

**Minutes**  
**of the Latvian – Bulgarian Joint Committee**  
**Meeting on International Road Transport**  
**5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2012, Riga**

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Bulgaria;
2. Goods transport operations under Article 4 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on the International Road Transport;
3. Passenger transport;
4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation of the Regulations from the Road Transport Package;
5. Miscellaneous.

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

**1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Bulgaria**

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 Bulgaria and Latvia.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2011 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in tons to Bulgaria increased by 11,1 % and the import volume from Bulgaria – by 17,7%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2011 increased by 23,3% and reached 30,7 million EUR.

The Bulgarian side informed that their statistical data is similar and noted that the total trade balance is in favor of Bulgaria and is approximately EUR 10.5 million.

The Bulgarian side stated that the main products exported from Bulgaria to Latvia are medications, various machines and electric batteries.

The Latvian side stated that the main products exported from Latvia to Bulgaria are furniture, machinery and textile.

Both delegations expressed their satisfaction on increasing in trade volume between the two countries, especially, during the last year.

The Latvian side informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2011 in comparison with the previous year the fleet involved in international carriage of goods has increased by 1593 units and reached 12 433 units. At the beginning of 2012 the number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations was 4224. During the year of 2011 the number of vehicles of first registration increased 3 times comparing to the year of 2010.

The Bulgarian delegation informed that up to February 2012 the data indicates that in the field of international goods transport 8012 Community licenses and 58 298 certified copies of Community licenses have been issued in Bulgaria.

In terms of international passenger transport, the Bulgarian delegation stated that 822 Community licenses and 5230 certified copies of Community licenses have been issued in Bulgaria for the period up to February 2012.

Both sides concluded that ways of developing of organization of road transport sector in both countries are similar and expressed hope that the international road transport operations between Latvia and Bulgaria will increase in the nearest future.

## **2. Goods transport operations under Article 4 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on the International Road 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 the previous two years in comparison with 2010 the number of Bulgarian permits used by their carriers has decreased.

The Bulgarian side noted that 71 Latvian permits valid for goods transport to/from third countries have already been issued to Bulgarian carriers this year.

Both sides agreed to establish final quota for the year 2012: 150 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

The delegations also agreed upon the preliminary quota for 2013, i.e. 150 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.



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

The delegations had a discussion on the liberalization of cabotage transport operations in both countries and on the EU territory.

The Bulgarian side informed that cabotage operations can be performed in Bulgaria from 01.01.2012 according to the relevant EU legislation.

### **3. Passenger transport**

The Latvian delegation informed about two regular bus lines between Latvia and Bulgaria: **Riga – Krakow – Sofia** and **Riga – Sofia – Varna** which are operated by “Transinesta” UAB, SIA “NORMA - A”, “ECOLINES ESTONIA” OÜ and “ECOLINES - POLSKA” Sp.zo.o. It is planned that this year the route **Riga – Sofia – Varna** will be transformed to the route **Riga – Prague – Sofia**.

The Bulgarian delegation noted that the mentioned bus lines are functioning successfully.

The Latvian delegation 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.

Occasional transport of passengers and tourism between both countries is well developed. Occasional transport operations are performed under the provisions of the respective EU legislation and the control document is an EU waybill.

Both sides exchanged information on the organization of public transport in their countries.

### **4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation of the Regulations from the Road Transport Package**

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

The Latvian side noted that for exchange of the information among different national registers they have opted for using the TACHONET system.

Parties also exchanged information regarding the licensing system in their countries.

The Latvian delegation informed about a unified Certificate for Professional Competence (CPC) for responsible persons in charge of passengers and goods transportation and this certificate is termless.

The Latvian side informed that the legislation is in full compliance with the relevant EU legislation and it provides that the Community licenses are issued for the period of up to 5 years, but the validity of the certified copies of Community licenses is one year. A certified copy contains the registration number of the particular vehicle. A transport manager is allowed to manage the transport activities 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 Latvian delegation explained that the certified copies of the Community licenses are issued only for vehicles registered in Latvia.

The Bulgarian delegation confirmed that the above – mentioned situation is similar in Bulgaria with the exception that the certified copies of the Community licenses are not personalized.

The Bulgarian delegation informed that they are still working on the implementation of the National Electronic Register.

## **5. Miscellaneous**

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 was planning to introduce road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons starting as from this year. Taking into account the global economical situation it has been decided to postpone introduction of a road vignette by January 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)).

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 Bulgarian side provided information on the traffic bans in the summer period.

Both delegations stressed the significance of the ECMT Multilateral Quota permits for their carriers.

The delegations exchanged the viewpoints on the latest development within the ECMT Multilateral Quota System. The Latvian side noted that it supports maintaining as a basis the conventional statistical sources, criteria and methodology for the quota distribution, supported the redistribution concept, the margin of which should be defined, and the approach that redistributed licenses should be used for EURO IV and EURO V vehicles fitted with digital tachographs.

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Bulgarian delegation invited the Latvian delegation in Bulgaria for the next Joint Committee meeting in 2013 to be held in Varna or Bourgas. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

Done at Riga on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2012, in two originals in the English language.

**For the Latvian delegation**

  
**Mr. Andris Lubāns**

**For the Bulgarian delegation**

  
**Ms. Gabriela Mitova**

## The list of participants

### The Latvian delegation:

<b>Mr. Andris Lubāns</b>	Deputy Director of Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of delegation
<b>Ms. Annija Novikova</b>	Senior Officer, Road Transport Division, Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
<b>Mr. Andulis Židkovs</b>	Member of the Board, Road Transport Administration
<b>Mr. Aivars Olants</b>	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
<b>Ms. Daiga Ancāne</b>	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
<b>Mr. Alvis Keziks</b>	Expert, International Road Carriage Co-ordination Division, Road Transport Administration
<b>Mr. Valdis Trēziņš</b>	President of Road Carriers Association „Latvijas Auto”

### The Bulgarian delegation:

<b>Ms. Gabriela Mitova</b>	Head of European Affairs and International Relations Department, Executive Agency Road Transport Administration, head of the delegation
<b>Mrs. Boryana Peneva - Kutseva</b>	Junior Expert in European Affairs and International Relations Department, Executive Agency Road Transport Administration
<b>Ms. Antonia Atanassova</b>	Chief Expert, Association of the Bulgarian Enterprises for International Road Transport and the Roads (AEBTRI)