

## AGREED MINUTES

of the Serbian - Latvian Joint Committee meeting on International Road Transport  
held in Belgrade, 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of statistical data regarding the development of trade and road transport between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Latvia.
2. Transport of goods by road and establishment of the quota of international road transport permits for the year 2015 and preliminary for 2016.
3. International transport of passengers.
4. Miscellaneous (road user charges, control of road transport operations, etc.).

The composition of both delegations is annexed to the Agreed minutes (Annex 1).

### **1. Exchange of statistical data regarding the development of trade and road transport between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Latvia.**

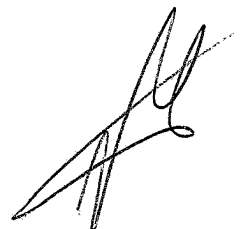
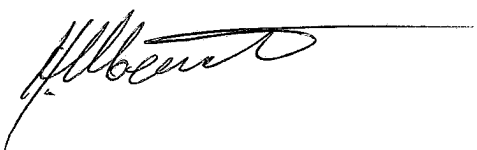
The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both countries and about the organization of the road transport sectors in each of them.

The Serbian delegation informed that the total trade between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Latvia in 2014 was 10.8 \$ million, an increase of 30% compared to the same period in 2013. Exports to the Republic of Latvia amounted to 6.3\$ million and recorded an increase of 96% compared to the same period in 2013. Imports to the Republic of Latvia recorded a value of 4.5 \$ million, which was lower by 10% compared to the same period of the last year.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2014 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in EUR to Serbia increased by 8.0% and the import volume from Serbia increased by 75.2%. Conversely in tons export volume decreased by 14,8%, but import volume increased by 59,8%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2014 increased by 36.8% and reached 10,12 million EUR. At the same time trade turnover in tons decreased by 3,5%.

In tons the export of goods from Latvia to Serbia exceeds import from Serbia to Latvia 2,99 times but in EUR import from Serbia to Latvia exceeds export of goods to Serbia 1,2 times. It means more valuable goods are imported from Serbia.



The Serbian delegation informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet for international transport which amounts to more than 9000 vehicles. The number of Serbian companies involved in international goods transport operations amounts to 900 transport companies.

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.

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

## **2. Transport of goods by road and establishment of the quota of international road transport permits for the year 2015 and preliminary for 2016.**

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:

- 700 permits valid for the bilateral transport operations;
- 150 permits valid for the bilateral and third country transport operations.

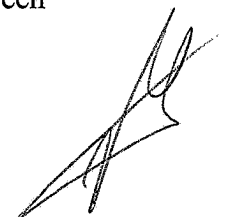
It was pointed out that in accordance with point 1 of Article 8 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on international transport by road the transit transport operations shall be carried out without permits.

Both sides exchanged information on the usage of permits valid for goods transport operations.

The Latvian delegation informed that within the year 2014 in comparison with 2012 the number of Serbian permits used by Latvian carriers has increased from year to year.

Taking into account the usage of permits and development of logistics services in road transport the Latvian side proposed in the year 2015 exchange in addition 50 permits valid for the bilateral and third country transport operations and establish the preliminary quota for the year 2016 in amount of 200 such permits.

The Serbian side confirmed that both sides should support a growing trend of goods exchanged and in light of the strengthening transport services accepts the decision of the Latvian delegation to mutually liberate the framework of a bilateral transport, provided by the Serbian side during the previous Joint Committee Meeting between the two delegations, held in Riga, on 10 July 2013.



The delegations agreed to exchange additional 50 permits valid for the bilateral and third country transport operations in the year 2015 up to the end of September, 2015.

The delegations agreed to set the final quota for the year 2015 as follows:

- 700 permits valid for the bilateral transport operations;
- 200 permits valid for the bilateral and third country transport operations.

After having discussions the delegations agreed to liberalize bilateral transport of goods starting from 1 January 2016.

The preliminary quota for the year 2016 shall be:

- 200 permits valid for third country transport operations.

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

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

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

### **3. International transport of passengers.**

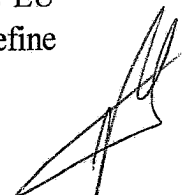
The Serbian delegation informed that the competent authority for regular international bus service is: Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Deptment for Passenger Transport, Omladinskih brigada 1 street, Belgrade, Serbia, e-mail [bojan.dubovina@mgsi.gov.rs](mailto:bojan.dubovina@mgsi.gov.rs), phone: + 381 11 311 42 91, fax: + 381 11 2138 984.

