

**Agreed Minutes
of the Latvian – Georgian Joint Committee
Meeting on International Road Transport
29th - 30th November, 2012, Riga**

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Georgia.
2. Goods transport operations under Article 8 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Georgia on the international transport by road.
3. Passenger transport.
4. Miscellaneous.

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

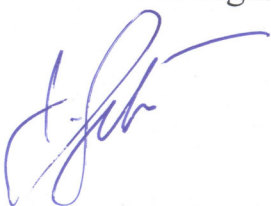
1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Georgia

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both countries and about the organization of the road transport sectors in each of them. The Latvian delegation presented information on passenger and goods transport by road in Latvia, as well as information on international trade between Latvia and Georgia.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2011 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in EUR to Georgia increased by 11,3% and the import volume from Georgia increased by 26,9%. At the same time export of goods to Georgia exceeds import more than three times.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2011 in comparison with the year 2010 has increased by 14,6% and makes up to 19,21 million EUR. Conversely, total trade turnover between both countries during the 1st half of the year 2012 in comparison with the same period of previous year has increased by 6,43%.

The Latvian side stated that the main products exported from Latvia to Georgia are chemical products, foodstuffs and machinery but the main products imported from Georgia are foodstuffs, fruit and vegetables.



The Georgian side informed that their statistical data on trade between Georgia and Latvia reveal similar tendencies.

The Latvian side informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2011 in comparison with the previous year the fleet involved in international carriage of goods has increased by 1593 units and reached 12 433 units. At the beginning of 2012 the number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations was 4224.

The Latvian delegation also informed about the functions of the Road Transport Administration.

The Georgian delegation presented the information on the structure of the vehicle fleet and noted that in 2011 there were about 2000 companies involved in international goods transport using bilateral authorizations and 178 companies involved in international goods transport operations under ECMT permit system regime. In total in the year 2011 there were 20000 heavy trucks (EURO I – V) and 25000 buses in operation.

In 2012, the number of carriers involved in the ECMT system increased by 23%, while fleet growth was 32%.

The delegations expressed their satisfaction on increase in trade volume between the two countries, especially, during the last year.

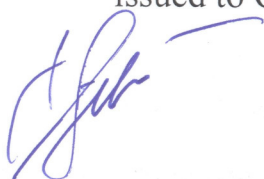
Both sides expressed hope that the international road transport operations between Latvia and Georgia will increase in the nearest future.

2. Goods transport operations under Article 8 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Georgia on the international transport by road.

Both sides exchanged information on the usage of permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

The Latvian delegation informed that during this year 15 Georgian permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations and 12 permits valid for goods transport to/from third countries have already been issued to Latvian carriers but in the year 2011 the number of issued permits was 23 and 14 respectively.

The Georgian delegation informed that 9 Latvian bilateral permits have been issued to Georgian hauliers by November 29, 2012



Both sides agreed to establish final quota for the year 2012:

- 100 permits valid for bilateral and transit goods transport operations;
- 50 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

The Latvian delegation proposed to introduce from the year 2013 universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and transport operations to/from third countries.

The delegations agreed upon the following preliminary quota for 2013:

- 100 permits valid for bilateral and transit goods transport operations;
- 50 universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and transport operations to/from third countries.

The Latvian side handed over the Georgian side the following permits for the year 2013:

- 100 permits valid for bilateral and transit goods transport operations (AD 214501 – AD 214600);
- 50 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries (AD 214601 – AD 214650).

Both delegations agreed that performing transport operations under universal permits carriers can choose any type of transport operation indicated on the permit when performing journey outwards and the same when performing journey inwards.

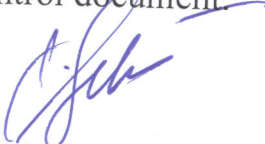
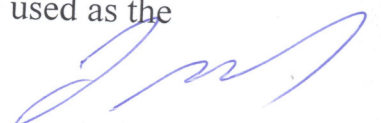
All permits of the current year shall be valid till 31st of January of the following year.

3. Passenger transport

Both delegations noted that there are no regular bus lines between Latvia and Georgia.

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, email: daiga.ancane@atd.lv, phone: +37167686493, fax: +37167686481

The delegations agreed that performing occasional passenger transport operations between both countries the INTERBUS waybill should be used as the control document

The Georgian side informed that they are under preparation to join INTERBUS Agreement.

4.Miscellaneous

Both delegations exchanged information on licensing systems and issuing permits in their countries.

