

**Agreed Minutes
of the Latvian – Romanian Joint Committee
Meeting on International Road Transport Issues
Riga, 27-28, November 2007**

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 Romania;
2. Carriage of goods to/from third countries; quota permits for 2007 and preliminary for 2008; System of third country permits and its future implementation aspects;
3. Carriage of passengers;
4. Exchange of viewpoints regarding the cabotage issue in the EU;
5. Miscellaneous (including implementation of Regulation 561/2006; full application of the provisions of the *Schengen aquis*).

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 Romania.

Both the delegations underlined the rapid economic growth after joining the European Union. It was mentioned the increased number of transport companies and international road transport operations.

The Latvian delegation stressed that during last two years is considerable increased export and import cargo turnover of Latvia and Romania in Euros and tones. In 2006 compared to 2005,

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import has increased four times (from 1,9 mln EUR to 4,4 mln EUR) and export has increased two times.

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

Re.2

The delegations informed each other about the use of permits for goods transport to/from third countries for the year 2006 and 2007.

After having analyzed the situation, both delegations agreed to set the preliminary quota of permits for goods transport operations to/from third countries and to exchange 50 permits for the year 2008.

The Romanian side underlined that according to Agreement on international road transport, there is no need to use to/from third countries permits when performing transport operations through the territory of home country.

The Latvian delegation proposed in the future to liberalize the system of third countries permits. The Romanian delegation promised to analyze this issue and to return to this issue during the next Joint Committee meeting.

Re.3

The delegations stated that at this moment there is no regular passenger service between both the countries.

Both sides discussed the provisions of *Council Regulation (EEC) No 684/92 of 16 March 1992 on common rules for the international carriage of passengers by coach and bus* and its implementation.

The Latvian delegation underlined that occasional services between Latvia and Romania are considerable developing.

Re.4

The delegations exchanged views regarding possibilities of liberalization of cabotage in the EU.

The Latvian delegation underlined that after joining the EU, Latvia has transitional period of liberalization of cabotage 2+2+1.

In 2006, Latvia informed the European Commission about the prolonging of transitional period for next two years, till 31 April 2008.

The Romanian delegation informed that after joining the EU, they have transitional period 3+2 years for liberalization of cabotage and they support the liberalization of cabotage.

The Latvian delegation stressed that it also supports the idea of liberalization that could facilitate more effective usage of vehicles, decrease the number of empty runs.

Delegations exchanged views regarding the cabotage issue mentioned in Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules for access to the international road haulage market.

Re.5

The delegations exchanged information on social issues, control of road transport operations and controlling institutions, penalties etc. Both the delegations presented information concerning the administration of road transport in their countries.

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

The Latvian delegation informed that according to Latvia's joining to the Schengen Agreement starting from 21 December 2007 internal border of Latvia and EU Member States (Lithuania, Estonia) will be opened.

The Latvian delegation underlined that starting from 01.01.2008 foreign drivers when crossing the Latvian – EU internal border and performing transport operations for which the Latvian permits for international carriage of goods are needed should mark themselves in the column of permit "*date and stamp of the customs or border control authority*" the place and date of border crossing and sign this entry. Without such records a permit will be regarded as not valid. At the Latvian border crossing points with Russia and Byelorussia (being the EU external border) the control of permits will be performed by the customs authorities, as previously.

The Romanian side informed that at the border crossing points between Romania – Bulgaria and Romania – Hungary the control of permits is performed by the National Road authority only for non-EU vehicles, but at the border with non-EU countries the control of permits is performed by the National Road authority for all vehicles.

The delegations exchanged opinions regarding the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport and amending Council Regulations (EEC) No 3821/85 and (EC) No 2135/98 and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85. The delegations confirmed that they use the form of "Attestation of activities" according to the Commission Decision of 12 April 2007 No. 2007/230/EC and it is recognized by the controlling authorities. The Latvian delegation informed that in Latvia this form has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and stressed, that in cases not covered by "Attestation of activities", other forms of proof issued by the transport companies are recognized.

The Latvian side informed that starting from 1st January 2006 "Road Transport Inspectorate" has been established.

Both delegations exchanged information on road charging. The Latvian delegation informed that Latvia is planning to introduce the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures. The Romanian delegation stressed that they already have road charges.

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

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

Done at Riga on 28 November, 2007 in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation

For the Romanian delegation

Mr. Māris Pēkalis

Mr. Sorin Sîrbu

