

## PROTOCOL

of the Latvian – Turkish Joint Committee meeting on Road Transport  
held in Riga, 12 – 13 July, 2023

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Türkiye.
2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the road transport permit quota for 2023 and preliminary for 2024.
3. Miscellaneous, including exchange of information on road user and other charges, requirements for the use of any type of permit, competent authorities, control of road transport operations etc.).

The composition of both delegations is annexed to the Protocol.

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

The two delegations exchanged views and statistical information concerning trade relations and current situation of road transport between Latvia and Türkiye.

The Latvian delegation presented information on passenger and goods transport by road in Latvia, as well as information on international trade between Latvia and Türkiye.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2022 export volume expressed in euros (EUR) from Latvia to Türkiye has reached 227.4M EUR and compared to the previous year it has decreased by 5.9%, while import from Türkiye has reached 175.9M EUR thus increasing by 36.1 %. Export volume expressed in tons has reached 422.4K tons, and in comparison with 2021 decreased by 35.2%, while import volume amounted to 98.4K tons showing an increase of 12.7%.

Total trade turnover expressed in EUR between both countries increased by 8.7%, totalling 403.3M EUR during 2022. While total trade turnover expressed in tons decreased by 29.5% and reached 520.9K tons. The export of goods from Latvia to Türkiye exceeds the import from Türkiye to Latvia 1.3 times in EUR but in tons the export from Latvia exceeds the import of goods from Türkiye 4.3 times. It means more valuable goods are being imported from Türkiye.

The main types of goods imported from Türkiye include 6.7% of iron and steel, 5.1% of machinery and mechanical appliances, and 4.8% of vehicles.

Export from Latvia to Türkiye includes 49.5% of iron and steel, 13.2% of wood and articles of wood, and 6.6% of electrical machinery and equipment.

The Turkish delegation also presented statistical data on international trade between Latvia and Türkiye and noted similar tendencies.

The Latvian delegation gave information about the structure of their heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that the number of licensed Latvian road transport operators involved in international goods transport operations has decreased by 1.3% in the first half of the year 2023 compared to the previous year, reaching 4791 operators. The number of vehicles involved in the international carriage of goods has reached 15917 units and has grown by 2.1% during the first half of the year 2023. Additionally, the Latvian delegation noted the increase in the number of vehicles corresponding to EURO VI and EURO V emission standards amounting to 79% of the entire fleet involved in international operations.

The Turkish delegation presented to the Latvian side information regarding the number of companies and vehicles involved in international carriage of goods as well as statistics on transport of goods and passengers by road.

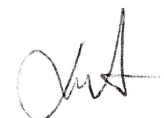
Both sides signified their satisfaction with the positive development of trade between the two countries and expressed hope that the trade turnover and the number of international goods transport operations between Latvia and Türkiye will continue an upward trend in the future.

## **2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the road transport permit quota for 2023 and preliminary for 2023**

Both delegations noted that in the year 2023, nine hundred (900) permits valid for bilateral and transit road transport operations and four hundred and fifty (450) permits valid for bilateral, transit, and third-country transport operations have been exchanged.

The delegations exchanged information on the usage of permits in the year 2022, as well as in the first half of the year 2023, and agreed that the demand for permits in both countries has risen in the first half of the year 2023 compared to the same period of the previous year.

With a view of development of road transport operations between the countries the Turkish side reiterated its proposal to liberalise bilateral and transit operations. The Latvian side indicated that taking into consideration the present geopolitical situation there is need for consultations with the involved national competent authorities as well as for harmonisation of the approach on the regional level. The information on the results of consultations is going to be provided to the Turkish side, provisionally, by October this year.





Meanwhile, in order to ensure transport operations under the bilateral Agreement, the delegations discussed the usage of permits and agreed to establish the final quota of permits for international road transport operations in 2023 and preliminary for the year 2024 as follows:

For the Latvian side:

900 permits valid for bilateral and transit road transport operations;

1000 permits for unloaded entry, bilateral, transit and third country road transport operations.

For the Turkish side:

2700 permits valid for bilateral and transit road transport operations;

500 permits for bilateral, transit and third country road transport operations.

