

PROTOCOL
of the Latvian – Turkish Joint Committee meeting
on International Road Transport Issues
held in Riga, 14th – 15th June, 2011

The delegations have agreed upon the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of road transport and trade between Latvia and Turkey.
2. Implementation of the International Road Transport Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey.
3. Goods transport and establishment of final quota of international road transport permits for the year 2011 and preliminary for 2012.
4. Miscellaneous.

The composition of the delegations is annexed to the Protocol.

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

The delegations exchanged information on the statistical data regarding the development of trade and international goods transport by road between Latvia and Turkey.

Both the delegations expressed their satisfaction on increasing of trade volume and road transport operations between the two countries, especially, during the last year.

According to the information presented by the Latvian side export volume to Turkey in tons and Euros has considerably increased during the year 2010 and the first quarter of the year 2011. The main export goods include crude materials, food and live animals. The data provided by the Turkish side confirmed the same tendency.

The delegations presented the information related to the organization of road transport operations and the statistical data concerning the structure of the fleet being at the disposal of carriers of both the countries.

The delegations expressed their hope that trade relations between Latvia and Turkey is going to continue developing in the future.



2. Implementation of the International Road Transport Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey

The Turkish delegation provided the information on the results of examining the draft of the amendments to the International Road Transport Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey submitted by Latvia during the last Joint Committee meeting on Road Transport in Ankara. It was noted that Turkey supports the idea of liberalization of loaded bilateral transport operations and transit journeys but keeping in mind the national transport policy the liberalization of empty entries and third country transport operations is not possible at present stage.

The Latvian side stressed that in case of liberalization of bilateral transport operations it should include both loaded and empty journeys.

The delegations agreed to continue examining of liberalization possibilities of road transport operations under the bilateral Agreement at the next Joint Committee meeting.

3. Goods transport and establishment of final quota of international road transport permits for the year 2011 and preliminary for 2012

After having exchanged the information on the number of permits used by hauliers of both the countries in the year 2010 and first five months which shows the increasing tendency, the delegations agreed to set the final quota of international goods transport permits for the year 2011 and the preliminary quota for the year 2012 as follows:

- 700 permits for bilateral and transit goods transport operations;
- 400 permits for unloaded entry, bilateral, transit and third country transport operations.

It was noted that requests for exchanging additional permits will be examined in spirit of opening of road transport markets and considering the agreement of the sides that quota for bilateral and transit goods should not be limited.

The delegations indicated that permits of a current year shall be valid by January 31 of a coming year.



4. 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 delegation thanked the Turkish side for the letter of September 27, 2010 by the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Latvia which contains the following information: "the exemption of the authorized Latvian carriages in transit through the territory of Turkey from the charges stipulated in paragraph (b) of Article 5 of the International Road Transport Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey was put into force in Turkey on 26th July, 2010, on a reciprocal basis".

The Latvian side informed that starting as from April 1 of this year 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).

It was noted that special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in Latvia are issued by 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).

The Turkish side is going to provide information concerning competent authorities for control and issuing of special permits for carriage of abnormal loads within one month.

The delegations exchanged viewpoints on the latest developments within the ECMT multilateral quota system and on positions of the countries concerning the agenda of the next meeting of ITF Road Transport Group on June 23-24, 2011.

Upon the request of the Latvian delegation the Turkish side provided information on implementation of the digital tachograph system under the amended AETR Agreement.

In response to the question of the Latvian delegation concerning usage of vehicles composed of tractors and trailers/semitrailers registered in different countries the Turkish delegation explained that in accordance with its national legislation usage of such combinations is not allowed neither for Turkish companies nor for foreign companies except the cases when transport operations are performed under ECMT licences or Ro-Ro lines are used. The Turkish delegation also explained that in case of prior notification usage of the above mentioned vehicle combinations can be assessed by the competent institution in Turkey.

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

The Turkish delegation proposed to organize the next Joint Committee meeting in Turkey in 2012, the exact time and place of which will be agreed by correspondence.

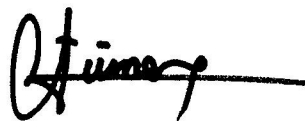
Done in Riga, on 15th June, 2011, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation



Mr. Māris Pēkalis

For the Turkish delegation



Mr. M. Celal Tümer

Composition of the delegations:**Turkish delegation:**

Mr. M. Celal Tümer	Head of Department for Land Transport, Ministry of Transport and Communication (MTC), Head of Delegation
Mr. Erdal Karahisar	Head of Department, Undersecretariat of Customs
Mr. Aydın Arslan	Regional Director for the Erzurum Province, MTC
Mr. Hasan Boz	Expert, General Directorate for Land Transport, MTC
Mr. Alpdoğan Kahraman	Expert, International Transporters Association

Latvian delegation:

Mr. Māris Pēkalis	Deputy Director of Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of Delegation
Ms. Annija Novikova	Senior Officer, Road Transport Division, Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Ms. Indra Gromule	Head of International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Aivars Olants	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Valdis Trēziņš	President of Association of Road Carriers „Latvijas Auto”