

Agreed Minutes

of the Latvian - Slovak Joint Committee meeting on international Road
Transport held on May 6, 2014, in Riga, Latvia

related to the

Agreement on International Road Transport

(signed on April 9, 1998, in force since December 9, 1998)

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding trade between Latvia and Slovakia and development of road transport in both the countries.
2. Transport of goods by road, including positions on cabotage in the EU.
3. International passenger transport, including state of implementation of Regulation 181/2011 and possible solutions for developing legal framework for opening regular lines with third countries.
4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation of Road Transport Package, including development of the Electronic Register for Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU) and infringement categorisation.
5. Miscellaneous, including development of the ECMT multilateral quota, TIR issues, road user charges, etc.

The composition of the two delegations is annexed to the protocol (ANNEX 1).

1. Exchange of information regarding trade between Latvia and Slovakia and development of road transport in both the countries

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 Slovakia.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2013 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in EUR to Slovakia decreased by 3.4% and the

import volume from Slovakia decreased by 10.7%. Conversely in tons export volume decreased by 39.2%, but import volume increased by 12.6%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2013 decreased by 8.5% and constituted 170.1 million EUR. At the same time trade turnover in tons decreased by 18.9%.

In EUR the import of goods from Slovakia to Latvia exceeds export from Latvia to Slovakia more than 2 times but in tons export from Latvia exceeds import of goods from Slovakia 1.2 times. That means more valuable goods are imported from Slovakia.

The Latvian side informed that main types of goods imported from Slovakia are machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical equipment (61,8%), products of the chemical and allied industries (13,3%) as well as pulp of wood, paper and paperboard (6,9%). Main types of goods exported to Slovakia are products of the chemical and allied industries (54%), machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical equipment (12,5%), metals and metal products (12,5%).

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2013, in comparison with the previous year, the fleet involved in international carriage of goods has increased by 6,1% and reached 14518 units. At the same time the number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations did not decrease significantly and at the end of the year there were 4094 such companies.

The Slovak side noted that their statistical data regarding trade between both countries are quite similar.

The Slovak delegation informed that the number of Slovak companies involved in international goods transport operations is about 6600 companies out of which 80% are small companies. Total vehicle fleet involved in international carriage of goods has reached 39600 units.

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

2. Transport of goods by road, including positions on cabotage in the EU

The Latvian delegation informed on volume of goods transported by Latvian road hauliers to and from Slovakia and noted that in 2012 it reached 23 thsd tons.

The delegations exchanged views on the European Commission report on the state of the Community road transport market, in particular, concerning chapters on cabotage. It was noted that since introduction of clear cut rules for performing of cabotage services under Regulation 1072/2009 this segment of the market has not caused any serious problems in both countries.



It was underlined that Latvia and Slovakia support the concept of gradual liberalization of the cabotage within the EU.

With regard to the theses proposed by Poland for the ministerial debate on harmonization of European social policies in road haulage transport it was noted that both countries support this initiative of forming the common ground stressing that enforcement practices should be harmonized on the EU level.

3. International passenger transport, including state of implementation of Regulation 181/2011 and possible solutions for developing legal framework for opening regular lines with third countries

It was noted that there is operating only one regular line Riga (LV) – Bratislava (SK) – Sofia (BG) under the authorization E(LT)-8772(05)-02 issued to the Lithuanian registered company UAB “Tansinesta” in partnership with SIA “Norma –A” (Latvia), “ECOLINES-POLSKA” Sp.zo.o (Poland), ECOLINES ESTONIA OÜ (Estonia) and “ЕКОЛАЙНС БЪЛГАРИЯ” ЕООД (Bulgaria) with the validity till March 3, 2019. The Latvian side informed that this regular line is operating twice a week and without exchange of passengers between Bratislava and Budapest as well as between Vienna and Budapest.

The Latvian delegation informed that as from 30 September 2011 the competent authority for regular bus permits is the Latvian Road Transport Administration, Valnu Street 30, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia, email: daiga.ancane@atd.lv, phone: +37167686493, fax: +37167686490.

