

PROTOCOL

OF THE SLOVENE – LATVIAN JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT LJUBLJANA, 26 AND 27 JUNE 2003

After the introductory welcome, the delegations agreed on the following agenda:

1. Opening address and agreement on the agenda,
2. Exchange of views on co-operation after joining the EU,
3. Exchange of information concerning the development of trade and road transport,
4. Transport of goods,
5. Transport of passengers,
6. Other business.

1.

The heads of the delegations introduced the members of their respective delegations and confirmed the agenda. The list of the participants is annexed to this Protocol.

2.

The delegations exchanged their respective views regarding co-operation in the field of road transport after acceding the EU as well as on implementation of the EU road transport acquis.

The delegations exchanged information on the procedure of introduction of digital tachographs in 2004 and on granting Community licences for professional road transport operators in both the countries in accordance with the respective EU Regulations after both countries join the EU in May 2004.

At the request of the Latvian side, the Slovene side explained the system of ecopoints in road transport with the Republic of Austria. Latvia will, after joining the EU, be subject to the same system with the Republic of Austria.

3.

The delegations exchanged statistical data on the trends of economic co-operation and trade between their two countries noting the positive tendency and the development possibilities in the future. It was agreed that there were no barriers for economic co-operation in the field of road transport.

4.

The Slovene side proposed the elimination of the system of permits for bilateral, transit and third country goods road transport operations as from 1 July 2003. The Latvian side agreed, in principle, with this proposal and explained, however, that the eliminating the system of permits was not feasible in such a short period. Therefore, the Latvian side proposed that both countries adopt the liberalised system as from 1 September 2003.

The Slovene side agreed to the proposal of the Latvian delegation. Consequently, both countries will adopt the new system without permits for all types of transport as from 1 September 2003.

As regards cabotage, the Latvian side informed the Slovene side that a 2 + 2 + 1 year transition period was provided for in their treaty with the EU. Both delegations agreed to study the possibilities to allow bilateral cabotage after the expiry of a two-year transition period envisaged in the Accession Treaty between Latvia and the EU.

5.

Both delegations exchanged information on the application of the INTERBUS Agreement within their respective countries. By the moment the both countries join the EU it was agreed for occasional passenger transport operations between the both countries to apply the provisions of the above mentioned Agreement and to use exclusively the INTERBUS passenger waybill as from 1 July 2003.

The Slovene side also proposed that, in accordance with Article 16 of the above agreement, the two countries would not issue approval for transit.

The Latvian side will study this proposal and inform the Slovene side of its official position at a later date.

6.

Both delegations agreed that the bilateral Agreement on International Road Transport of Passengers and Goods would remain in force also after both countries become full members of the EU and that they would not cancel or amend it. In the opinion of the two delegations, the major part of road transport has already been regulated by EU legislation which is – in the hierarchy of legal instruments – above bilateral agreements and therefore, in this part, EU regulations apply in full. The bilateral agreement will continue to apply in the case of any areas or subjects not regulated by EU legal acts.

The Latvian delegation invited the Slovene delegation to the next meeting of the Joint Committee to be held in Riga.

The meeting was conducted in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

FOR THE SLOVENE DELEGATION
Velja Peternelj



FOR THE LATVIAN DELEGATION
Julijs Vaitužs



THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Latvian delegation:

1. Mr. Julijs VAITUŽS – Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of Delegation
2. Mrs. Indra GROMULE – Road Transport Administration, Ministry of Transport
3. Mr. Aivars OLANTS – Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport

The Slovenian delegation:

1. Mr. Velja PETERNELJ – Ministry of Transport, Head of Delegation
2. Mr. Bogdan POTOKAR – Ministry of Transport, Deputy of the Head of Delegation
3. Mr. Marjan KRASNIČ – Ministry of Transport, member
4. Mr. Bojan PEČNIK – Chamber of Craft, member
5. Mr. Robert SEVER – Chamber of Commerce and Industry, member
6. Mr. Zdravko IGLIČAR – Directorate Republic of Slovenia for Road, member