

AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian – Swiss Joint Committee meeting on International Road Transport Issues held in Riga, 25th – 26th August, 2011

The delegations agreed upon the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Switzerland.
2. Transport of goods by road.
3. International passenger transport.
4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation of the EU Road Transport Package.
5. Further development of the system of ECMT licences.
6. Miscellaneous.

The composition of the two delegations is annexed to the Agreed minutes.

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

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

According to the information presented by the Latvian side due to the tense economic situation in the year 2010 import and export activities with Switzerland have decreased both in tons and in millions of Euros. Among the major foreign trade partners of Latvia in the year 2009 in terms of value Switzerland was at the 7th position. The main Swiss export products to Latvia are chemicals, pharmaceutical products, machinery and textiles.

The Swiss delegation informed that in general the statistical data on trade volume corresponds to the information provided by the Latvian side and stated that most of the international goods transport operations between the two countries are performed by Latvian carriers. The detailed statistics, source of which being the heavy vehicle fee (HVF) collection system, was provided and it covered the number of heavy Latvian registered trucks having performed transport operations in the territory of Switzerland, their split in accordance with heavy vehicle emission classes and distances covered.

Both the delegations noted the increase in volume of trade by around 30% within the first half of 2011 in comparison with the relevant period of the last year.

The Latvian delegation presented the information related to organization of road transport operations in Latvia and to the structure of the fleet at disposal of carriers.

The delegations noted that a number of environmentally friendly vehicles have considerably increased within the last years and expressed hope that international road transport operations between Latvia and Switzerland will increase in the nearest future.

2. Transport of goods by road

It was noted that within the last year there have not been any problems as to performance of international goods transport operations by road between Latvia and Switzerland.

The Swiss delegation informed about the new HVF rates being adapted to inflation and going to be applied as from January 1, 2012:

Tariff category	Heavy vehicle emission class	Fee per ton-km
1	EURO 0, I and II	CHF 0,0310
	EURO II with approved particulate reduction filter system (corresponding PM EURO IV)	CHF 0,0279
2	EURO III	CHF 0,0269
	EURO III with approved particulate reduction filter system (corresponding PM EURO IV)	CHF 0,0242
3	EURO IV, V and VI	CHF 0,0228

In accordance with Decision 1/2011 of June 10, 2011 of the EU/CH Inland Transport Committee concerning the granting of a rebate on the performance-based fee on heavy goods vehicle traffic for vehicles of emission classes EURO II and III with an approved particulate reduction system the rebate of 10% will be granted only to vehicles with an entry in the vehicle registration

certificate or with an equivalent certificate from the national authorities confirming that the vehicle has been retrofitted with an approved particulate reduction system enabling compliance at least with the limit value for particulate emissions corresponding to the EURO IV emission class, namely a particulate mass of 0,02 g/kWh. According to Article 3 of the mentioned Decision the EU Member States shall transmit to the Swiss authorities a specimen of the entry of the particulate filter system in the vehicle registration certificate or equivalent certificate by September 30, 2011.

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 it was planned 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 in Latvia for 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.

3. International passenger transport.

After having exchanged views on organization of regular bus services between Latvia and Switzerland the delegations noted that the only operational regular line is Riga (LV) – Berne (CH) under the authorization SLV-084 issued to the Latvian registered company SIA “Norma –A” and valid from June 5, 2009 to June 4, 2014.

Other applications submitted previously by SIA “Norma –A” have been withdrawn.

Both the 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 in this respect, namely, drafting of OMNIBUS agreement or extension of the scope of INTERBUS agreement was exchanged.

4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation of EU Road Transport Package.

The Swiss delegation informed that according to the decision within the framework of the EU/CH Inland Transport Committee the EU Road Transport Package is going to be transposed in the Swiss law with the exception of cabotage clauses.

The Latvian side highlighted that all the legal acts necessary for implementation of the EU Road Transport Package as from December 4, 2011 are being finalized.

The delegations exchanged the views on progress with the development of national registers and contact points under the EU Road Transport Package. The Latvian side noted that for exchange of the information among national registers it has opted for using the TACHONET system.

5. Further development of the system of ECMT licences.

The delegations exchanged information on possible scenarios for the ECMT Multilateral Quota restructuring in 2013 and beyond. It was noted that both the countries support maintaining as a basis the conventional statistical sources, criteria and methodology for the quota distribution, supported the redistribution concept, the margin of which should be defined, and the approach that redistributed licenses should be used for EURO IV and EURO V vehicles fitted with digital tachographs.

The Swiss delegation presented the proposal for the range of activities to develop the system of ECMT licences, including, establishing of an ad hoc group for this purpose. The Latvian side supported this proposal.

6. Miscellaneous

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 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).

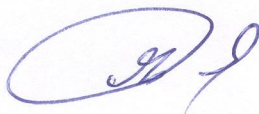
The delegations exchanged information on functioning of digital tachograph systems in both the countries. The Latvian delegation informed about the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EEC) Nr. 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council”

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

The Swiss delegation proposed to organize the next Joint Committee meeting in Switzerland in 2012, the exact time of which will be agreed by correspondence.

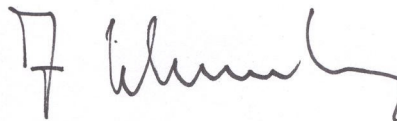
Done in Riga on 26th August, 2011, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation:



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For the Swiss delegation:



Mr. Jean – Claude Schneuwly