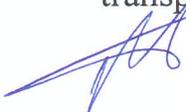
Both delegations noted that in the year 2019 two hundred (200) universal permits valid for the bilateral, transit and third country transport operations have been exchanged.

The delegations exchanged information on the usage of permits in the period from 2016 thru 2018, as well as in the first two months period of the year 2019.

In view of the increase of the exchange of goods between both countries and for the purpose of advancement of economic interrelations the Latvian delegation proposed to exchange additional number of permits for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations for the year 2019.

After discussions and taking into account the positive development of trade between the two countries, as well as the underlying ambition of the two delegations to further carriage of goods by road between Latvia and Georgia, the delegations agreed:

- to exchange additionally 50 permits for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations for the year 2019;



- to establish the preliminary quota of permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations in amount of 250 permits for the year 2020.

The additionally allocated number of permits for the year 2019 shall be exchanged by 1 July 2019 and the permits for 2020 by 15 December 2019 via diplomatic channels.

All permits of the current year shall be valid till 31 January of the following year.

The delegations agreed that in case of necessity any of the Parties can request an additional number of permits and such requests will be examined in the spirit of goodwill.

On the request of the Latvian delegation, the Georgian side provided explanation on peculiarities concerning the use of single-entry permits in cases when types of transport operations are being changed during performance of a particular carriage thus requiring the use of two single-entry permits. The Latvian side noted that the universal permits are covering all three types of operations and as such should provide flexibility to choose combinations of types of carriage, e.g., a bilateral carriage can be followed by a third country operation and *vice versa*. The Georgian delegation undertook examining of the above proposal and providing an answer in writing. The Georgian side informed that for loading a truck in the territory of Georgia it is possible to acquire an additional Georgian permit for 500 GEL on condition this particular truck has entered the territory of Georgia under a valid Georgian permit of any type issued by a competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

3. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in bus transport

Both delegations noted that there are no regular bus lines between Latvia and Georgia.

It was noted that 10 permits for occasional non-liberalized passenger services have been exchanged in 2019 and it was agreed to exchange preliminary the same number for 2020.

The Georgian side informed that they are examining the possibility of joining the INTERBUS Agreement.

The Latvian delegation informed that the amendments proposed by EU to the INTERBUS agreement are going to cover organization of regular passenger transport operations by coach and bus as well as bus passenger rights as set out at Regulation No 181/2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport.

Both delegations discussed matters concerning bus terminals and their organization.



The Latvian delegation informed that the competent authority for regular bus permits as well as occasional passenger transport operations by bus is Latvian Road Transport Administration, 30 Valņu Street, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia, e-mail: daiga.ancane@atd.lv, phone: +37167686493.

The Georgian delegation informed that the competent authority for regular bus permits as well as occasional passenger transport operations by bus is Road Transport Department of the Land Transport Agency Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, 16 Vazha-Pshavela Ave, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia, e-mail: zavaliani@lta.gov.ge, phone: +995322510662.

4. Exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system and implementation of the Quality Charter

The two delegations discussed possibilities of further development of the ECMT quota system, pointing out that the main problem is territorial restrictions maintained by some ECMT Member countries. Both delegations agreed to make any possible efforts in developing the ECMT Quota in the future.

5. Miscellaneous

Both delegations exchanged information on licensing systems and issuing permits in their countries.

The Latvian side informed that according to the European Union Road Transport Package provisions in Latvia the Community licenses are issued for the period of up to 10 years, but the validity of the certified copies of Community licenses is one year. A certified copy contains the registration number of the particular vehicle. A transport manager is allowed to manage the transport activities in not more than two of related undertakings with a total fleet of no more than 50 vehicles. The necessity of periodic training for transport managers is not specified. The Latvian delegation explained that the certified copies of the Community licenses are issued only for vehicles registered in Latvia.

The Georgian side informed that the company licencing system is undergoing reform and the Georgian licences are going to be issued for the period up to 5 years taking into consideration bilateral arrangements with particular countries.

The Latvian delegation provided the Georgian delegation updated information on road charging in Latvia, including that the system is extended to goods vehicles with permissible total weight over 3.0 tons. The Latvian side noted that the vignette is electronic. It is possible purchasing of it by a fuel card, a credit card, by mobile phone or by internet. The carriers are able to purchase a day, a week, a month and a year vignettes. An electronic database is used for control of the vignette system. The vignettes are issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc. More detailed information is available at: www.lv vignette.eu.

The Georgian side informed that there is no road tolling system in their country but when performing transit operations by a loaded vehicle through the territory of Georgia a carrier is obliged to pay a fee in amount of 200 GEL which is charged on non-discriminatory basis.

The Latvian side asked the Georgian side to review the adequacy of the fixed transit fee which according to international standards can be considered as high.

The delegations exchanged information on competent authorities and bodies in the field of road transport in both countries.

The Latvian side pointed out that road transport control functions inside the country are executed by the State Police Central Public Order Police Department Traffic Safety Department Traffic Surveillance and Coordination Bureau Road Transport Supervision Unit. (address: Ezermalas Street 10B, Riga, LV-1014, phone: +371 67208377; email: kanceleja.cpp@vp.gov.lv).

The Georgian delegation informed that in Georgia road transport control, including control of maximum permissible weights and dimensions is performed by the police and custom authorities on border crossing points.

It was noted that special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in Latvia are issued by the State joint – stock company “Latvian State Roads” (address: Gogola street 3, Riga, LV – 1743; phone/fax: +371 67036412; email: lvceli@lvceli.lv).

The Georgian delegation informed that in Georgia when a carrier performs carriage of abnormal loads it should be escorted. Applications for such escorting service should be submitted to the Ministry of Interior of Georgia in advance (address: Gulua street 10, 0114, Georgia, Phone +995322935350; +995322418868).

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Georgian delegation invited the Latvian delegation to Georgia for the next Joint Committee meeting in Tbilisi. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

Done at Riga, on 12 March, 2019, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation

Mr. Tāivaldis Vectirāns

For the Georgian delegation

Mr. Levan Murvanidze