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 Latvian delegation informed that till now only one regular bus line is going in transit via Serbia from Riga to Sofia. The application regarding small changes in the schedule of this route for all involved operators was sent to the Serbian Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure.

The Serbian delegation replied that the request for the issuance of the permit, as well as for any changes, has to be submitted by Latvian competent authorities for the Latvian operators. The Serbian competent authorities shall issue the permit to the applicant.

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 Serbian delegation agrees with the need to define



regulatory framework for organizing regular passenger transport services by coach and bus which covers EU and non - EU countries.

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 (further – Regulation 181/2011) 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 by March 2017. 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.

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

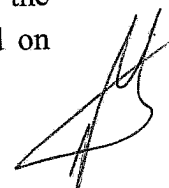
The delegations noted with satisfaction the approval of the Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System at the Council of Ministers held on 28 May, 2015 in Leipzig which can be regarded as a major step in the development of the qualitative aspects of the Multilateral quota and elimination of existing territorial restrictions. It was stressed that the further functioning of the quota is of high importance.

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

The delegations exchanged information on road charges 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 Latvian delegation handed over an informative leaflet on road user charges (vignette) introduced on 01.07.2014 in Latvia. All the information regarding the road user charges in the Republic of Latvia can be found on the website of the state joint stock company „Road Traffic Safety Directorate“ [www.lvrvignette.eu](http://www.lvrvignette.eu)

The Serbian delegation informed that the Decision on road user charges for foreign vehicles using the roads in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is applied in the Republic of Serbia. The road user charges from foreign vehicles are collected on



border crossing points and amount of charges depends on ton kilometers for cargo carriers and passenger kilometers for passenger carriers. All the information regarding the road user charges in the Republic of Serbia can be found on the website of PE „Putevi Srbije“ [www.putevi-srbije.rs](http://www.putevi-srbije.rs).

The Latvian delegation informed that since Latvia joined the Schengen Agreement on 21st December, 2007 at the internal borders of Latvia with Lithuania and Estonia control authorities has been removed and, therefore, foreign drivers, when crossing the Latvian – EU internal border and performing transport operations for which the Latvian permits for international carriage of goods or occasional carriage of passengers are needed, should mark themselves in the column of a permit “date and stamp of the customs or border control authority” the place and date of border crossing. Without such records a permit is regarded as not valid.

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

The Serbian delegation informed about the competent institutions performing control of road transport operations, namely Ministry of Internal Affairs, Police Administration Office, Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia; Phone: +381 11 192; email: [info@mup.gov.rs](mailto:info@mup.gov.rs)).

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)).

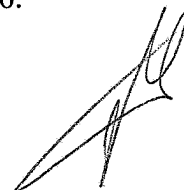
The competent authority issuing special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in the territory of Serbia is Public Enterprise “Putevi Srbije” (address: Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra 282, 11 000 Belgrade, Serbia; phone: + 381 11 30 40 655; fax: + 381 11 30 40 666; email: [info@putevi-srbije.rs](mailto:info@putevi-srbije.rs)).

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), website: [www.lvceli.lv](http://www.lvceli.lv)).

Upon the request of the Latvian delegation, the Serbian delegation provided information regarding the implementation of Digital Tachograph system and possibilities to exchange information on issued digital tachograph driver cards.

The contact address concerning issued cards:

- in Serbia – Road Traffic Safety Agency, Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2, 11070 Belgrade, Serbia, e-mail: [vozila@abs.gov.rs](mailto:vozila@abs.gov.rs), phone: + 381 11 311 70 66.



- in Latvia - Road Transport Administration, Valnu Street 30, LV-1050, Riga, Latvia, e-mail: [atd@atd.lv](mailto:atd@atd.lv), phone: +37167686462, fax: +37167686490, website: [www.atd.lv](http://www.atd.lv).

The delegations expressed their concerns about the extending of minimum wage law in Germany to 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 by some other western countries. It was also noted that the ban introduced by Belgium and France to spend regular weekly 45-hour rest period in a vehicle and very high fines applied in case of non-compliance shall be regarded as social protectionism measures.

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

The Latvian delegation invited the Serbian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting to Latvia in the year 2016. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon by correspondence.

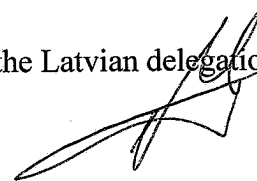
Done at Belgrade on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 in two originals in the English language.

For the Serbian delegation



Mr. Nenad Ivetic

For the Latvian delegation



Mr. Tāivaldis Vectirāns