Both delegations 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, namely, drafting of OMNIBUS agreement or extension of the scope of INTERBUS agreement was exchanged.

With regard to the implementation of Regulation 181/2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 the Latvian delegation informed that responsible for the enforcement of this Regulation is the Road Transport Administration and it is also dealing with personal claims of bus passengers. Latvia has opted to implement exceptions for domestic regular services and bus lines to third countries. At present only the Riga international bus station could be designated as terminal where assistance for disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility can be provided. Carriers in Latvia already have special trainings regarding assistance provided to disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility and disability.

The Slovakian delegation informed that the competent authority regarding the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport is Slovak Trade Inspection (address: PO Box 29, Prievozska 32, 827 99 Bratislava 215, Slovakia, email:

info@soi.sk , phone: 0850 111 937) and that Slovakia has also opted to implement exceptions for domestic regular services and bus lines to third countries as well as that there are 12 bus terminals designated where assistance for disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility is provided.

4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation of Road Transport Package, including development of the Electronic Register for Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU) and infringement categorisation

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

The Latvian side demonstrated the functioning of the ERRU system in Latvia stressing that the exchange of information is based on the HUB connection method and it will be fully operational when the all EU countries have joined the system.

The Slovak side informed that the connection to ERRU was established in December 2012 and that their system works very similarly.

It was noted that the work concerning categorization of infringements is being continued within the ERRU working group organized by the European Commission.

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

The Latvian side informed that according to the European Union Road Transport Package provisions in Latvia the Community licenses are issued for the period of up to 10 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 in 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 Latvian side provided the samples of documents issued in Latvia for operating in road transport market.

5. Miscellaneous, including development of the ECMT multilateral quota, TIR issues, road user charges, etc.

The delegations exchanged information on the latest activities within the International Transport Forum and, in particular, concerning development of the ECMT Multilateral Quota System in 2015 and beyond as well as on problems related to functioning of the TIR system.

The Latvian side emphasized that for the system to continue a transitional period should be set allowing the Member States to transpose the Quality Charter and the scenario for this period should be developed as soon as possible. The Slovakian side noted that one of the aspects the attention should be paid to is the legal status of the ECMT Multilateral Quota System.

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 plans to introduce road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons starting as from July 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 more detailed information concerning this matter before the introduction of the vignette system.

The Slovak delegation informed about the system of road user charges in Slovakia which is based on driven distance as well as about changes in the system as from January 1, 2014. It was noted that about 6500 Latvian registered trucks over 12 tons used the Slovakian roads paying road user charges last year in Slovakia.

The Latvian side informed that 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 67208113, +371 67208377; fax: +371 67274789; email: kanceleja.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 and lvceli@lvceli.lv).

In Slovakia road transport control functions are performed by Police Department, Ministry of Interior of Slovak Republic www.minv.sk and the competent authority issuing special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in the territory of Slovakia is Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of Slovak Republic www.mindop.sk

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

The Slovak delegation underlined the necessity to co-operate bilaterally and to coordinate the positions on important road market related issues also in the future as well as invited the Latvian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting to Slovakia. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon by correspondence.

Done at Riga on 6th May, 2014, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation:



Ms. Annija Novikova

For the Slovak delegation:



Mr. Michal Halabica

The list of participants

The Latvian delegation:

Ms. Annija Novikova	Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of the delegation
Ms. Indra Gromule	Head of International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Māris Vaics	Head of Licensing Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Aivars Olants	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Alvis Keziks	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Igors Jagodins	Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Valdis Trēziņš	President of Road Carriers Association "Latvijas Auto"

The Slovak delegation:

Mr. Michal Halabica	Director General of Section of Road Transport and Land Communications, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of SR
Mr. Jaroslav Ozimanič	Director of Department of Road Transport and Road Transport Regulations, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of SR
Mr. Marek Hudec	Head of Division of Passenger and Goods Transport, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of SR
Mr. Pavol Reich	Secretary General of International Transporters' Association ČESMAD Slovakia
Mr. Ladislav Babčan	Deputy Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Riga