

PROTOCOL
of the Latvian-Turkish
Joint Committee Meeting on Road Transport

Joint Committee Meeting on Road Transport was held between the Delegations of the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Turkey in Ankara on 7th-8th of June 2010 to further develop the cooperation in road transport between the two countries.

The Delegations negotiated the transport of goods and passengers by road between their countries on the basis of the following agenda:

- 1) Exchange of statistical information
- 2) Reviewing current Bilateral Transport Agreement to liberalize transport operations
- 3) Goods transport
- 4) Other issues

The Members of both delegations are listed in the appendix.

1. Exchange of Statistical Information

The Delegations exchanged views and statistical information regarding the trade and current situation of road transport between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Latvia; the total trade volume between Latvia and Turkey has rapidly increased in the recent year especially the export from Latvia to Turkey during the year 2009.

The Delegations expressed their sincere belief that trade will further develop in the future.

2. Reviewing current Bilateral Transport Agreement to liberalize transport operations

The Delegations confirmed, once again, their willingness to liberalize transport operations between and through their countries.

Upon receipt of the proposal of the Turkish Delegation, the Latvian Delegation also submitted its proposal for the amendments of the existing Road Transport Agreement which includes the proposal of Turkish side as well.

Within the framework of the liberalization of the bilateral and transit transport operations, the Latvian Delegation reiterated its position to delete Article 14 of the Agreement in order to ensure entrance of unloaded vehicles to collect return load to its country without requirement of permit.

The Turkish Delegation stated that it will evaluate the submitted draft document on the amendment of some articles of the Agreement and will inform the Latvian side within one month.

3. Transport of Goods

After the negotiations, the Delegations agreed upon the final quota for the year 2010 and preliminary quota for the year 2011 as follows:

- 700 permits for bilateral and transit transport operations
- 400 permits for unloaded entry / transit / bilateral / third country transport operations.



The Delegations decided that all the permits shall be valid until 31st January of the following year.

The Delegations agreed that any demand for additional permits during the course of the year will be evaluated and dealt within the framework of good intentions.

4. Other Issues

Upon the question of the Turkish Delegation, the Latvian Delegation explained that they are planning to postpone the introduction of road user charges, in the form of vignette, in Latvia starting from 1st January, 2012.

The Latvian Delegation requested information on the implementation of Article 5 of the Agreement concerning the charges and tolls applied in Turkey during transit passages.

The Turkish Delegation provided information on the relevant Turkish legislation and its implementation regarding this issue.

The Latvian Delegation emphasized that they currently do not collect road user charges from Turkish vehicles for transit transport operations as specified in paragraph (b) of the Article 5 of the current Agreement; therefore, it requested to eliminate this charge.

Both sides agreed to evaluate the possibility of eliminating the above mentioned road user charges, on the basis of principle of reciprocity, and inform each other of their final conclusion in this regard within two months.

The Turkish Delegation provided information on the recent developments in Turkish road transport sectors especially in the implementation of digital tachograph systems, licensing system, certification of professional competency, road side inspection.

The Latvian Delegation provided information on passenger and goods transport operations including number of licensed transport operators and vehicles holding licences.

Upon the question of Latvian Delegation, the Turkish Delegation explained that Turkey has been a party to ADR (The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road) since 22nd of March, 2010 and ratification procedures are ongoing to be a party to ATP (Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs).

The Latvian Delegation invited Turkish Delegation to Latvia for the next Joint Committee Meeting. Turkish Delegation accepted the invitation with pleasure. The exact date and venue of the meeting will be determined via diplomatic channels.

The Meeting took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere and both Delegations expressed their satisfaction over the results.

Done in Ankara on 8th of June 2010 in the English language in two original copies.

For the Latvian Delegation

Andris LUBANS

For the Turkish Delegation

İzzet IŞIK

THE LIST OF THE LATVIAN DELEGATION

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|-----------------|---|
| Andris LUBĀNS | Head of Delegation Chairman of the Board Road Transport Administration |
| Annija NOVIKOVA | Senior Officer Land Transport Department Road Transport Division Ministry of Transport |
| Aivars OLANTS | Senior Expert International Road Carriage Coordination Division Road Transport Administration |

THE LIST OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION

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| İzzet IŞIK | Head of Delegation Ministry of Transport General Directorate for Land Transport Director of Department |
| Hakan ÖZDEMİR | Ministry of Transport General Directorate for Land Transport Head of Section |
| Hakan KARAÇAY | Ministry of Foreign Affairs First Secretary |
| Erdem Can KARABULUT | Undersecretariat of Customs Expert |
| Hasan BOZ | Ministry of Transport General Directorate for Land Transport Expert |
| Lütfi POLAT | TOBB |
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