The delegations confirmed that the additional permits for 2023 and quota of 2024 will be exchanged via diplomatic channels.

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

The delegations agreed that in case of necessity the Parties can return to a discussion concerning an additional number of permits and such requests will be examined in the spirit of goodwill.

The Latvian side asked the Turkish side to clarify the usage of a permit for bilateral, transit and third country road transport operations in case of change of type of operation within one journey, e.g., bilateral operation is followed by a third country operation. The delegations noted that it is possible to perform different type of transport operations with the same permit based on the types of the transport the permit allows.

**3. Miscellaneous, including exchange of information on road user and other charges, requirements for the use of any type of permit, competent authorities, control of road transport operations etc.**

The Latvian delegation informed about changes in Latvian legislation concerning imposing penalties in the field of road transport. Subject to the law all infringements will be calculated in fixed penalty units (one penalty unit equals 5 EUR). Both legal persons and natural persons will be subjected to legal liability.

The Latvian side also updated on road charging in Latvia, including that the system is extended to goods vehicles with permissible total weight over 3.0 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 are issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc. More detailed information is available at: [www.lv vignette.eu](http://www.lv vignette.eu).

The Turkish side informed about highways and bridges tolls in Türkiye and indicated that all types of fines for violation of the road transport rules should be paid before exiting Türkiye, before or at border crossing points. More detailed information is available at: [www.kgm.gov.tr](http://www.kgm.gov.tr).

At the request of the Latvian delegation the Turkish delegation informed that when performing international road transport operations under bilateral agreement permit systems, trucks and semi-trailers should be registered in one and the same country. This requirement does not extend to transport operations performed under ECMT licences.

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

The Latvian side pointed out that road transport control functions inside the country are executed by the Bureau of Traffic Supervision and Coordination of Traffic Safety Directorate of Main Directorate of State Police (address: 10B Ezermalas Street, Riga, LV-1009, phone: +371 67208143; email: [sdp@vp.gov.lv](mailto:sdp@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: 7/9 Torna Street, Room 203, Riga, LV-1050; phone: +371 67036412; email: [atlaujas@lvceli.lv](mailto:atlaujas@lvceli.lv)).

The Turkish delegation informed that road transport control functions in Türkiye are executed by the Traffic Department of Ministry of Interior (address: Ayranci Mah. Dikmen Cad. No:11 06100 Çankaya / ANKARA; phone: 0312 462 0462; email: [traffic@egm.gov.tr](mailto:traffic@egm.gov.tr)). It was also noted that special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in Türkiye are issued by General Directorate of Highways (address: İnönü Bulvarı No: 14, 06100 Yücepete/ANKARA; phone: 0312 449 90 00; email: [info@kgm.gov.tr](mailto:info@kgm.gov.tr)).

The Latvian side proposed to discuss the issue of usage of electronic CMR consignment note and informed on the progress of work carried out within the framework of the UNECE GE.22 Group of experts on operationalization of the e-CMR with a view to a request for an extension of the mandate of the group that is going to be submitted to the SC.1 Working Party on Road Transport in October, 2023. The Turkish side noted the contribution of experts from Türkiye and Latvia to the elaboration of concept of functional specifications and agreed to participate at the SC.1 session in October for further discussion on the matter.

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Turkish delegation invited the Latvian delegation to Türkiye for the next Joint Committee meeting. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

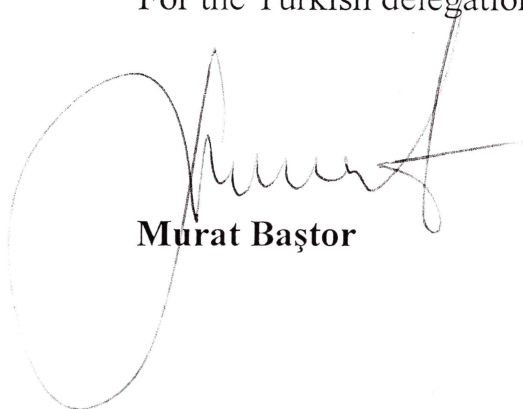
Done at Riga, on 13 July, 2023, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation:



**Annija Novikova**

For the Turkish delegation:



**Murat Baştor**