

AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian – Hungarian Joint Committee Meeting
on International Road Transport
held in Riga, May 23-24, 2007

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of road transport between Latvia and Hungary;
2. Exchange of viewpoints regarding the possible liberalization of cabotage;
3. Carriage of goods to/from third countries; quota of permits for 2007 and preliminary for 2008; System of third country permits and its future implementation aspects;
4. Control of road transport operations, including social aspects, basic road transport operations related documents, penalties etc.;
5. Implementation of Regulation 561/2006;
6. Miscellaneous.

The list of participants is annexed to these Agreed Minutes.

Re.1

The delegations exchanged information on development of trade and road transport operations between Latvia and Hungary.

The tendency towards increase of goods transport by road between both countries and in volume of import and export was marked by both delegations.

The Latvian delegation informed that in comparison with the previous years import between Latvia and Hungary has increased in EUR.

The both delegations mentioned that the number of vehicles has increased during the last years, especially "EURO 3 safe" and "EURO 4 safe" lorries.

By increasing of goods transportation, the both delegations underlined two main problems: long waiting time on borders and shortage of drivers.

Taking into consideration the increase in trade transport operations between Hungary and Latvia has increased.

Re.2

The delegations exchanged views regarding possibilities of liberalization of cabotage.

The delegations presented information on the intention to liberalize cabotage in their countries. The Latvian delegation was of the opinion that it was too early to open Latvian transport services market. In 2006 Latvia informed the European Commission about the prolonging of transitional period for next two years, till 31 April 2008. The Hungarian delegation replied that first transitional period was three years and it completed on 31 April 2007, they also have prolonged transitional period for the next two years.

It was discussed that Hungary and Latvia could bilaterally open the cabotage market.

After having analyzed the situation, it was decided to retain the existing system of cabotage and to return to this issue at the next Joint Committee meeting.

Re.3

The delegations informed each other about the use of permits for goods transport to/from third countries for the year 2006.

The Latvian side proposed to liberalize transport operations to/from third countries or to introduce the to/from third country permit system disregarding ecological categories of vehicles. The Hungarian delegation stressed that they want to keep the ecological categories of permits at least during this year.

The delegations decided to discuss this issue at the next Joint Committee meeting.

The Latvian delegation asked for additional 50 third country permits valid for "greener and safe" lorries in the year 2007 and the Hungarian side agreed.

It was agreed to set the preliminary quota of permits for the year 2008 for goods transport to/from third countries:

- 150 permits valid for "greener and safe" lorries;
- 50 permits valid for "Euro 3 safe" vehicles.

The compliance with "greener and safe" and "Euro 3 safe" standards should be testified by providing the certificates in accordance with the requirements of ECMT Resolution CEMT/CM(2005)9/Final.

The Latvian delegation proposed to use for testifying the compliance with the respective ecological standard the ECMT certificates of a tractor unit only. The Hungarian side promised to discuss this problem with controlling authorities and to inform the Latvian side about their decision.

Re.4

The delegations exchanged information on social issues, control of road transport operations and controlling institutions, penalties etc. The Latvian side informed that starting from 1st January 2006 "Road Transport Inspectorate" has been established.

The Hungarian delegation submitted to the Latvian delegation information on the changes in Hungarian toll system.

Delegation informed each other about the introduction and implementation of digital tachograph system.

The Latvian delegation informed and both sides exchanged viewpoints about the problem of different interpretation of entries at CMR waybills when it is used as a document for making decision what type of road transport operation (bilateral or third country) is performed. The Hungarian delegation underlined that this discussion could continue at the next Joint Committee meeting.

The Hungarian side submitted to the Latvian delegation a list of infringements of the Latvian carriers in Hungary.

Re.5

According to the Commission Decision 2007/230 (EC) of 12 April 2007 on a form concerning social legislation relating to road transport activities, it was decided to implement a form of attestation of transport activities. It was mentioned that Hungary has introduced such form from 1st May, 2007 and Latvia is going to introduce this form starting from 1st August, 2007, but until this time the national certificates will be used.

Re.6

The Latvian delegation informed that there are some difficulties with applications for regular bus services: Riga – Sofia – Szeged – London and Riga – Sofia/Varna-London. The Latvian side submitted to the Hungarian delegation two reply letters from the Hungarian National Transport Authority concerning these new bus lines and asked to give an additional explanation to the arguments mentioned in the letters in accordance with provisions of the Regulation No 684/92. The Hungarian side promised to clear up this situation and to give an answer in due time.

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

The Hungarian delegation proposed to organize the next Joint Committee meeting in Hungary in 2008, the exact time of which will be agreed by correspondence.

Done at Riga on 24 May, 2007 in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation

For the Hungarian delegation

Mr. Māris Pēkalis

Mr. Andras Szekely

