

AGREED MINUTES

of the 1st Joint Committee meeting between the Republic of Latvia and the Islamic Republic of Iran on International Road Transport held in Riga,
1st – 2nd February, 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 Islamic Republic of Iran.
2. Transport of goods by road and establishment of the quota of international road transport permits for the year 2016 and preliminary for 2017.
3. Exchange of views on control of the international road transport operations in both countries.
4. Miscellaneous (road charges, regulating of driving and rest hours, visas for professional drivers etc.).

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 Islamic Republic of Iran

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 I.R. Iran.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2014 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in EUR to I.R. Iran decreased by 5.5% and the import volume from I.R. Iran decreased by 34.5%. Conversely in tons export volume increased by 9%, but import volume decreased by 42.8%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2014 decreased by 5.6% and constituted 84.1 million EUR. At the same time trade turnover in tons increased by 8.9%.

The Latvian side informed that main types of goods imported from I.R. Iran are grapes and figs (98.2%), but main types of goods exported to I.R. Iran are grains of wheat and rye (99.2%).

The Iranian delegation informed about their statistical data and noted that it is quite similar.

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2015, in comparison with the previous year, the fleet involved in international carriage of goods increased by 2.8% and reached 14709 units. The number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations decreased by 0.7% and at the end of the year there were 3920 such companies.



The Iranian delegation outlined the recent general tendencies in their international goods transport market and fleet. At the end of 2015 in I.R. Iran the number of hauliers involved in international transport of goods was around 900 and the fleet involved in international carriage of goods constituted approximately 26 000 units.

Both sides expressed hope that the trade turnover and the number of international goods transport operations between I.R. Iran and Latvia will increase in the nearest future.

2. Transport of goods by road and establishment of the quota of international road transport permits for the year 2016 and preliminary for 2017

It was noted that the bilateral Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on international transport of passengers and goods by road entered into force on January 9, 2016.

In the year 2016 three hundred (300) universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and to/from third countries goods transport operations have been exchanged. The delegations noted that the exchanged quota meets the present needs of hauliers of both countries.

The preliminary quota for the year 2017 shall be established in amount of 300 permits valid for bilateral, transit and to/from third countries goods transport operations.

The sides agreed that any demand for additional permits will be dealt within the framework of good intentions.

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



The exchange of permits should be organized by December 15, 2016 through the Embassy of I.R. Iran in Stockholm.

3. Exchange of views on control of the international road transport operations in both countries

The Latvian delegation 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 Haulage Supervision Unit. (address: Stabu street 89, Riga, LV-1009, Latvia; Phone: +371 67208377; fax: +371 67274789; email: kanceleja.cpp@vp.gov.lv).

The Iranian delegation informed about the competent institutions performing control of road transport operations, namely Traffic Police Department, Safety Department of R.M.T.O. and Center for Management of Roads (Phone: +98 141, website: www.141.ir).

The information on procedures of control in both countries was exchanged.



4. Miscellaneous (road charges, regulating of driving and rest hours, visas for professional drivers etc.).

Both delegations exchanged information on the existing systems for access to the profession in their countries.

The Latvian delegation 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 being a control document for a vehicle 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 Iranian delegation informed that there must be at least one technical person who is responsible for technical condition of vehicles used by a transport company. In order to involve in performing of domestic transport operations a transport company must have at least 5 vehicles and parking area for them. In case of involving in international transport operations a general Manager of the transport company must undergo a special exam.

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 starting as from July 1, 2014 Latvia introduced road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 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 is issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc.

The Iranian delegation informed that foreign vehicles involved in transportation of goods have to pay road tolls. It is possible to pay via internet or at special places. More detailed information is available on website www.rmto.ir. With regard to purchasing of fuel in I.R. Iran foreign registered truck drivers must pay for it upon entering the territory of I.R. Iran.

The Latvian delegation informed that since Latvia joined the Schengen Agreement on 21st December, 2007 at the internal borders of Latvia with Lithuania and Estonia control authorities has been removed and, therefore, foreign drivers, when crossing the Latvian – EU internal border and performing transport operations for which the Latvian permits for international carriage of goods or occasional carriage of passengers are needed, should mark themselves in the column of a permit “date and stamp of the customs or border control authority” the place and date of border crossing. Without such records a permit is regarded as not valid.

The Iranian delegation noted that visas for Latvian professional drivers are issued by the Embassy of I.R. Iran in Stockholm for a period of 6 month with multiple entries.

The Iranian delegation informed that in the nearest future it is planned to join ADR and AETR conventions. It was noted that tachographs are used by Iranian carriers for registering and respecting driving and rest hours when performing international transport operations to countries being members of AETR.

The Iranian side informed about International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) which connects India Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via I.R. Iran with St. Petersburg and North Europe via Russia. More information about INSTC is available on website www.instc-org.ir. In this regard Iranian delegation has invited the Republic of Latvia to accede to this Agreement.

The delegations exchanged information on competent authorities and bodies in the field of road transport in both countries under the bilateral Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on international transport of passengers and goods by road.

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: Gogoļa street 3, Riga, LV–1743; phone/fax: +371 67036412; email: kadikis@lvceli.lv and lvceli@lvceli.lv).

The competent authority issuing special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in the territory of I.R. Iran is Safety Department of R.M.T.O.

Both delegations agreed that all changes in their national legislation related to international road transport between the countries must be notified in due time through the diplomatic channels.

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

The Iranian delegation invited the Latvian delegation to I.R. Iran for the next Joint Committee meeting. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon by correspondence through the diplomatic channels.

Done at Riga on 2nd February, 2016 in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation:

Mr. Tāļivaldis Vectirāns

For the Iranian delegation:

Mr. Mohammad Javad Atrchian