

# MINUTES

## of the Austrian – Latvian Joint Committee Meeting on international Road Transport,

Vienna 20th – 21st of July

List of delegations: enclosure

### Agenda

1. Trade volumes and road transport data
2. Combined Transport
3. Goods transport by road
4. Passenger transport by road
5. Other business

### TOP 1

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both countries and about the organization of the road transport sectors in each of them.

So both sides stated the development of foreign trade between the two countries has been very dynamic although there have been some slight reductions in some years. Both side handed over their statistical data on foreign trade to the other side. The Latvian side informed that main types of goods imported from Austria are machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipment (29,0%), products of the chemical or allied industries (18,5%) as well as miscellaneous manufactured articles(10,2%). Main types of goods exported to Austria are wood and articles of wood (23,9%), base metals and articles of base metal (13,8%), machinery and mechanical appliances as well as electrical equipment



(11,1%). The Austrian side could confirm the main types of goods imported and exported.

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2014, in comparison with the previous year, the fleet involved in international carriage of goods has decreased by 1,4% and reached 14309 units. The number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations decrease by 3.5% and at the end of the year there were 3949 such companies.

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

## **TOP 2**

The representative of the RCA (Rail Cargo Austria) informed about the structure of the RCA, of the main issues in Combined transport and the most important corridors as well as for unaccompanied and for accompanied Combined transport and handed over a relevant documentation to the Latvian side explain also the advantages for carriers using the Rolling Road.

The Austrian side stated that one of important principles of Austrian transport policy is shifting transport from road to environmentally friendly transport modes as for example on railway. So the activities of the RCA have to be seen in this context and are supported by Austrian transport policy.

One special instrument to shift road goods transport from road to rail is the so called Rolling road, of which there are 5 corridors through Austria.

Latvian carriers are using e.g. mostly the corridor on the Brenner Route. It has to be stated that the use of the Rolling Road by Latvian carriers is increasing year by year. Relevant statistical data has been handed over to the Latvian side.

The Latvian side stated its interest in the matter and will hand over information to Latvian carriers.



Latvian side also informed about the project of the "Rail Baltica", which shall link Warsaw , Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn and Helsinki, so that in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia there will be the same track gauge as in most of European Union countries.

### **TOP 3**

The Austrian side stated that the legal basis for international road goods transport between Austria and Latvia is the *acquis* of the European Union and Austria also stated that transport operations with third countries are still subject to bilateral relations which is shown by the quota of third country transport permits agreed between Austria and Latvia.

The Latvian side asked for a liberalization of this kind of transport. Austria could not accept this proposal for transport policy reasons.

So both sides confirmed a preliminary quota of 100 permits valid for third country transport operations also for 2016. These permits shall be valid until 31st of January of the following year.

Both delegations noted the approval of the Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System at the Council of Ministers held on 28 May, 2015 in Leipzig.

Furthermore the Latvian side asked the Austrian side about its position concerning the quality charter of the ITF. The Austrian side stated that these questions are not matter of the Mixed Commission and that Austrian policy in this context shall follow the same principles of transport policy as in the past.

### **TOP 4**

As for passenger transport on road the Austrian side stated once again that the legal basis for international road passenger transport between Austria and Latvia is the *acquis* of the European Union. There are four regular lines going from Latvia through Austrian territory, three of them



with stops in Austria. Regular passenger transport is functioning very successfully as well as occasional passenger transport.

Furthermore 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, e-mail: [daiga.ancane@atd.lv](mailto:daiga.ancane@atd.lv), phone: +37167686493, fax: +37167686490.

The Austrian delegation informed that the competent authority for regular international bus service is the Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, Radetzkystraße 2, A-1030 Vienna, phone: +43 1 711 62 - 65 5734, fax: +43 1 711 62 - 65 5866, e-mail: [st7@bmvit.gv.at](mailto:st7@bmvit.gv.at), homepage: [www.bmvit.gv.at](http://www.bmvit.gv.at).

The delegations highlighted the necessity of drafting regulatory framework for organizing regular passenger transport services by coach and bus which covers EU and non - EU countries. Informations on the current situation and positions with regard to two possible options in this respect, 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 (further – Regulation 181/2011) 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 by March 2017. At present only the Riga international bus station has been designated as a 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 Austrian delegation informed that there has been installed a new Agency dealing with passenger claims for all transport modes with the following homepage: [www.apf.gv.at](http://www.apf.gv.at).



At present Austria has designated the VIB (Vienna International Busterminal) in Vienna Erdberg, where assistance shall be provided during the opening hours of the terminal in accordance with Regulation No.181/2011.

Exception is made by national Austrian law based on article 2 paragraph 5 for regular services having an important part and at least one stop outside the European Union.

## **TOP 5**

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 licences are issued for the period of up to 10 years, but the validity of the certified copies of Community licences is one year and issued only for vehicles registered in Latvia. 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 delegations exchanged information on road charges in both countries.

