

## AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian - Swedish Joint Committee meeting on International Road  
Transport held on April 14, 2015 in Riga, Latvia

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding road transport and trade volumes between Latvia and Sweden.
2. Transport of goods by road, including third country transport and possible liberalization of these operations.
3. Exchange of views regarding the development of the ECMT multilateral quota.
4. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in road transport.
5. EU related issues, including implementation of the Road Transport Package, functioning of the Electronic Register of Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU), evaluation of directive 92/106.
6. Miscellaneous (road user charges, control of road transport operations, etc.).

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

### **1. Exchange of information regarding road transport and trade volumes between Latvia and Sweden**

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 Sweden.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2014 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in EUR to Sweden increased by 11.2% and the import volume from Sweden decreased by 6.3%. Conversely in tons export volume increased by 5.3%, but import volume decreased by 1%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2014 increased by 3% and constituted 985.7 million EUR. At the same time trade turnover in tons increased by 4.8%.



In EUR the export of goods from Latvia to Sweden exceeds import from Sweden to Latvia 1.32 times but in tons export from Latvia exceeds import of goods from Sweden more than 12 times. It means more valuable goods are imported from Sweden.

The Latvian side informed that main types of goods imported from Sweden are machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical equipment (23.8%), vehicles (15.1%) as well as pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material (10.3%). Main types of goods exported to Sweden are wood and articles of wood (36.1%), base metals and articles of base metal (11.9%).

The Swedish delegations noted that statistical data about annual international trade turnover volumes is quite similar.

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2014, in comparison with the previous year, the fleet involved in international carriage of goods has decreased by 1,4% and reached 14309 units. The number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations decrease by 3.5% and at the end of the year there were 3949 such companies.

The Swedish delegation outlined the recent general tendencies in their international goods transport market and fleet.

Both sides expressed hope that the trade turnover and the number of international goods transport operations between Latvia and Sweden will increase in the nearest future.

## **2. Transport of goods by road, including third country transport and possible liberalization of these operations**

It was noted that in the year 2015 the following type and number of permits have been exchanged which shall be considered as the final quota for this year:

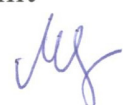
- 100 permits for the vehicles first registered before 01.01.1993;
- 200 permits for the vehicles first registered after 01.01.1993.

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

The Latvian delegation informed that within the year 2014 in comparison with 2009 the number of Swedish third country permits used by Latvian carriers has decreased from year to year.

The Swedish side informed about the usage of Latvian permits valid for goods transport to/from third countries by Swedish carriers, indicating that annually only few permits are issued.

Taking into account that usage of these permits is very low the Latvian side proposed to liberalize third country transport operations by abolishing the permit



regime or at least to abolish subdividing of the quota, stressing that vehicles first registered before 01.01.1993 are hardly used in international goods transport operations.

The Swedish side promised to examine these proposals more thoroughly and to give answer in the written form as soon as possible.

If either of the above mentioned proposals finds support the quota system will be abolished or the preliminary quota for the year 2016 shall be established in amount of 300 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries without any restrictions as to ecological categories, but, if not, the preliminary quota shall be the same as in year 2015.

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

### **3. Exchange of views regarding the development of the ECMT multilateral quota**

The Latvian delegation expressed its regret that at the ITF Road Transport Group the agreement on the Quality Charter covering link to the ECMT Multilateral Quota usage and elimination of existing restrictions has not been reached. It was stressed that the further functioning of the quota is of high importance. The Swedish delegation shared the view that the existing restrictions constitutes a problem.

It was also underlined that the approval of the Quality Charter at the Ministerial Meeting in Leipzig in May 2015 is going to be an important step in further development of the ECMT Multilateral Quota system.

### **4. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in road transport**

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, e-mail: [daiga.ancane@atd.lv](mailto:daiga.ancane@atd.lv), phone: +37167686493, fax: +37167686490.

The Swedish delegation informed that the competent authority for regular international bus service is Transportstyrelsen, Väg- och järnvägsavdelningen, Trafikföretagsenheten (address: 70198 Örebro, Sweden; website: [www.transportstyrelsen.se](http://www.transportstyrelsen.se); e-mail [kontakt@transportstyrelsen.se](mailto:kontakt@transportstyrelsen.se)).

The delegations highlighted the 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.




With regard to the implementation of Regulation 181/2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 the Latvian delegation informed that responsible for the enforcement of this Regulation is the Road Transport Administration and it is also dealing with personal claims of bus passengers. Latvia has opted to implement exceptions for domestic regular services and bus lines to third countries. At present only the Riga international bus station has been designated as a terminal where assistance for disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility can be provided. Carriers in Latvia already have special trainings regarding assistance provided to disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility and disability.

The Swedish delegation informed that bus passenger right related issues are under the competence of the Ministry of Justice and the appeal institution is the Consumer Protection Agency. There are ongoing discussions in Sweden regarding better arranging of bus services for disabled persons. Additional information on the subject is going to be provided at the later stage.

#### **5. EU related issues, including implementation of the Road Transport Package Regulations, functioning of the Electronic Register of Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU), evaluation of directive 92/106**

Both delegations exchanged information on the existing systems for access to the profession in their countries.

