

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

The Joint Committee Meeting on Road Transport was held between the delegations of the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Turkey in Ankara on 29th -30th of May, 2012 for developing of further cooperation in road transport between the two countries.

The Delegations have agreed on the following agenda:

- 1) Exchange of information on trade and transport operations between Latvia and Turkey;
- 2) Reviewing of the existing International Road Transport Agreement for the purpose of liberalizing transport operations;
- 3) Goods transport;
- 4) Other issues.

The Members of both delegations are listed in Appendix I.

1) Exchange of information on trade and transport operations between Turkey and Latvia

The Delegations exchanged views and statistical information regarding the trade and current situation of road transport between the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Turkey; 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 2011.

The delegations also noted that, according to the results of the first quarter of this year, this trend will continue for the year 2012, and expressed their sincere belief that trade will further develop in the future.

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 countries as well as concerning the latest developments in the legal regulation in the field of road transport.

2) Reviewing of the existing International Road Transport Agreement for the purpose of liberalizing transport operations

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

In this regard, as a result of the comprehensive bilateral discussion, the delegations reached an agreement on making amendments to "International Road Transport Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey", signed on 15 September, 1995."

The agreed text of the "Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Amending The International Road Transport Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey" signed on 15 September, 1995 is attached to this Protocol as Appendix II.

Upon the request of the Latvian delegation, the implementation of Article 5 of the existing bilateral Agreement was discussed within the framework of planned introduction of road user charges in Latvia. The Latvian Delegation stated that concerning compliance of Article 5 of the Agreement with the respective EU requirements Latvian national competent authorities will be consulted and the answer will be provided within three months period.

The delegations agreed that after receiving this information the parties will agree on further steps for proceeding with amending of the Agreement.

3) Transport of Goods

After the negotiations, the delegations agreed to maintain the existing quota of permits, and set the final quota of permits for the year 2012 and preliminary quota for the year 2013 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 request of the Latvian Delegation, the Turkish delegation provided information on the recent development in Turkish Road Transport sector, especially in the implementation of Digital Tachograph system, licensing system, training of drivers, weight and dimension control as well as implementation of INTERBUS Agreement.

The Turkish delegation also informed that Turkey has completed the ratification process of ATP (Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage) and Annex-8 of the UN/ECE Agreement on International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods-1982.

The Latvian delegation informed about the details of implementation of the new EU Road Package which brings stricter rules for access to the road transport market.

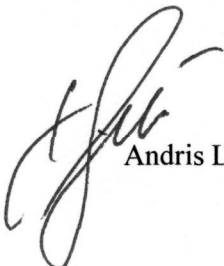
The delegations exchanged the viewpoints on the latest developments within the ECMT Multilateral Quota System, especially within the framework of the established two Sub-Working Groups.

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

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

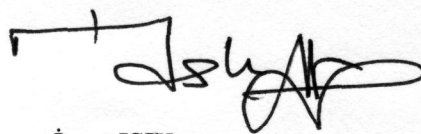
Done in Ankara on 30th of May 2012 in the English language in two original copies.

For the Latvian Delegation



Andris LUBĀNS

For the Turkish Delegation



İzzet IŞIK

**LATVIAN -TURKISH
JOINT COMMISSION MEETING ON ROAD TRANSPORT**

LIST OF LATVIAN DELEGATION

Andris LUBĀNS Head of Delegation
Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia
Land Transport Department
Director of Department

Indra GROMULE Road Transport Administration
Road Carriage Co-ordination Division
Head of Division

Andulis ŽIDKOVS Road Transport Administration
Member of the Board

LIST OF TURKISH DELEGATION

İzzet IŞIK Head of Delegation
Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
General Directorate for Road Transport Regulation
Director of Department

O.Hakan ÖZDEMİR Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
General Directorate for Road Transport Regulation
Head of Section

Nurdeniz SÖNMEZ
GAYDALAR Ministry of Customs and Trade
General Directorate of Customs
Expert of Customs and Trade

Cihat KARA Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
General Directorate for Road Transport Regulation
Expert

Nejla ALBAYRAK UND

Can ÖZKAYMAK TOBB

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY ON AMENDING
“THE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY” SIGNED ON 15 SEPTEMBER, 1995**

The Government of the Republic of Latvia and The Government of The Republic of Turkey agreed to make the following amendments to the International Road Transport Agreement between The Government of The Republic of Latvia and The Government of The Republic of Turkey, signed in Ankara on September 15, 1995:

Article 1

1. Definition of the term “vehicle” in Article 2 of the Agreement is amended as follows:

The term “vehicle” means:

- a) in the carriage of passengers – any power driven road vehicle which is adapted for carriage of passengers, has more than nine seats, including the driver’s seat and is registered in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties,
- b) in the carriage of goods – any power driven road vehicle which is registered in the territory of either Contracting Party and adapted and normally used for goods transport. For the purposes of the Agreement the term “vehicle” also applies to any trailer or semi-trailer, coupled to any motor vehicle as well as to any combination of road vehicles.

2. Definition of the term “permit” in Article 2 of the Agreement is amended as follows:

The term “permit” means the permits issued to a road vehicle registered in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties by the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party for the purpose of performing transport operations under the Agreement.

Article 2

The last paragraph of article 8 is deleted.

Article 3

Article 9 of the Agreement is amended as follows:

A vehicle registered in one Contracting Party shall not carry passengers or goods to/from the territory of the other Contracting Party to a third country, unless a special permit is granted for this purpose by the competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

A permit shall be valid for one round trip, for one vehicle and only for the carrier whom it is issued and shall not be transferable.

Article 4

Article 10 of the Agreement is amended as follows:

A carrier of one Contracting Party shall operate a regular passenger service to or a regular transit passenger service through the territory of the other Contracting Party by obtaining a permit in advance from the competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

Article 5

Article 12 of the Agreement is amended as follows:

Bilateral and transit transport operations between and through the territories of the Contracting Parties shall not require a permit and shall not be subject to a quota system.

Article 6

Paragraph 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Agreement are deleted.

Article 7

Article 14 of the Agreement is deleted.

Article 8

Article 24 of the Agreement is amended as follows:

The competent authorities which are responsible for the implementation of the Agreement are:

a) In the Republic of Latvia:

Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia

b) In the Republic of Turkey:

Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
General Directorate for Road Transport Regulation –ANKARA

Article 9

This Agreement shall come into force on the date when Parties notify each other that the Constitutional formalities for coming into effect are completed.

This Agreement shall be automatically renewed for periods of one year unless either Contracting Party expresses its wish in writing to the other Contracting Party to terminate it at least three months prior to the date of expiry.

Done in on in the Latvian ,Turkish and English languages all texts are equally authentic.

In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the
Republic of Latvia

For the Government of the
Republic of Turkey