

**Minutes**  
**of the Latvian – Hungarian Joint Committee**  
**Meeting on International Road Transport Issues**  
**6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, Riga**

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding road transport and trade volumes between Latvia and Hungary.
2. Transport of goods by road, including third country transport.
3. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in road transport, possible solutions for developing legal framework for opening regular lines with third countries, etc.
4. Exchange of information regarding the implementation of the Regulations from the Road Transport Package, including development of the Electronic Register for Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU), road user charges, etc.
5. Miscellaneous.

The composition of the two delegations is annexed to the Agreed Minutes (Annex 1).

**1. Exchange of information regarding road transport and trade volumes between Latvia and Hungary.**

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both the 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 Hungary.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2012 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in EUR to Hungary decreased by 12 % and the import volume from Hungary increased – by 7%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2012 increased by 3,6% and reached 146 million EUR. At the same time trade turnover in tons decreased by 17%.



In EUR the import of goods from Hungary to Latvia exceeds export from Latvia to Hungary more than 5 times but in tons only 1,4 times that means more valuable goods are imported from Hungary.

The Latvian side informed on volume of goods transported by Latvian carriers to and from Hungary and noted that in the year 2011 it reached 36 thsd tons. Unfortunately in the year 2012 it decreased by 41,7%.

The Hungarian side noted that their statistical data is similar and informed that the main mode of transport of the carriage of goods is by road.

Both delegations expressed their satisfaction on increasing in trade volume between the two countries in EUR.

The Latvian side informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2012 in comparison with the previous year the fleet involved in international carriage of goods has increased by 10,1% and reached 13688 units. The number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations decreased by 3,0 % and was 4098.

Both sides expressed hope that the international passenger and goods transport operations between Latvia and Hungary will increase in the nearest future.

## **2. Transport of goods by road, including third country transport.**

Both sides exchanged information on the usage of permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

The Latvian delegation informed that during this year in comparison with 2012 the number of Hungarian permits used by their carriers has increased. In 2013 49 permits have been issued.

The Hungarian side informed about the usage of Latvian permits valid for goods transport to/from third countries by Hungarian carriers. In 2013 9 permits have been issued.

Taking into account that usage of these permits is rather low the Latvian side proposed to liberalize third country transport operations by abolishing the permit regime.

The Hungarian delegation noted that at present liberalization is not possible due to the transport policy of Hungary and proposed to return to discussions on this issue at the next Joint Committee meeting.

Both sides agreed to establish the final quota for the year 2013 and preliminary quota for 2014 as follows - 200 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries without any restrictions as to ecological categories of vehicles used for these transport operations.



The Hungarian delegation handed over 200 permits (LV000001 – 000200) valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries for the year 2014. The Latvian side informed that the relevant Latvian permits for 2014 are going to be sent to the Ministry of National Development via the Hungarian Embassy in Riga.

All permits of the current year shall be valid till 31<sup>st</sup> of January of the following year.

### **3. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in road transport, possible solutions for developing legal framework for opening regular lines with third countries, etc.**

Both sides noted that because of distance between the countries regular passenger services by coach are not very developed. The Latvian side informed that at present there is one regular line operated with stopping points in the territory of Hungary, namely, Riga – Sofia with the frequency twice a week and the service provided by the Lithuanian company UAB “Transinesta” cooperation with SIA “Norma-A” Latvia, Ecolines Estonia, Ecolines Polska, Ecolines Bulgaria.

Both delegations exchanged information on state of play regarding implementation of Regulation (EU) No 181/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004.

The Latvian delegation informed that as from 30 September 2011 the competent authority for regular bus permits is the Latvian Road Transport Administration, Valnu Street 30, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia, email: [daiga.ancane@atd.lv](mailto:daiga.ancane@atd.lv), phone: +37167686493, fax: +37167686490.

The Hungarian side is going to provide the contact details regarding the competent authority for regular bus permits by correspondence.

Both delegations highlighted the urgent necessity of drafting regulatory framework for organizing regular passenger transport services by coach and bus which covers EU and non - EU countries. The information on current situation with regard to two possible options in this respect, namely drafting of OMNIBUS agreement or extension of the scope of INTERBUS agreement was exchanged.

### **4. Exchange of information regarding the implementation of the Regulations from the Road Transport Package, including development of the Electronic Register for Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU), etc.**

The delegations exchanged information on the progress of implementing the EU Road Transport Package, including the development of national registers.



The Latvian side noted that Latvia has been fully connected to ERRU register since April this year. The Hungarian delegation informed that in their country the system is at the final testing stage and it will become operational by the end of this year.

The Latvian side informed that according to the European Union Road Transport Package provisions in Latvia the Community licences are issued for the period of up to 10 years, but the validity of the certified copies of Community licences is one year and issued only for vehicles registered in Latvia. 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 Hungarian side informed that both the Community licences and certified copies of Community licences are issued for the period of up to 10 years, as well as that there is no vehicle registration number indicated on a copy of the Community licence.

#### **5. Miscellaneous, including development of the ECMT multilateral quota and road user charges, etc.**

The delegations exchanged the information on the latest developments within the ECMT Multilateral Quota System. The Latvian side noted that it is important to develop ECMT Multilateral Quota System and to eliminate territorial restrictions. The Hungarian delegation confirmed that the ECMT Multilateral Quota System should be continued.

The Latvian delegation informed that in accordance with Directive 2006/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 amending Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures Latvia plans to introduce road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons starting as from July 1, 2014. The Latvian side noted that the vignette will be electronic. It is foreseen to organize purchasing of it by a fuel card, a credit card, by mobile phone or by internet. It is planned that the payment will be fixed in the amount of 11 EUR per day and applied only on main roads. The carriers will be able to purchase a day, a week, a month and a year vignettes. An electronic database will be used for control of the vignette system. The vignettes will be issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc. The Latvian side will provide detailed information concerning this matter before the introduction of the vignette system.

The Latvian side informed that starting as from April 1, 2011 road transport control functions are executed by the Traffic Control Bureau of the Prevention



Department of the State Police Central Public Order Police Department  
(address: Stabu street 89, Riga, LV-1009, Latvia; Phone: +371 67208108; fax:  
+371 67274789; email: [inta.lujane@cpp.vp.gov.lv](mailto:inta.lujane@cpp.vp.gov.lv)).

The Hungarian side informed that the electronic road tolling system called HUGO with the need to use an on-board unit is functioning in Hungary since July 1, 2013 successfully.

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: [kadikis@lvceli.lv](mailto:kadikis@lvceli.lv) and [lvceli@lvceli.lv](mailto:lvceli@lvceli.lv)). The relevant information on the contact details concerning issuing of special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in Hungary is going to be provided by correspondence.

The Hungarian delegation provided information on the road transport control system in Hungary. In 2013 the Hungarian control authorities have fixed only four infringements committed by Latvian carriers.

Both delegations exchanged views concerning carriage of goods within the Customs Union (Russia – Belorussia – Kazakhstan).

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Hungarian delegation invited the Latvian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting to Hungary. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon by correspondence.

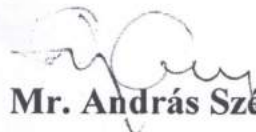
Done at Riga on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, in two originals in the English language.

**For the Latvian delegation**



**Mr. Māris Pēkalis**

**For the Hungarian delegation**



**Mr. András Székely**