The Latvian side informed that according to the European Union Road Transport Package provisions in Latvia the Community licences are issued for the period of up to 10 years, but the validity of the certified copies of Community licences is one year and issued only for vehicles registered in Latvia. 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 side expressed its concerns about the extending of minimum wage law in Germany to the foreign international road transport companies and administrative barriers related to that as well as about interpreting the Directive on posting of workers in a similar way in some other western countries. The Latvian delegation expressed concerns about the ban introduced by Belgium and France to spend regular weekly 45-hour rest period in a vehicle and about proportionality of sanctions thereof.

It was pointed out by the representative of the Swedish Bus and Coach Federation that the German approach to transposing of the Directive on posting






of workers has caused a considerable administrative burden for the international road transport companies.

Both delegations shared the viewpoint that the outcome of the pilot cases on the minimum wage in Germany and regular weekly 45-hour rest ban in a vehicle by France and Belgium initiated by EU Commission is going to be of great importance.

The delegations exchanged information on their experience concerning exchange of messages using ERRU system.

It was noted that the work concerning categorization of infringements is being continued within the ERRU working group organized by the European Commission.

Upon the request of the Swedish delegation the Latvian delegation provided information on the main activities in the field of the road transport under the Latvian Presidency in the EU.

The views were exchanged concerning the plans of the EU Commission to simplify Road Transport Package as well as on certain aspects of performing combined transport operations.

## **6. Miscellaneous (road user charges, control of road transport operations, etc.)**

The delegations exchanged information on competent authorities and bodies in the field of road transport in both 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 starting as from July 1, 2014 Latvia introduced road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons. The Latvian side noted that the vignette is electronic. It is possible purchasing of it by a fuel card, a credit card, by mobile phone or by internet. The carriers are able to purchase a day, a week, a month and a year vignettes. An electronic database is used for control of the vignette system. The vignettes is issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc.

The Swedish delegation informed about introduction of congestion based road user charges for foreign vehicles in Stockholm and Gothenburg as from 01.01.2015 as well as about tolls for crossing certain bridges as from 01.02.2015. More detailed information can be found on the website [www.transportstyrelsen.se](http://www.transportstyrelsen.se). The Eurovignette system involving five countries is still operational.



The Swedish side informed about the requirements for usage of winter tyres and chains for vehicles with total weight more than 3.5 tons in winter conditions, namely, within the period 01.12-31.03 the mentioned vehicles at least on the driving axle should have winter tyres with thread not less than 5mm, if a road is in snow/ice condition. If there are no winter tyres chains should be available in winter road conditions. More detailed information can be consulted at [www.transportstyrelsen.se/en/road/Vehicles/winter-tyres/](http://www.transportstyrelsen.se/en/road/Vehicles/winter-tyres/).

The Latvian side informed that starting as from April 1, 2011 road transport control functions are executed by the State Police Central Public Order Police Department Traffic Safety Department Traffic Surveillance and Coordination Bureau Road Haulage Supervision Unit. (address: Stabu street 89, Riga, LV-1009, Latvia; Phone: +371 67208377; fax: +371 67274789; email: [kanceleja.cpp@vp.gov.lv](mailto:kanceleja.cpp@vp.gov.lv)).

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: Gogoļa street 3, Riga, LV-1743; phone/fax: +371 67036412; email: [kadikis@lvceli.lv](mailto:kadikis@lvceli.lv) and [lvceli@lvceli.lv](mailto:lvceli@lvceli.lv)).

The Swedish delegation informed about the competent institutions performing control of road transport operations, namely, roadside checks are performed by the Police Board and company site checks are performed by the Transport Agency. The information was provided concerning the latest changes in the Swedish law on fines for road transport related infringements.

The competent authority issuing special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in the territory of Sweden is “Swedish Transport Administration” (address: SE-78189 Borlänge; phone: +(46-771)242424; e-mail: [trafikverket@trafikverket.se](mailto:trafikverket@trafikverket.se)).

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

The Swedish delegation invited the Latvian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting to Sweden. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon by correspondence.

Done at Riga on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in two originals in the English language.

*For the Latvian delegation:*



**Ms. Annija Novikova**

*For the Swedish delegation:*



**Ms. Maria Gelin**



## The list of participants

### The Latvian delegation:

<b>Ms. Annija Novikova</b>	Deputy Director of Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of the delegation
<b>Mr. Normunds Narvaišs</b>	Member of the Board, Road Transport Administration
<b>Mr. Māris Vaics</b>	Head of Licensing Division, Road Transport Administration
<b>Ms. Indra Gromule</b>	Head of International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
<b>Mr. Aivars Olants</b>	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
<b>Mr. Igors Jagodins</b>	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
<b>Mr. Valdis Trēziņš</b>	President of the Road Carriers Association „Latvijas Auto”

### The Swedish delegation:

<b>Ms. Maria Gelin</b>	Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Head of the delegation
<b>Mr. Enar Lundgren</b>	Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation
<b>Mr. Jimmie Lagerqvist</b>	The Swedish Transport Agency
<b>Mr. Mikael Persson</b>	The Swedish Bus and Coach Federation