

AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian – Slovenian Joint Committee meeting on International Road Transport Issues held in Riga, 1st – 2nd April, 2008

The delegations have agreed upon the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of road transport between Latvia and Slovenia;
2. Exchange of viewpoints concerning cabotage road transport operations;
3. Introduction of road tolls and/or user charges according to the 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;
4. Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) according to the Annex 8 (on facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport) to the Convention of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982;
5. Control of international road haulage operations and related issues;
6. Miscellaneous, including exchange of viewpoints concerning:
 - further development of the ECMT quota system and revision of the Guide;
 - draft Regulations of the Road Transport Package under discussion at the EU Council and the Parliament;
 - adoption of the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles, 1956.

The composition of the two delegations is annexed to the agreed minutes.

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of road transport between Latvia and Slovenia

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

The Latvian side informed that the import and export cargo turnover between the two countries has increased both in Euros and millions of tons. The number of transport companies as well as vehicles involved in international goods transport operations has doubled in the last four years.

The Slovenian side also marked the development of transport operations between Latvia and Slovenia and informed on the structure of international goods transport market in Slovenia.

Both delegations stated that international road transport operations between Latvia and Slovenia have increasing tendency.

2. Exchange of viewpoints concerning cabotage road transport operations

Both delegations exchanged viewpoints regarding liberalization of cabotage road transport operations.

The Latvian delegation informed that after the accession to the European Union (EU) in case of Latvia the transitional period according to the formula of 2+2+1 years is applied. The second part of 2 years period ends on 30th^t April, 2008, and the Latvian side has decided to inform the European Commission (EC) on cancellation of cabotage restrictions from the 1st May, 2008.

The Slovenian delegation marked that taking into account the principle of reciprocity cabotage goods transport market in Slovenia is open for foreign hauliers and there have not been any problems in that respect.

The delegations discussed the cabotage concepts included in the draft of the new EU road transport package and both the delegations underlined that they do not agree with introduction of any restrictions for irregular passenger cabotage transport operations and would support maximum liberalization of goods transport cabotage operations.

3. Introduction of road tolls and/or user charges according to the 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

The Latvian delegation informed that in accordance with the 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 over 12 tons starting from 1st January, 2009. It is foreseen 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 day, month and year vignettes. After the final decision on introduction of the vignette is taken official announcement will be submitted to all countries performing international road transport operations with Latvia.

The Slovenian delegation informed that Slovenia is planning to introduce vignette for personal cars under 3.5 tons from 1st July, 2008. At present in Slovenia there is a system of road tolls for goods and passenger transport vehicles for the use of highways. It is planned to introduce electronic road toll payment system similar to the system in Germany.

Both side agreed to exchange official information on changes in payments road tolls.

4. Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) according to the Annex 8 (on facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport) to the Convention of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982

The Latvian delegation informed that on 20th May, 2008, the new Annex 8 (on facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport) to the Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 21st October, 1982) will enter into force. According to the Annex the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) should be introduced. The Latvian side stated that in Latvia the Ministry of Finance is the competent authority regarding this convention and according to their information the IVWC will be recognized in the territory of Latvia.

The Latvian delegation marked that the recognition and application of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate would reduce the number of weighing operations for trucks and accelerate the border crossing procedures, which is highly significant at the Latvian – Russian border crossing points, where long queues of vehicles are formed.

The Slovenian delegation informed that Slovenia has only one EU external border with Croatia and this problem is not so important to the Slovenian hauliers. The Slovenian side determined the intention to investigate the introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in Slovenia and inform the Latvian side concerning this issue.

5. Control of international road haulage operations and related issues

Both delegations exchanged information on the organization of road transport control in their countries. The Latvian delegation stated that from 1st January, 2006, an independent institution, Road Transport Inspectorate, has been established in order to perform road transport control operations in the territory of Latvia. Starting from 8th July, 2007, the controllers of the Road Transport Inspectorate have the power to stop vehicles without the presence of police officers.

The Slovenian delegation informed that in Slovenia road transport control is performed by Road Inspectorate, police and customs.

The delegations exchanged information on introduction and use of digital tachographs. Both sides agreed that in EU Member States different penalties for equal infringements are applied and it would be useful to harmonize the penalty system in the European Union.

Upon the request of the Slovenian delegation the Latvian delegation provided information on penalties for infringements in road traffic applied in Latvia.

6. Miscellaneous:

- Exchange of viewpoints regarding further development of the ECMT quota system and revision of the Guide

The delegations exchanged viewpoints on the perspective development of ECMT multilateral quota system. The Latvian side emphasized the important role of ECMT licenses for the Latvian carriers, especially with the respect to the road transport operations to/from the Russian Federation. The existing quota system has promoted the renewal of fleet of the Latvian carriers, therefore the maintenance of the present ECMT quota is important for the Latvian side.

The Slovenian delegation informed that their hauliers are satisfied with the existing ECMT quota and the licenses are important for third country transport operations.

- Exchange of viewpoints regarding draft Regulations of the Road Transport Package under discussion at the EU Council and the Parliament

The Slovenian delegation informed that during the Slovenian Presidency the intensive discussions on the Road Transport Package have taken place at the EU Council. The Package aims at modernizing, replacing and merging provisions governing road transport operators and access to the road transport markets.

Both delegations stressed the significance of this package and pointed out the possible problems with regard to introduction of national registers.

The Slovenian delegation emphasized that a political decision is necessary for passing these regulations.

- Exchange of viewpoints regarding adoption of the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles, 1956

The Latvian delegation proposed for discussion the issue of the implementation of the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles, 1956, in the respect of bilateral agreements on international road transport, which are signed after the accession of Latvia to the EU.

The Slovenian delegation informed that after their accession to the European Union Slovenia has not signed any bilateral agreement on international transport by road with third countries. The Slovenian side would examine the issue and provide more detailed information during the next Joint Committee meeting.

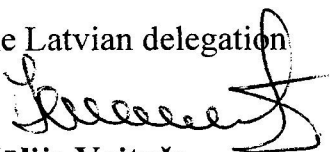
Both delegations exchanged viewpoints regarding the intention to sign the agreement between the European Union and the Western Balkan countries.

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

The Slovenian delegation proposed to organize the next Joint Committee meeting in Slovenia in the II quarter of 2009, the exact time of which will be agreed by correspondence.

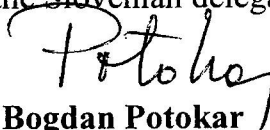
Done in Riga on 2nd April, 2008, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation



Mr. Jūlijs Vaitužs

For the Slovenian delegation



Mr. Bogdan Potokar

*Composition of the delegations:**Slovenian delegation:*

Mr. Bogdan Potokar	- Ministry of Transport, Transport of Goods, Head of Delegation
Mr. Marjan Krasnič	- Ministry of Transport, Public Transport
Mr. Velja Peternelj	- Ministry of Transport, Road Transport Legislation
Mr. Bojan Pečnik	- Chamber of Craft of Slovenia
Mr. Andrej Klobasa	- Chamber of Craft of Slovenia
Mr. Robert Sever	- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia
Mr. Marjan Bezjak	- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia

Latvian delegation:

Mr. Māris Pēkalis	- Director of Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of Delegation
Mr. Jūlijs Vaitužs	- Deputy Director of Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Aivars Olants	- Head of Foreign Relations and European Affairs Division, Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Ms. Annija Novikova	- Senior Officer, Foreign Relations and European Affairs Division, Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Valdis Trēziņš	- President of Latvian Association of International Road Carriers „Latvijas Auto”
Ms. Indra Gromule	- Head of International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration