

AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian - Montenegrin Joint Committee meeting on International Road
Transport held in Riga, 19th – 20th June, 2018

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Montenegro.
2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the quota for 2018 and preliminary for 2019.
3. International passenger transport, including INTERBUS agreement and passenger rights in bus transport.
4. Exchange of information on the development of road transport and the harmonization of national legislation with the European law and the Quality Charter as well as exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system.
5. Miscellaneous.

The composition of both delegations is annexed to the Agreed Minutes (Annex1).

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

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

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2017 export volume to Montenegro in thousand EUR was about 469.9 and in comparison with the previous year it increased 2.7 times, but as to import from Montenegro it reached 184.3 thousand EUR and it increased 71.2 times. Conversely, in tons export volume in comparison with 2016 increased by 46.7%, but import volume constituted 272 tons, which was 1.4 times more than export from Latvia to Montenegro.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2017 increased 3.7 times and constituted 654 thousand EUR. At the same time trade turnover in tons increased 3.5 times.

The Montenegrin delegation noted that statistical data about annual international trade turnover volumes is similar the one provided by the Latvian delegation.

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of their heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2017, in comparison with the previous year, the fleet involved in international carriage of goods has increased by 4.8% and reached 15855 units. The number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations increased by 4.0% and at the end of the year 2017 there were 4061 such companies.

The Montenegrin delegation informed that their fleet is comprised of approximately 450 international companies involved in international carriage of goods as well as indicated that nearly 50% of heavy goods vehicles correspond to EURO V or EURO VI standard.

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

2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the quota for 2018 and preliminary for 2019

Both delegations confirmed that in the year 2018 one hundred (100) permits valid for the bilateral and third country transport operations have been exchanged. Both delegations noted that the said quota is sufficient for the needs of transport volumes that shall be performed by hauliers of both countries and shall be regarded as the final one for the current year.

In order to facilitate carriage of goods by road between the two countries, the Montenegrin delegation proposed to abolish permit regime for the bilateral transport operations. After discussions and taking into consideration that in accordance with Article 7 of the Agreement the Joint Committee is entitled to determine the permit regime, the delegations agreed:

- to liberalize bilateral transport operations as from January 1st, 2019;
- to establish the preliminary quota of permits for third country transport operations in amount of 100 permits per each Party for the year 2019.

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

The delegations agreed that in case of necessity any of the Parties can request addition number of permits.

On the request of the Latvian delegation, the Montenegrin delegation clarified certain requirements for filling out Montenegrin permits and noted that only total weight of carried cargo excluding the weight of the vehicle is to be indicated in the column "TOTAL WEIGHT".

Also, the Montenegrin delegation indicated that the tear-off coupons of the permits are intended only for the use of control carried out by the Montenegrin Customs Service.

The Latvian delegation presented to the Montenegrin delegation the new type of Latvian permits introduced as of 2017, as well as requirements of filling out thereof indicating that 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.

3. International passenger transport, including INTERBUS agreement and passenger rights in bus transport

It was noted that currently there are no regular passenger routes between both countries, however there are a number of occasional passenger transport services carried out during the summer season, in case of which INTERBUS agreement is applied.

The Latvian delegation informed that the EU proposed amendments to the INTERBUS agreement are going to cover organization of regular passenger transport operations by coach and bus as well as bus passenger rights as set out at Regulation No 181/2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport. The Montenegrin delegation informed that the proposals on amending INTERBUS are currently being examined by their experts.

The Latvian delegation informed that the competent authority for regular bus permits as well as occasional passenger transport operations by bus is Latvian Road Transport Administration, Valnu Street 30, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia, e-mail: daiga.ancane@atd.lv, phone: +37167686493, fax: +37167686490.

The Montenegrin delegation informed that the respective competent authority for regular bus permits as well as occasional passenger transport operations by bus is the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs (address: Rimski trg 46, Vektra, Podgorica, Montenegro; e-mail: bojan.radoman@msp.gov.me; phone: +38220234179; fax: +38220234342) and Traffic Directorate (address: IV proleterske 19, Podgorica, Montenegro; e-mail: direkcijazasaobracaj@dzs.gov.me; phone: +38220655052, fax: +38220655359).

4. Exchange of information on the development of road transport and the harmonization of national legislation with the European law and the Quality Charter as well as exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system

It was noted that both countries have submitted official letters to the International Transport Forum stating their full compliance with the provisions

of the Quality Charter for the international haulage under the ECMT Multilateral Quota.

The possibilities of further development of the ECMT quota system were discussed, pointing out that the main problem is the territorial restrictions maintained by some ECMT Member countries.

Upon request of the Latvian delegation the Montenegrin delegation informed on the process of harmonization of Montenegrin national legislation with that of the *acquis communautaire* under the framework of negotiations of accession to the EU.

5. Miscellaneous

The Latvian delegation provided the Montenegrin delegation updated information 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 is issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc.

The Montenegrin delegation informed that Montenegro has introduced no road vignette, however there are toll roads and tunnels.

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 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). 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: Torna Street 7/9, Riga, LV-1050; phone/fax: +371 67036412; e-mail: atlaujas@lvceli.lv).

The Montenegrin delegation informed about the competent institutions performing control of road transport operations, namely Inspection for Road Traffic of the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs and State Police (address: Rimski trg 46, Vektra, Podgorica, Montenegro; e-mail: vladimir.knezevic@msp.gov.me; phone: +38220234179; fax: +38220234342).

The competent authority issuing special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in the territory of Montenegro is the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs Traffic Directorate (address: IV proletarske 19, Podgorica, Montenegro; e-mail: direkcijazasaoBRACaj@dzs.gov.me; phone +38220655052; fax +38220655359).

The Montenegrin delegation informed the Latvian side about the establishment of a new institution at the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro Centre for Education in Road Transport which is authorized for education and issuing certificates for professional drivers and managers.

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

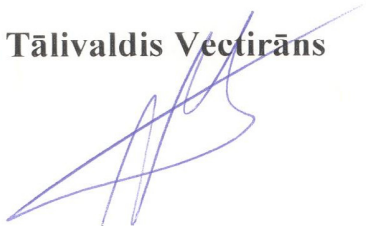
The Montenegrin delegation invited the Latvian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting to Montenegro in the year 2019. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon by correspondence.

Done at Riga on 20th June, 2018 in two originals each in the English and Montenegrin languages.

For the Latvian delegation:

For the Montenegrin delegation:

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Mr. Dalibor Milošević

