

**Agreed Minutes**  
**of the 1st Latvian –Serbian Joint Committee**  
**Meeting on International Road Transport Issues**  
**9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, Riga**

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Serbia.
2. Transport of goods by road and establishment of the quota of international road transport permits for the year 2013 and preliminary for 2014.
3. International passenger transport.
4. Miscellaneous.

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

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

Both the delegations noted with satisfaction that the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on international transport by road, signed in Riga on March 2, 2012 came into force on March 16, 2013 and that the first Latvian - Serbian Joint Committee meeting on international road transport issues under Article 3 of the signed Agreement has been convened.

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both the countries and about the organization of the road transport sectors in each of them.

The Latvian side noted that total trade turnover in EUR between both the countries during the year 2012 decreased by 15,3% and constituted 5,58 million EUR. At the same time trade turnover in tons increased by 24,2%.

In EUR the export of goods from Latvia to Serbia exceeds import from Serbia to Latvia 1,2 times but in tons more than 8 times that means more valuable goods are imported from Serbia.



The Latvian delegation remarked tendency of considerable increase of the mutual trade turnover between both the countries in the first quarter of the year 2013 in comparison with the same period of previous year.

The Serbian delegation informed that the statistical data is similar and noted that in the year 2013 trade turnover could be increase.

The Latvian side informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2012 in comparison with the previous year the fleet involved in international carriage of goods has increased by 10,1% and reached 13688 units. The number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations decreased by 3,0% and was 4098.

The Serbian side informed about numbers of licensed carriers and there are 1500 carriers which are involved in international carriage of goods which have 9000 heavy goods vehicle fleet.

Both sides stressed that development of trade relations and conclusion of the Agreement on international transport by road are important preconditions for increasing the international road transport operations between Latvia and Serbia in the nearest future.

## **2. Transport of goods by road and establishment of the quota of international road transport permits for the year 2013 and preliminary for 2014.**

After exchange of information about the number of permits used by carriers of both countries in the year 2012 and first six months in the year 2013, which shows the increasing tendency. The Serbian side noted that Serbian carriers used almost half of quota of permits in this year and informed that usage of Latvian permits is higher than usage of Serbian permits by Latvian carriers.

Serbian delegation proposed to liberalize bilateral transport of goods starting from the year 2014.

The Latvian side informed that will examine this proposal and decision could be taken on next Latvian –Serbian Joint Committee.

The delegations agreed to set the following final quota of international goods transport permits for the year 2013:

- 700 permits valid for bilateral goods transport operations;





- 100 permits valid for bilateral and to/from third country goods transport operations.

The Serbian delegation proposed to increase quota of permits for the year 2014 valid for bilateral and to/from third country goods transport operations by 50 permits.

After having discussions the delegations agreed to set the preliminary quota for the year 2014 as follows:

- 700 permits valid for bilateral goods transport operations;
- 150 permits valid for bilateral and to/from third country goods transport operations.

The sides agreed that any demand for additional permits during the course of the year will be evaluated and dealt within the framework of good intentions.

The delegations decided that all the permits shall be valid until 31<sup>st</sup> January of the following year.

Both delegations agreed that the permits for the next year shall be exchanged till the 15<sup>th</sup> December of the current year.

### **3. International passenger transport.**

The Latvian delegation informed about one regular bus line going in transit via Serbia between Latvia and Bulgaria: **Riga – Sofia** which is operated by “Transinesta” UAB, SIA “NORMA - A”, “ECOLINES ESTONIA” OÜ and “ECOLINES - POLSKA” Sp.zo.o., for which the term of validity of the Serbian transit authorization expires on 16.07.2013. The Latvian side noted that there will be included the Bulgarian operator “Еколайнс България ЕООД” in new authorization.

The Serbian delegation informed that the transit authorization for the mentioned bus line will be prolonged.

The delegations exchanged views on the necessity of harmonized international multilateral legal instrument on organizing regular passenger transport by buses and coaches. The Latvian delegation highlighted the urgent necessity of drafting regulatory framework for organizing regular passenger transport services by coach and bus which covers EU and non-EU countries. The standpoints regarding two possible options in this respect, namely drafting of OMNIBUS agreement or extension of the scope of INTERBUS agreement were exchanged.

On the request of the Latvian side Serbian delegation informed that for the occasional passenger transport INTERBUS waybill can be used as control document.

#### **4. Miscellaneous.**

Both delegations exchanged information on licensing systems and issuing permits in their countries.

The Latvian side informed that according to the European Union Road Transport Package provisions in Latvia the Community licenses are issued for the period of up to 10 years, but the validity of the certified copies of Community licenses is one year. 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 delegation explained that the certified copies of the Community licenses are issued only for vehicles registered in Latvia.



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 Latvia planned to introduce road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons as from 01.01.2014. Taking into account the economic situation at present the date of introduction of the road vignette is being discussed at the government. It is expected that introduction will be postponed.

The Serbian delegation noted that in Serbia road charges from foreign carriers are collected on border crossing points and amount of charges depends from ton kilometers for cargo carriers and passenger kilometers for passenger carriers.

The Serbian side noted that Latvian control authorities require transit permit form Serbian carriers and asked to inform Latvian control authorities that transit operations are liberalized under the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on international transport by road.

The delegations exchanged the information on the latest development within the ECMT Multilateral Quota System. The Latvian side noted that it is important to retain the ECMT Multilateral Quota System and to eliminate territorial restrictions.

Both delegations stressed the significance of the ECMT Multilateral Quota permits for their carriers.



The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Serbian delegation invited the Latvian delegation to Serbia for the next Joint Committee meeting in 2014. The exact place and dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

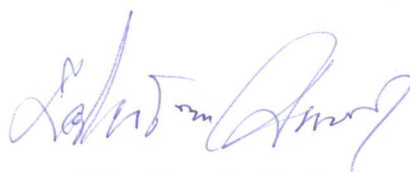
Done at Riga on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, in two originals in the English language.

**For the Latvian delegation**



**Mr. Māris Pēkalis**

**For the Serbian delegation**



**Mr. Damir Ledencan**



**The list of participants****The Latvian delegation:**

<b>Mr. Māris Pēkalis</b>	Deputy Director of Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of Delegation
<b>Ms. Annija Novikova</b>	Senior Officer, Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
<b>Mr. Aivars Olants</b>	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
<b>Ms. Daiga Ancāne</b>	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
<b>Mr. Alvis Keziks</b>	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration

**The Serbian delegation:**

<b>Mr. Damir Ledencan</b>	Head of the International Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of the delegation
<b>Ms. Vesna Djordjevic</b>	Advisor in Ministry of Transport
<b>Mr. Dusan Mladenovic</b>	General secretary in Association for Traffic and Telecommunications of Serbian Chamber of Commerce
<b>Mr. Nedjo Mandic</b>	The representative of the Serbian Transporters of goods
<b>Mr. Marko Čuković</b>	The representative of the Serbian Transporters of goods