

Agreed Minutes
of the Latvian – Czech Joint Committee
Meeting on International Road Transport Issues
25th May, 2010, Riga

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Czech Republic;
2. Third country goods transport operations under Article 6 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Czech Republic on the International Road Transport;
3. Passenger transport;
4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation Regulations of the Road Transport Package;
5. Miscellaneous.

The composition of the two delegations is annexed to the Agreed Minutes (Annex 1).

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

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both the countries and organization of road transport sector in their countries. The Latvian delegation presented the information on passenger and goods transport by road in Latvia as well as information on international trade between Czech Republic and Latvia. The Latvian side noted that import from Czech Republic to Latvia year by year increase, but last two years import to Latvia decreased.

The Czech delegation informed that statistical data from the Latvian side are similar.

The Latvian side informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2009 in comparison with the previous year the fleet involved in international carriage has decreased approximately by 2500 units and at the beginning of this year it comprised approximately 10 000 vehicles. At the beginning of the year 2010 the number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations was around 4 300.

The Czech delegation informed that in the year 2008 in Czech Republic were registered around 11 500 international goods carriers owning 71 000 heavy

goods vehicles, as well as 1660 international passenger carriers owning 6200 passenger vehicles. Starting from the year 2009 both the number of goods and passenger carriers has decreased to correspondingly 10 500 and 1400 carriers.

Both sides agreed that way of developing of organization of road transport sector in both countries are similar.

2. Third country goods transport operations under Article 6 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Czech Republic on the International Road Transport

Both sides exchanged information about use of permits for goods transport in their countries and taking into account that number of permits issued is low the Latvian side proposed a liberalization of goods transport to/from third countries. The Czech delegation stated that number of permits issued is insignificant.

Both sides agreed that liberalization of goods transport to/from third countries will be applied from the 1st January, 2011.

3. Passenger transport

The delegations discussed the functioning of regular passenger lines between both countries. It was mentioned that between both countries are four regular lines. The delegations exchanged information on procedure of introduction of amendments in routes and schedules.

Both sides exchanged views about the Draft OMNIBUS Agreement which foresees simplified procedure of issuing permits for regular passenger lines.

The delegations exchanged viewpoints on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No. 2006/2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws.

Both sides noted that the necessity to denounce the CVR Convention could be assessed after the above mentioned Regulation comes into force. Each country has to follow this procedure according to their national legislation.

The representative of the Latvian Association of Passenger Carriers proposed to develop bilateral cooperation between the associations of international passenger carriers of Latvia and Czech Republic.

The Czech side agreed with the proposal of the Latvian side in order to facilitate this cooperation.

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

The delegations exchanged information on the implementation of the requirements of the Road Transport Package, particularly, establishment of national registers.

The Czech side noted that implementation of the provisions of the Regulations requires multiple changes in their national legislation.

Both sides discussed cabotage transport operations in the framework of Road Transport Package.

5. Miscellaneous.

The Czech delegation forwarded to the Latvian delegation information on road toll rates in the Czech Republic which are being applied from the 1st January, 2010.

The Latvian delegation informed that in accordance with the 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 is planning to introduce road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3,5 tons starting from the year 2012. It has been decided that the vignette will be electronic. It could be purchased by fuel card, credit card, by mobile phone or by internet. It is foreseen 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 day, week, month and 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 side inquired whether the driving restrictions listed on the IRU website for heavy goods transport in the territory of the Czech Republic are in force. The Czech side approved that the restrictions are still being applied.

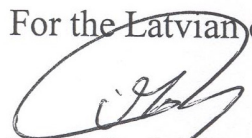
The Czech side asked whether there were any changes in limitations for vehicle weight and dimensions. The Latvian side informed that all limitations of vehicle weight and dimensions in Latvia have been introduced in accordance with the requirements of the European Union.

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

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

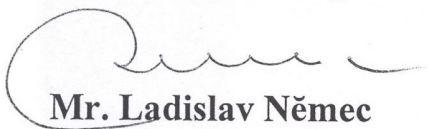
Done at Riga on 25th May, 2010, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation



Mr. Māris Pēkalis

For the Czech delegation



Mr. Ladislav Němec

Annex 1**The list of participants****The Latvian delegation:**

Mr. Māris Pēkalis	Head of the delegation, Deputy Director of Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Ms. Annija Novikova	Senior Officer, Road Transport Division, Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Aivars Olants	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Co-ordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Ms. Daiga Ancāne	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Co-ordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Alvis Keziks	Expert, International Road Carriage Co-ordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Imants Zālītis	Director of Latvian Association of Passenger Carriers

The Czech delegation:

Mr. Ladislav Němec	Head of delegation, Ministry of Transport, Director of Road Transport Department
Ms. Kamila Šrolerová	Ministry of Transport, Road Transport Department, Passenger Transport
Ms. Renáta Pilná Kastnerová	Ministry of Transport, Road Transport Department, Goods Transport
Ms. Halina Lapiņa	Interpreter, Czech Republic Embassy