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 starting as from July 1, 2014 Latvia introduced road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons. The Latvian side noted that the vignette is electronic. It is possible purchasing of it by a fuel card, a credit card, by mobile phone or by internet. The carriers are able to purchase a day, a week, a month and a year vignettes. An electronic database is used for control of the vignette system. The vignettes is issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc. The Latvian delegation



handed over an informative leaflet on road user charges (vignette) introduced on 01.07.2014 in Latvia.

The Austrian delegation informed licences for road goods transport in Austria are granted for 5 years, the copies of the licences do not contain the registration number of the vehicle.

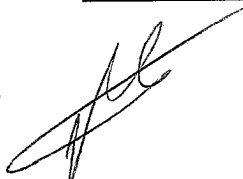
Furthermore the Austrian side informed that all information about charging of lorries or busses and other vehicles can be found on the homepage: [www.asfinag.at/maut](http://www.asfinag.at/maut).

The Latvian delegation informed that since Latvia joined the Schengen Agreement on 21st December, 2007 at the internal borders of Latvia with Lithuania and Estonia control authorities has been removed and, therefore, foreign drivers, when crossing the Latvian – EU internal border and performing transport operations for which the Latvian permits for international carriage of goods or occasional carriage of passengers are needed, should mark themselves in the column of a permit “date and stamp of the customs or border control authority” the place and date of border crossing. Without such records a permit is regarded as not valid.

The delegations exchanged information on competent authorities and bodies in the field of road transport in both countries.

The Latvian side informed on some changes in contacts of control authorities. 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](mailto:kanceleja.cpp@vp.gov.lv)).

The Austrian delegation informed about the competent institutions performing control of road transport operations, namely local police organes, asfinag (for charging) and local custom organes. The competent authority for general questions in the field of goods and passenger transport by road is the Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, Radetzkystraße 2, A-1030 Vienna, phone: +43 1 711 62 - 65 5734, fax: +43 1 711 62 - 65 5866, e-mail: [st7@bmvit.gv.at](mailto:st7@bmvit.gv.at), homepage: [www.bmvit.gv.at](http://www.bmvit.gv.at).



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: Gogoļa street 3, Riga, LV-1743; phone/fax: +371 67036412; email: [kadikis@lvceli.lv](mailto:kadikis@lvceli.lv) and [lvceli@lvceli.lv](mailto:lvceli@lvceli.lv)).

The competent authority issuing special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in the territory of Austria is the federal country of first entry of the lorry, applies can be submitted online to the authority of the concerned country directly. More detailed information can be found on the homepage: [www.sondertransporte.gv.at](http://www.sondertransporte.gv.at).

Upon the request of the Latvian delegation, the Austrian delegation provided information about contact on issues regarding the digital tachograph (and driver cards).

The contact address concerning issued cards:

in Latvia - Road Transport Administration, Valnu Street 30, LV-1050, Riga, Latvia, e-mail: [atd@atd.lv](mailto:atd@atd.lv), phone: +37167686462, fax: +37167686490

in Austria – department IV/ST4 – Kraftfahrwesen, Ministry of Transports, Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, Radetzkystraße 2, A-1030 Vienna, phone: +43 1 711 62 - 65 5734, fax: +43 1 711 62 - 65 5866, e-mail: [st4@bmvit.gv.at](mailto:st4@bmvit.gv.at), homepage: [www.bmvit.gv.at](http://www.bmvit.gv.at).

The Austrian delegation informed about the implementation of the Emission Class Identification Badge in the eastern parts of Austria (Lower Austria, Vienna, Upper Austria, Burgenland, Styria) since January 1st 2015 and handed over an information leaflet. It means that operations with lorries less than Euro 2 are not possible in these areas. To prove that they are better than Euro 2 it is obligatory to put respective badges on the lorries. These so-called Emission Class Identification Badges are obtainable at automobile clubs, automotive inspection services of the countries and at border stations.



Further information may be obtained at the following homepage:  
[www.oeamtc.at/portal/ig-luft-abgasplaketten-verordnung+2500+1387398](http://www.oeamtc.at/portal/ig-luft-abgasplaketten-verordnung+2500+1387398)

Both delegations exchanged informations about the extending of minimum wage law in Germany to foreign international road transport companies and stressed that they are awaiting for the outcome of the EU pilot case on minimum wage requirements in Germany.

Both delegations also discussed the ban introduced by Belgium and France to spend regular weekly 45-hour rest period in a vehicle and the very high fines applied in case of non-compliance.

The delegations exchanged information on their experience concerning exchange of messages using ERRU system.

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

The meeting was held in a very friendly and constructive atmosphere.

The Latvian delegation invited the Austrian delegation for the next meeting to Latvia in 2016. The Austrian side was pleased about the invitation to Latvia.

Done at Vienna on 21st of July 2015 in two originals in English language.

**For the Latvian Delegation**



Talivaldis Vectirans

**For the Austrian Delegation**



Bettina Huber