

**Agreed Minutes
of the Latvian – Ukrainian Joint Committee
Meeting on International Road Transport
8 - 9 October, 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 Ukraine.
2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the final road transport permit quota for 2019 and preliminary for 2020.
3. International passenger transport.
4. Miscellaneous, including exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system, implementation of Quality Charter, road charges, public transport organization issues, competent authorities etc.

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 Ukraine

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 Ukraine.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2018 export volume from Latvia to Ukraine in terms of money has reached almost 156 million EUR, and compared to the previous year it has risen by 12.8%, while import from Ukraine exceeded 165 million EUR thus increasing by 8.6%. Export volume expressed in tons reached 65 thousand tons and in comparison, with 2017 increased by 19.6%, while import volume amounted to 158.6 thousand tons showing an increase by 9.1%.

The main types of goods imported from Ukraine include 33.7% of base metals, 17.6% of prepared foodstuffs and 14% of products of the chemical or allied industries.

Export from Latvia to Ukraine includes 33% of products of the chemical or allied industries, 24.5% prepared foodstuffs and 11.3% textiles and textile articles.

The Ukrainian delegation noted that general tendency on the trade exchange volumes are 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 3.3% in the year 2019

comparing to the previous year, reaching 4440 transport companies. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods has reached 16 209 transport units. Additionally, the Latvian delegation noted the increase of the number of vehicles corresponding to EURO VI and EURO V standards amounting to 67% of the entire fleet involved in the international operations.

The Ukrainian delegation presented the information on the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2019 there are 7442 transport companies involved in international goods transport. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods in 2019 has reached 40 793 transport units and approximately 50% of the entire fleet involved in the international operations corresponding to EURO VI and EURO V standards.

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 Ukraine will continue upward trend in future.

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

Both delegations noted that in the year 2019 ten 10 thousand (10 000) permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations, as well as two thousand (2000) universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations have been exchanged.

The delegations exchanged information on the usage of permits in the year 2018, as well as in the first nine months of the year 2019.

The delegations agreed that the demand for permits in both countries has risen in the year 2019 compared to the year 2018. The Ukrainian delegation noted that their average discharge rate of permits reaches up to 1000 permits per month, thus during the period of nine months of the year 2019 the majority of the contingent of permits allocated for the Ukrainian carriers has been already issued.

In view of the increase of the exchange of goods between both countries the Ukrainian delegation proposed to exchange additional number of permits for the year 2019.

Having thoroughly analysed the needs of the industry of both countries and discussed the effects on healthy development of the two markets, the delegations achieved an agreement to establish the final quota of permits for the year 2019 as follows:

- 12500 permits valid for bilateral and transit goods transport operations;
- 2000 universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country good transport operations.

Both delegations also agreed that the final quota for the year 2019 shall be the preliminary quota of permits for the year 2020.

It was agreed that the additional contingent of permits for 2019 allocated for the Ukrainian side will be provided by the end of October 2019, and for the Latvian side – at the request of the Latvian competent authority.

Permits for the year 2020 shall be exchanged by 15 December 2019.

Any exchange of permits shall be carried out 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.

At the request of the Ukrainian delegation both parties confirmed the previously reached agreement that universal permits that allow bilateral, transit transport operations and transport operations to/from third countries, after completion of one of the three types of transport operations performed in the direction of the other contracting party, allow to perform a bilateral, transit or third country transport operation on return back to the home country.

Permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations allow performance of transport of goods in transit and on return the same permit can be used for a bilateral transport operation and *vice versa*.

The Ukrainian delegation shared updated information on the progress of development of digital system for tracking the usage of a particular permit issued to a Ukrainian transport company.

3. International passenger transport

The two delegations exchanged information on existing regular bus lines between Latvia and Ukraine. It was noted that currently there are nine regular bus lines in operation and several applications are under examination.

It was noted that 100 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 Ukrainian side informed on the status of the procedures concerning acceding to the Protocol to the Agreement on the international carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) regarding the international regular and special regular carriage of passengers by coach and bus.

The Latvian delegation noted that as of March 2021 the provisions of the EU legislation concerning passenger rights in carriage by bus and coach are going to be extended to regular lines between Latvia and Ukraine. The Ukrainian delegation is going to forward this information to the Ukrainian transport companies involved in operating regular bus services between the two countries.

4. Miscellaneous, including exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system, implementation of Quality Charter, road charges, public transport organization issues, competent authorities etc.

Both delegations expressed shared vision concerning 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.

The Latvian delegation informed the Ukrainian delegation on changes in Latvian legislation concerning imposing penalties in the field of road transport. Subject to the law all infringements will be calculated in fixed penalty units (one penalty unit equals 5 EUR). Both legal persons and natural persons will be subjected to legal liability.

The Ukrainian delegation informed on a new law in force as of September 2019 concerning breach of weight and dimensions restrictions in the territory of Ukraine. Further penalties will be imposed both on legal entities and natural persons, and the goods will be temporarily arrested until full payment of the fine. More detailed information is going to be provided by the Ukrainian delegation in writing.

The delegations exchanged information on the competent authorities and bodies in the field of road transport in both countries and noted that the contacts of the competent authorities have not changed since the previous Joint Committee Meeting in 2018.

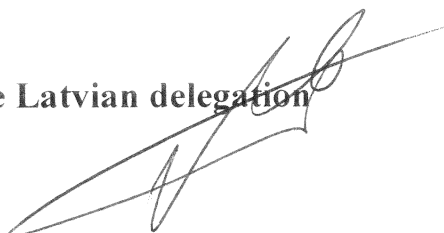
In response to the enquiry of Latvian delegation concerning the use and control of smart tachographs in the territory of Ukraine, the Ukrainian delegation will provide additional information in writing.

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

The Ukrainian delegation invited the Latvian delegation to Ukraine for the next Joint Committee meeting. The exact date and place of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

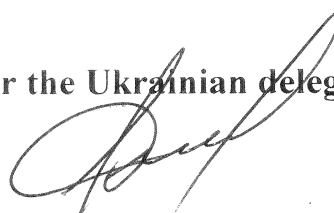
Done at Riga, on 9 October, 2019, in two originals in English.

For the Latvian delegation



Mr. Tāivaldis Vectirāns

For the Ukrainian delegation



Mr. Oleg Siryi