

**Agreed Minutes
of the Latvian – Bulgarian Joint Committee
Meeting on International Road Transport Issues
25th - 26th August, 2010, Riga**

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Bulgaria;
2. Goods transport operations under Article 4 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on the International Road Transport;
3. Passenger transport;
4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation Regulations of the Road Transport Package;
5. 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 Bulgaria

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both the countries and organization of road transport sector in their countries. The Latvian delegation presented the information on passenger and goods transport by road in Latvia as well as information on international trade between Bulgaria and Latvia.

The Latvian side noted that import from Bulgaria to Latvia in EUR has been increasing year by year except last year when it decreased. The Bulgarian side informed that statistical data from the Bulgarian side are similar.

The Latvian side informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2009 in comparison with the previous year the fleet involved in international carriage has decreased approximately by 2500 units and at the beginning of this year it comprised approximately 10 000 vehicles. At the beginning of the year 2010 the number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations was around 4 300.

The Bulgarian delegation informed that in the year 2009 in the Republic of Bulgaria there were registered around 6500 international goods carriers owning 35000 heavy goods vehicles.

The Bulgarian side noted that after joining the EU number of vehicles in international road transport operations has increased by 20%.

Both sides concluded that ways of developing of organization of road transport sector in both countries are similar.

2. Goods transport operations under Article 4 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on the International Road Transport

Both sides exchanged information on the usage of permits valid for goods transport to/from third countries.

The Latvian delegation informed that till first of August their carriers have used only 20 out of 100 Bulgarian permits.

The Bulgarian side noted that 80 Latvian permits valid for goods transport to/from third countries have already been used by Bulgarian carriers and asked to increase quota for the year 2010 up to 150 permits.

Both sides agreed to establish quota for the year 2010 - 150 permits and to exchange additionally 50 permits for third country transport operations. The Latvian side noted that additional 50 Bulgarian licences for the year 2010 shall be sent upon separate request in case of need.

Latvian delegation handed over to the Bulgarian delegation 50 Latvian permits valid for goods transport operations in the year 2010 (AA 816391- AA 816440).

Delegations agreed to establish preliminary quota for the year 2011 equal to the final quota of the current year 150 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

3. Passenger transport

The Latvian delegation informed that between Latvia and Bulgaria operated two regular passenger lines - **Riga - Sofia** and **Riga - Varna** which are performed by

operators "Transinesta" UAB, SIA "NORMA - A", "ECOLINES ESTONIA" OÜ and "ECOLINES - POLSKA" Sp.zo.o.

The Bulgarian delegation noted that the mentioned passenger lines function successfully.

Both sides exchanged information on organization of public transport in their countries.

Bulgarian delegation informed that a new public transport system is being worked out with the aim to optimize public transport in Bulgaria.

4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation Regulations of the Road Transport Package

Both sides exchanged information regarding implementation of requirements of EU Regulations 1071/2009, 1072/2009 and 1073/2009.

The delegations exchanged views on new requirements for cabotage transport operations. The Bulgarian side asked the Latvian delegation to explain requirements for cabotage operations in Latvia (necessity for registration as a VAT payer).

The Latvian side noted that cabotage transport operations in Latvia can be performed in accordance with EU Regulation 1072/2009 article 8 and 9 without special requirements.

Implementation of new electronic register was discussed.

5. Miscellaneous

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 was planning to introduce road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3,5 tons starting from the 01.01.2011. Taking into account global economical situation it has been decided to delay introduction of road vignette till first of January 2012. The Latvian side noted that the vignette will be electronic. It will be possible to purchase it by fuel card, credit card, by mobile phone or by internet. It is foreseen that the payment will be fixed in the amount of 11 EUR per day and applied only on main roads. Carriers will be able to purchase day, week, month and year vignettes. An electronic database will be used for

control of the vignette system. The vignettes will be issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles etc. The Latvian side will provide detailed information concerning this matter before the introduction of the vignette system.

The Bulgarian delegation informed about amount of road vignette in Bulgaria and system of its payment.

The delegations exchanged views about border crossing problems between Latvia and Russia as well as Bulgaria and Turkey. The Bulgarian side informed about planned introduction of Ro – La transport system for transit from Turkey to Serbia.

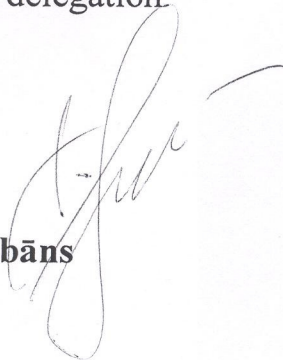
The Latvian delegation informed that in Latvia registration plate numbers of motor vehicles are entered on certified copies of European Community licenses and noted that it is prohibited for Latvian operators to perform transport operations by foreign registered motor vehicles.

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

The Bulgarian delegation proposed to organize the next Joint Committee meeting in Bulgaria in the year 2011. The exact time will be agreed by correspondence.

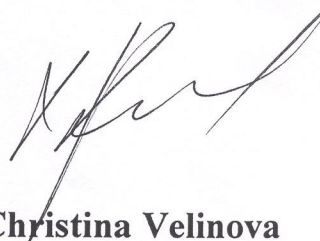
Done at Riga on 26th August, 2010, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation



Mr. Andris Lubāns

For the Bulgarian delegation



Mrs. Christina Velinova

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

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| Mr. Andris Lubāns | Head of the delegation, Chairman of the Board, Road Transport Administration |
| Ms. Annija Novikova | Senior Officer, Road Transport Division, Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport |
| Mr. Aivars Olants | Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Co-ordination Division, Road Transport Administration |
| Ms. Daiga Ancāne | Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Co-ordination Division, Road Transport Administration |
| Mr. Alvis Keziks | Expert, International Road Carriage Co-ordination Division, Road Transport Administration |
| Mr. Imants Zālītis | Director of Latvian Association of Passenger Carriers |
| Mr. Valdis Trēziņš | President of Road Carriers Association „Latvijas Auto” |

The Bulgarian delegation:

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| Mrs. Christina Velinova | Head of delegation, Acting Director of Road Transport and International Relations Directorate, Road Transport Administration |
| Ms. Yana Koseva | Chief Expert in European Affairs and International Relations Department, Road Transport Administration |
| Mrs. Antonia Atanassova | expert, AEBTRI |