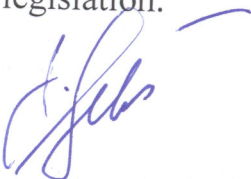
The Latvian side informed that according to the European Union Road Transport Package provisions in Latvia the Community licenses are issued for the period of up to 10 years, but the validity of the certified copies of Community licenses is one year. A certified copy contains the registration number 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 Latvian delegation explained that the certified copies of the Community licenses are issued only for vehicles registered in Latvia.

The Georgian side informed that licensing systems in Georgia cover only international passenger and goods carriers.

The delegations exchanged information on implementation of the digital tachograph system in their countries. The Georgian side informed that Georgia is a party of AETR on condition that provides two year transitional period for introduction of the digital tachograph system as well as there is an intention to join ADR Agreement in the nearest future.

The Latvian side drew attention to the fact that since Latvia's joining the Schengen Agreement on 21 December, 2007, the internal border of Latvia and EU Member States (Lithuania, Estonia) has been opened. Taking into consideration that fact starting as from 01.01.2008 foreign drivers, when crossing the Latvian – EU internal border and performing transport operations for which the Latvian permits for international carriage of goods are needed, should mark and sign themselves in the corresponding column of permits the place and date of border crossing. Without such records a permit will be regarded as not valid. At the Latvian border crossing points with Russia and Belarus (being the EU external border) the control of permits will be performed by the customs authorities.

The Georgian delegation informed that entering in Georgia via Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions is considered as a violation of provisions of the national legislation.



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 is planning to introduce road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons starting as from 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 Georgian side informed that there is no road tolling system in their country but when performing transit operations by a loaded vehicle through the territory of Georgia a carrier is obliged to pay the fee in amount of 200 Georgian Lari (GEL) at the border crossing point.

The Latvian side informed that starting as from April 1, 2011 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).

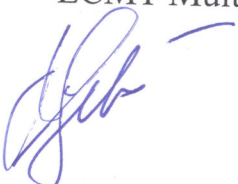
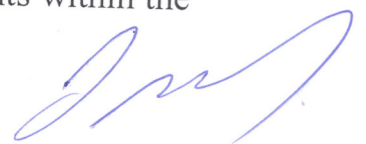
The Georgian delegation informed that in Georgia road transport control, including control of maximum permissible weights and dimensions is performed by the police and custom authorities on border crossing points.

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 Georgian delegation informed that in Georgia when a carrier performs carriage of abnormal loads it should be escorted. Applications for such escorting service should be submitted to the Ministry of Interior of Georgia in advance (address: Gulua street 10, 0114, Georgia, Phone +995322935350; +995322418868).

Both sides stressed the significance of the ECMT Multilateral Quota permits for their carriers.

The delegations exchanged the viewpoints on the latest developments within the ECMT Multilateral Quota System.

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

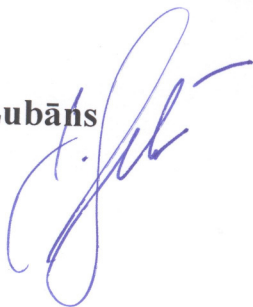
Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Georgian delegation invited the Latvian delegation in Georgia for the next Joint Committee meeting in 2013. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

Done at Riga, on 30th November, 2012, in two originals in the English language.

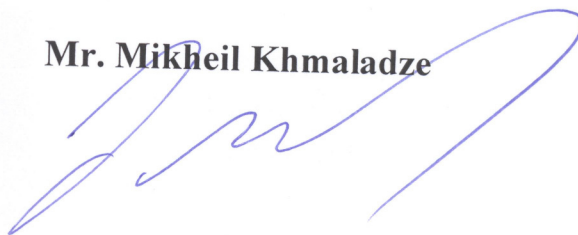
For the Latvian delegation

Mr. Andris Lubāns



For the Georgian delegation

Mr. Mikheil Khmaladze



The list of participants

The Latvian delegation:

Mr. Andris Lubāns	Director of Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of delegation
Mr. Māris Pēkalis	Deputy Director of Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Ms. Annija Novikova	Senior Officer, Road Transport Division, Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Andulis Židkovs	Member of the Board, Road Transport Administration
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. Alvis Keziks	Expert, International Road Carriage Co-ordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Valdis Trēziņš	President of Road Carriers Association „Latvijas Auto”

The Georgian delegation:

Mr. Mikheil Khmaladze	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Land Transport Agency - Director, Head of delegation
Mr. Zaza Avaliani	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Land Transport Agency - Head of Road Transport Department
Mr. Shalva Uriadmkopeli	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Land Transport Agency – Head of Safety Department
Mr. Gigusha Esiava	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Land Transport Agency – Deputy of Monitoring Department