

## **AGREED MINUTES**

### **of the Latvian – Montenegrin Transport Experts meeting held in Riga, 20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May, 2008**

The delegations have agreed upon the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of road transport between Latvia and Montenegro;
2. Quota of permits for 2008 and preliminary for 2009;
3. Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Montenegro on International Transport by Road;
4. Miscellaneous.

The composition of the two delegations is annexed to the agreed minutes (Annex 1).

#### **1. Exchange of information regarding the development of road transport between Latvia and Montenegro**

The Montenegrin delegation informed on the adaption of the national legislation to the acquis of the European Union and the Interim Agreement on Trade and Trade-Related Matters between the European Community and the Republic of Montenegro, which was entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2008. It foresees liberalization of transit transport, which means that in case that the carrier from EU transits through the territory of Montenegro to the EU Member State as well as when the Montenegrin carrier transits through the territory the EU Member State to the territory of non-EU Member State, no transit transport permits are required.



Both sides exchanged information on the structure of road transport administration bodies in Latvia and Montenegro.

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

The Montenegrin side informed on the volume of trade between Latvia and Montenegro, including the total turnover of 77 520 EUR in 2007. The main export products are iron and steel as well as graphic industry products, while import from Latvia is mainly construction materials and electrical equipment.

The Latvian side informed that the number of transport companies as well as vehicles involved in international goods transport operations has doubled in the last four years.

Both delegations expressed their hope that international road transport operations between Latvia and Montenegro will develop after the signing of the bilateral agreement.





## **2. Quota of permits for 2008 and preliminary for 2009**

In order to start performing of international road transport operations between the two countries before the signing of the bilateral agreement, the delegations agreed to exchange international road transport permits.

The delegations agreed on the following quota of goods transport permits for the year 2008 and the same amount of permits preliminary for the year 2009:

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

The permits issued for the current year are valid till the end of January of the next year.

## **3. Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Montenegro on International Transport by Road**

The delegations agreed to continue work on the coordination of the Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Montenegro on International Transport by Road on the basis of the version that was elaborated during the Montenegrin – Latvian Transport Experts Meeting from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2006, in Podgorica.

The Montenegrin delegation drew the attention to the fact that in accordance with the constitution the name of their country should be written as “Montenegro” instead of the previous “Republic of Montenegro”. Therefore these changes will be made throughout the document.

Also, it was agreed that in Article 7 paragraph 1 of the Draft Agreement the transit transport of goods through the territories of both Contracting Parties will be carried out without permits. These provisions will come into force regarding the road haulage between Latvia and Montenegro after the signing of the bilateral agreement on International Transport by Road between the two countries.

After the discussion of the draft agreement the delegations agreed on and initialed the Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Montenegro on International Transport by Road.

Both sides exchanged information on the procedure of preparation and approval of bilateral agreements in their countries.

The amended draft agreement is annexed to the agreed minutes (Annex 2).

## **4. Miscellaneous**

The Latvian delegation informed that according to Latvia's joining to the Schengen Agreement starting from 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2007, the internal border of Latvia and EU Member States (Lithuania, Estonia) has been opened.

The Latvian delegation informed that starting 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 themselves in the column of permit "*date and stamp of the customs or border control authority*" the place and date of border crossing and sign this entry. 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, as previously.

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

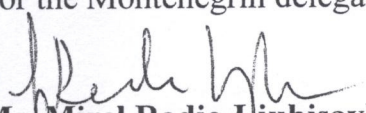
The Montenegrin delegation proposed to organize the next Transport Experts meeting in Podgorica in 2009, the exact time of which will be agreed by correspondence.

Done in Riga on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2008, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation

  
**Mr. Jūlijs Vaitužs**

For the Montenegrin delegation

  
**Ms. Mirel Radic-Ljubisavljevic**



*Composition of the delegations:**Montenegrin delegation:*

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Ms. Mirel Radic-Ljubisavljevic</b> | - Assistant Minister, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Telecommunications of Montenegro, Head of Delegation |
| <b>Ms. Vesna Jankovic</b>             | - Head of Road Transport Department, Traffic Directorate   |
| <b>Mr. Branislav Vujotic</b>          | - Main Inspector for Road Transport, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Telecommunications of Montenegro      |
| <b>Mr. Miroslav Masic</b>             | - Adviser to the Assistant Minister, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Telecommunications of Montenegro      |
| <b>Mr. Sreten Mrvaljevic</b>          | - Adviser for Transport, Traffic Directorate   |
| <b>Ms. Milica Mirkovic</b>            | - Interpreter, Traffic Directorate   |

*Latvian delegation:*

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Mr. Jūlijs Vaitužs</b>     | - Deputy Director of Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport   |
| <b>Mr. Aivars Olants</b>      | - Head of Foreign Relations and European Affairs Division, Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport         |
| <b>Ms. Annija Novikova</b>    | - Senior Officer, Foreign Relations and European Affairs Division, Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport |
| <b>Mr. Raimonds Aronietis</b> | - Transport Market Analyst, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration        |