

**PROTOCOL**  
**of the Joint Committee meeting on international road transport between**  
**Romania and Latvia**

The Joint Committee meeting on international road transport between Romania and Latvia was held on 14-15 May 2024 in Tulcea (Crişan), Romania, in accordance with the *Agreement between the Government of Latvia and the Government of Romania on International Road Transport*, dated on 19 March 1993 (hereinafter – the Agreement).

*THE COMPOSITION OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS IS MENTIONED IN ANNEX.*

The two delegations agreed to discuss the following subjects:

- 1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Romania and Latvia.**
- 2. Road transport of goods and liberalization of third country operations.**
- 3. Carriage of passengers.**
- 4. Miscellaneous**
  - 4.1. cooperation between the licensing authorities of both countries;**
  - 4.2. exchange of information and positions of both countries on implementation of Mobility Package I;**
  - 4.3. exchange of information and positions of the two countries on the agreements between EU and Ukraine and Republic of Moldova on the road transport of goods;**
  - 4.4. exchange of information and positions of the countries on the latest developments related to the ECMT Quota;**
  - 4.5. exchange of information on competent authorities.**

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

The two delegations exchanged statistical information concerning trade relations between the two 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 Romania and Latvia.

The Latvian delegation noted that during the year 2023 export volume from Latvia to Romania reached 58.6 million EUR, and compared to the previous year it has risen by 1.3%, while import from Romania has exceeded 62 million EUR thus decreasing by 3.1%. Total trade turnover between both countries decreased by 1%, totaling 121 million EUR during 2023.

The main types of goods imported from Romania are: pharmaceutical products, tobacco, machinery, and mechanical appliances.

Exports from Latvia to Romania include beverages, spirits, vinegar, electrical machinery and equipment, wood, and articles of wood.

The Romanian delegation highlighted that their data on the trade exchange volume shows the same figures and tendencies.

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of their heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that the number of licensed Latvian operators involved in international goods transport operations has dropped by 0.2% in 2024 compared to the previous year, reaching 4726 operators. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods has reached 15338 units. Additionally, the Latvian delegation noted the increase in the number of vehicles corresponding to EURO V and EURO VI standards amounting to 82% of the entire fleet involved in international operations.

The Romanian delegation presented the information on the structure of the vehicle fleet and noted that now there are about 47.448 companies involved in international goods transport. The number of vehicles involved in the international carriage of goods is almost 220.000 units.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the development of trade between the two countries and expressed hope that the trade turnover and the number of international goods transport operations between Romania and Latvia will continue an upward trend in the future.

## **2. Road transport of goods and liberalization of third country operations.**

International transport operations of goods by road within the EU territory are performed on the basis of the EU legislation.

The only road transport category performed on the basis of permits is third country operations. These permits are granted in accordance with the Agreement.

In the year 2024 the exchanged quota (settled in 2007) is 50 permits.

The two sides noted that the situation in the road transport market has changed dramatically within the last years. It was also underlined that compliance with the EU road transport related legislation ensures level playing field for transport operators of both countries and therefore provides basis for liberalization of third country operations.

After having analyzed the implementation of the Agreement and considering point 2 of Article 7 of the Agreement which empowers the Joint Committee under Article 15 of the Agreement to make additions to the list of transports exempted from permit requirements it was agreed to liberalize all transports from or to third countries and to enforce this measure as from 1st September, 2024.

Both delegations undertook to inform their control authorities on the above decision in due time.

## **3. Carriage of passengers**

It was noted that at present, between Romania and Latvia, there are not any Romanian or any other-EU countries transport operators authorized to operate regular passenger service by bus.

Concerning the regular passenger services from Romania to other destinations, transiting the territory of Latvia in the "close doors" regime, there is one application under review.

The two sides exchange information on the international regular bus service authorization system in each country and on the other aspects related to the performance of the regular passenger services in their territories.

The delegations also updated the information on the international regular bus service related competent authorities in each country:

In Romania, the competent authority is:

Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Directorate of Road Transport:

Tel: + 40374808640, email: [secretariat.dtr@mt.ro](mailto:secretariat.dtr@mt.ro)

In Latvia, the competent authority is:

Road Transport Administration, 30 Valnu Street, Riga, LV-1050:

Tel: +371 67686458; +371 67686493, email: [info@atd.lv](mailto:info@atd.lv)

The two sides exchanged information concerning organization of international occasional passenger services within the current geopolitical situation as well as on usage of the control documents in case of these services – passenger waybills.

