

MINUTES
of the Georgian - Latvian Joint Committee Meeting on International Road Transport
(Tbilisi, 26-27 March, 2015)

The following agenda were agreed by the delegations:

1. The exchange of statistical data on bilateral cooperation (trade and economic relations, their trends) between Georgia - Latvia.
2. The quota of road transport permits for 2016.
3. Plans for development of road infrastructure of Georgia (better posts on international corridors (through Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia).
4. Miscellaneous
5. The signing of the minutes of the meeting.

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

1. The exchange of statistical data on bilateral cooperation (trade and economic relations, their trends) between Latvia - Georgia.

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both countries. The Latvian delegation presented information on passenger and goods transport by road in Latvia, as well as information on international trade between Georgia and Latvia.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2014 in comparison with the previous year total trade turnover in EUR between both countries has decreased by 35,4% and makes up to 11,55 million EUR and the import volume from Georgia increased by 2,2%. At the same time export of goods to Georgia exceeds import more than two times.

The Georgian side informed that their statistical data on trade between Georgia and Latvia reveal similar tendencies.

The both sides stated that the main products exported from Latvia to Georgia are chemical products, foodstuffs and machinery but the main products imported from Georgia are foodstuffs (wine and mineral waters), fruits and vegetables.

The Georgian delegation presented the information on the structure of the vehicle fleet and noted that in 2014 there were about 2400 companies involved in international goods transport using bilateral authorizations and 201 companies involved in international goods transport operations under ECMT permit system regime. In total in the year 2014 there were 50000 vehicles (EURO I-VI) and 40000 buses in operation.



During the 1st half of the year 2015 there are 137 companies involved in international goods transport operations under ECMT permit system regime.

Both sides expressed hope that the international road transport operations between Latvia and Georgia will increase in the nearest future.

2. The quota of road transport permits for 2016.

Both sides exchanged information on the use of bilateral/transit permits and universal permits for transport of goods issued to the haulers of the two countries in 2014 and 2015.

The Latvian delegation informed that during the 1st quarter of the year 2015 12 Georgian permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations and 15 permits valid for universal transport operations have already been issued to Latvian carriers, but in the year 2014 the number of issued permits was 25 and 31 respectively.

The Georgian delegation informed that during this year 4 Latvian permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations and 5 universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and transport operations to/from third countries have already been issued to Georgian carriers but in the year 2014 the number of issued permits was 16 and 4 respectively.

After some discussions both sides agreed to exchange additionally 50 universal permits for the year 2015.

Due to the increase of the exchange of goods between two countries and for the liberalization of the transport procedures the delegations agreed on the final preliminary quota for 2016:

- 200 universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and transport operations to/from third countries.

Both sides agreed that universal permit shall be valid for performing one of the following transport operations with/without freight in both directions:

- bilateral (one round trip/ a journey to a place and back again);
- transit (one round trip/ a journey to a place and back again);
- third country – other contracting party – third country;
- third country – other contracting party – country of registration;
- country of registration – other contracting party – third country.

Regarding passenger transport, to support cooperation between both countries, the Georgian side proposed to exchange 10 permits for international irregular passenger transportation by road each year as it is stipulated in the item 5 of the Article 7 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Georgia on International Transport by Road.

3. Plans for development of road infrastructure of Georgia (better posts on international corridors (through Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia)).

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 introduced road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons from January 1, 2014. The Latvian side noted that the vignette is electronic. It is foreseen to organize purchasing of it by a fuel card, a credit card, by mobile phone or by online by visiting website <http://lvvignette.eu>. It is possible 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 are issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc. and applied only on main roads.

The Georgian side informed that there is no road tolling system in their country but when performing transit operations by a loaded vehicle through the territory of Georgia a carrier is obliged to pay the fee in amount of 200 Georgian Lari (GEL) at the border crossing point. Also the Georgian side admitted that they are planning to introduce road tolling system.

4. Miscellaneous

The Both delegations changed the information regarding vehicles technical inspection and digital tachograph cards in their countries. And for the further cooperation the Latvian delegation agreed to share their experience on this issue.

The Latvian side informed that starting as from April 1, 2011 road transport control functions 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 delegations exchanged their views on the development of the ECMT Multilateral Quota System and stressed the importance of the system for both Latvian and Georgian carriers.



5. The signing of the minutes of the meeting.

The discussions on the meeting were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere with mutual understanding. Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Latvian delegation invited the Georgian delegation to Latvia for the next Joint Committee meeting in 2016. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

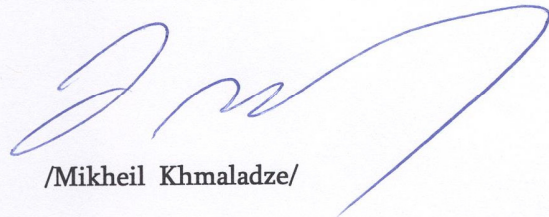
Done at Tbilisi on 27th March 2015 in two originals in the English language.

FOR THE LATVIAN DELEGATION



/Annija Novikova/

FOR THE GEORGIAN DELEGATION



/Mikheil Khmaladze/

The list of participants

The Latvian delegation:

- Ms. Annija Novikova Deputy Director of Road Transport Department,
Ministry of Transport, Head of delegation;
- Mr. Normunds Narvaiss Member of the Board, Road Transport Administration;
- Mr. Igors Jagodins Senior Expert of International Road Carriage Co-
ordination Division, Road Transport Administration

The Georgian delegation:

- Mr. Mikheil Khmaladze Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development,
Land Transport Agency - Director, Head of delegation;
- Mr. Levan Murvanidze Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development,
Land Transport Agency – First Deputy Director;
- Mr. Koba Metreveli Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development,
Chief Specialist of Land Transportation Division of
Transport Policy Department.
- Mr. Zaza Avaliani Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development,
Land Transport Agency - Head of Road Transport
Department;
- Ms. Maia Guledani Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development,
Land Transport Agency - Chief Specialist of Freight
Transportation Division of the Road Transport Department.