

**Agreed Minutes
of the Latvian – Croatian Joint Committee
Meeting on International Road Transport
3th - 4th October, 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 Croatia.
2. Goods transport operations under Article 8 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the international road transport by road.
3. Passenger transport.
4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation of the Regulations from 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 Croatia

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 Croatia and Latvia.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2011 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in tons to Croatia increased by 30,4% but the import volume from Croatia decreased by 17,8%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2011 makes up to 8,5 million EUR however it has decreased by 9,3% in comparison with the year 2010. Conversely total trade turnover between both countries during 1st half of the year 2012 in comparison with the same period of previous year has increased by 17,9% and reached 4,9 million EUR.

The Croatian side informed that their statistical data is similar.

The Latvian side stated that the main products exported from Latvia to Croatia are glass products, ceramic products and machinery.



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

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 Croatian delegation informed that in 2012 there are about 11000 vehicles and 2800 licensed goods transport operators registered for operating in the field of international goods transport in Croatia. It was noted that a half of goods transport vehicles is EURO III vehicles and 3000 are EURO V vehicles in international passenger transport sector of Croatia there are around 600 licensed operators.

Both sides concluded that tendencies of organization of road transport sector in both countries are similar and expressed hope that the international road transport operations between Latvia and Croatia will increase in the nearest future.

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

2. Goods transport operations under Article 8 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the International Road Transport

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 17 Croatian 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 49.

The Croatian side noted that 26 Latvian permits valid for goods transport to/from third countries have been issued during the last year and 4 Latvian permits valid for goods transport to/from third countries already have been issued to Croatian carriers this year.

Both sides agreed to establish final quota for the year 2012: 100 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

The delegations also agreed upon the preliminary quota for 2013, i.e. 100 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

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



3. Passenger transport

The Latvian delegation 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.

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 Croatian side informed that performing occasional transport operations in transit through Croatia is subject to possession of the INTERBUS waybill on board of the vehicle until accession of Croatia to the EU.

Delegations expressed that occasional transport of passengers and tourism between both countries is well developed.

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



The Croatian delegation informed that they are working on the implementation EU legislation in their national legislation.

The Croatian side informed about cabotage operations and noted that there will be transitional period 2+2 years after joining the EU. First 2 years cabotage operations will be prohibited bilaterally for Croatian carriers and for EU carriers, but next 2 years there will be opportunity for bilateral negotiations concerning liberalization of cabotage operations.

Both delegations exchanged information concerning the implementation of the National Electronic Registers.

The Latvian side noted that for exchange of the information among different national registers they have opted for using the TACHONET system pattern.

The Latvian side informed that according to the 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 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.

5. Miscellaneous

The delegations exchanged information on functioning of the digital tachograph system in their 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 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 Croatian side informed about tolled road network in their country. There are four road operators and it is problematic to implement vignette on all Croatian roads. More detailed information can be found: www.hac.hr and www.hak.hr.

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 Croatian delegation informed that there are 2 control authorities in Croatia one of them is police and other is the Road Transport Inspection.

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 Croatia delegation informed that in Croatia issuing of special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads is organized via forwarding companies.

The Latvian side informed that for organization of border crossing at the external EU border crossing points in Latvia, it is planned to introduce electronic reservation system. The said system is going to be extended



exclusively to trucks. Introduction is planned on 1 January 2013 at the border crossing points with Russia and in 2014 with Belarus.

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

The delegations exchanged the viewpoints on the latest development 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 Croatian delegation invited the Latvian delegation in Croatia for the next Joint Committee meeting in 2013. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

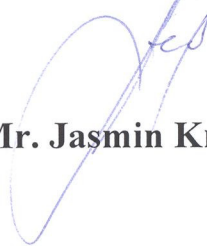
Done at Riga on 4th October, 2012, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation



Mr. Māris Pēkalis

For the Croatian delegation



Mr. Jasmin Krizmanić

The list of participants

The Latvian delegation:

Mr. Māris Pēkalis	Deputy Director of Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of delegation
Ms. Annija Novikova	Senior Officer, Road Transport Division, Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Normunds Narvaišs	Chairman 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 Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Valdis Trēziņš	President of Road Carriers Association „Latvijas Auto”
Mr. Ivo Ošenieks	Director of Latvian Association of Passenger Carriers

The Croatian delegation:

Mr. Jasmin Krizmanić	Assistant Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, head of the delegation
Mr. Ante Neveščanin	Head of Road Transport Department, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure
Ms. Ljiljana Nevistić	senior adviser, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure
Mr. Dario Soldo	representative of Croatian Chamber of Commerce