Also, the two sides clarified on the local trips which can be performed by the transport operators in case of the occasional passenger services performed for non-resident citizens.

#### **4. Miscellaneous**

##### **4.1. cooperation between the licensing authorities of both countries**

The two delegations had a fruitful discussion on the taxation systems implemented now in the territories of the two states and on the perspectives in this field, having an exchange of „good practices” in taxation policy of each of the two states.

The Romanian delegation underlined its desire to develop the e-CMR project with the interested states and asked the Latvian delegation to analyze the opportunity for being part of this project.

Taking into consideration that Latvia has a huge experience in the field of digitalization of the road transport (project e-FTI Gate Analysis), the Romanian delegation asked the Latvian delegation to provide the details of the project and the suitable way in which Romania could be part to it.

The two delegations emphasized the huge problem they have in the road transport market by the lack of professional drivers; in this regard, they had a fruitful exchange of „good practices” on the licensing of the road transport activity (including forwarding agents and professional drivers) by the competent authorities from the two countries, and agreed to improve the cooperation in this regard.

##### **4.2. exchange of information and positions of both countries on implementation of Mobility Package I**

The two delegations underlined the strong impact of Mobility Package 1 on the national road transport market. For the Romanian side, the introduction of Mobility Package increased the operational costs by 27%, and decreased income by 24%, being a strong commitment of the transport company to open a subsidiary in Western European Countries. In addition, the introduction of Smart Tachograph 2 (G2V2) increased the costs for road transport companies.

It was noted that some provisions of Mobility Package I are not in the line with the EU single market functioning and European Green Deal principles.

#### **4.3. exchange of information and positions of the two countries on the agreements between EU and Ukraine and Republic of Moldova on the road transport of goods**

The two sides appreciate that in the actual circumstances, the prolonging of the two agreements is necessary and they support this decision. They appreciate that, despite the huge impact of the two agreements on their national road transport markets, the prolonging of these agreements for 18 months, without any additional, could be accepted.

#### **4.4. exchange of information and positions of the countries on the latest developments related to the ECMT Quota**

The two sides agreed to have a common position on the next steps of the development of the ECMT quota in the future.

It was noted that geographical expansion of the ECMT area is one of issues where both countries are very interested in.

The two delegations underlined the importance of the geographical expansion of the ECMT, particularly to non-EU countries.

Being in the same area, faced to the new challenges of the exchange of the flow of the market, the delegations underlined that the advantages of the ECMT licence system can lead to better usage of the fleet and the efficiency of road transport activity.

They also agreed to maintain their positive position concerning the abolishment of any restrictions and reservations in the ECMT Quota, thus facilitating attractiveness of the ECMT licence system in the road transport markets.

Also, the two sides noted the excellent position of the two sides in all themes of the ECMT policy and agree to strengthen cooperation in this regard.

#### **4.5. exchange of information on competent authorities**

The delegations exchanged information on competent authorities and bodies in the field of road transport in both countries.

The Latvian side pointed out that road transport control functions inside the country are executed by the Bureau of Traffic Supervision and Coordination of Traffic Safety Directorate of Main Directorate of State Police (address: 10B Ezermalas Street, Riga, LV-1009, phone: +371 67208143; email: sdp@vp.gov.lv).

The Romanian delegation informed that in Romania road transport control, including control of maximum permissible weights and dimensions is performed by the Road Transport Inspectorate (ISCTR) phone: 0040213136320, email address: relatii-publice@isctr-mt.ro and National Company for Road Infrastructure Administration (CNAIR SA) phone: 0040212643424, email address: aci@andnet.ro.

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: 7/9 Torna Street, Room 203, Riga, LV-1050; phone: +371 67036412; email: [atlaujas@lvceli.lv](mailto:atlaujas@lvceli.lv)).

The Romanian delegation informed that special permits for the transportation of dangerous, bulky and heavy goods in Romania are issued by the National Company for Road Infrastructure Administration (CNAIR SA) phone: 0040212643424, email address: [aci@andnet.ro](mailto:aci@andnet.ro).

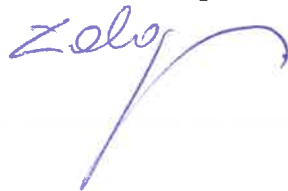
The Parties expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting.

The Latvian delegation invited the Romanian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting in Latvia. The date for the meeting will be settled by correspondence.

This Protocol done on May 15, 2024 in Tulcea (Crişan), in two original copies in the English language.

**For the Romanian Side**

**Mrs. Adriana Kalapis**



**For the Latvian Side**

**Mrs. Annija Novikova**

