

P R O T O C O L

of the Bulgarian - Latvian Joint Committee Meeting on International Road Transport held in Sofia, August 31, 2011

Both delegations agreed to the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information on the development of trade and road transport between the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Bulgaria;
2. Transport of goods by road, third country goods transport operations;
3. International passenger transport;
4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation of the Regulations from the Road Transport Package;
5. Further development of the system of the ECMT licences;
6. Miscellaneous.

The list of participants is attached in an Annex to this Protocol.

Item 1

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

The Latvian delegation presented statistical information on transport of passengers and goods by road in Latvia, as well as information on international trade between Bulgaria and Latvia. The Bulgarian delegation also presented similar information.

The Bulgarian side noted that for 2010 the export from Bulgaria to Latvia increased by 34% compared to 2009 when a drastic decrease has been observed. Import from Latvia also increased by 32% in 2010. That information indicates a positive tendency of growth in the exchange of goods between Bulgaria and Latvia.

An exchange of information on the number of issued Community licences and certified true copies was performed between the two delegations.

Item 2

Both sides exchanged information on the use of permits for transport of goods to/from third countries. The delegations stated that the quantity of third country permits exchanged between

the two countries for 2011 satisfies the carriers from both countries.

The Bulgarian side noted that up to 25 August 2011 88 Latvian permits have been used from 150 such permits for transport of goods to/from third countries and asked the Latvian side to keep the same number of permits for exchange in 2012 as well.

The Latvian delegation informed that only 54 Bulgarian permits were used in 2010 and up to August 2011 their carriers received 25 pieces of permits out of 150 Bulgarian permits, but the Latvian delegation stated that they are not sure how many of those have been used.

Both sides agreed upon the preliminary quota for 2012, namely 150 third country permits.

Both delegations agreed that upon request of one of the sides for additional permits, the other side will consider the request in a manner with the good cooperation between the two countries.

Item 3

Both delegations stated with satisfaction that there were no problems in performing passenger transport between the two countries.

The Bulgarian side confirmed that the two regular bus lines, Riga – Sofia and Riga – Varna, are operated successfully. The following transport operators service these bus lines: “Transinesta” UAB, “Norma – A”, “Ecolines Estonia” OÜ and “Ecolines Polska” Sp.zo.o.

Item 4

Both sides exchanged information regarding the implementation of the legal provisions of EU Regulations 1071/2009, 1072/2009 and 1073/2009. The Bulgarian delegation stated that the electronic register is ready, but some technical issues should be still considered.

The fourth requirement for licencing, namely establishment of transport operators and especially the term “an operating centre”, under EU Regulation 1071/2009 and information on its implementation were extensively discussed. Information on what type of document is required by the Latvian transport operators to prove their establishment was discussed. The Latvian delegation exchanged their good practices on this issue, as they confirmed that they require a declaration from their enterprises.

The Certificate for Professional Competence was also extensively discussed and good practices were exchanged. A special attention was also paid on the periodical trainings for transport managers of undertakings.

Both sides exchanged information on the organization of public transport in their countries and the regulation of taxi services.

Item 5

Both sides exchanged views on the further development and strengthening of the system of ECMT licences. The two delegations also discussed the problems they have with parties to the ECMT system, as well as problems with the quota in general and the established quota for each of the two countries.

Item 6

The Latvian delegation confirmed that, in accordance with Directive 2006/38/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 May 2006 amending Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructure, Latvia would introduce a road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons on 01.01.2014. The vignette will be electronic and could be purchased by fuel card, credit card, mobile phone or through Internet. It is foreseen that the sum to be paid for a vignette will be fixed, EUR 11 per day and applied only on main roads. Carriers will be able to purchase daily, weekly, monthly and annual vignettes. An electronic database will be used for the control of the vignette system. The vignettes will be issued taking into consideration the ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc.

The Bulgarian side informed the Latvian side on the new summer restriction for trucks with more than 2 axles travelling in the period in the last working day of the week (Friday) or the last day of the weekend (Sunday). From 16:00 p.m. to 22:00 p.m. the same day the driving of such vehicles is forbidden.

The Latvian side informed the Bulgarian side about some major changes within the control road check system. These control functions are already transferred (since 01 April 2011) to the traffic police in Latvia.

In addition, the Latvian side informed the Bulgarian side that the authorization of the carriage of overweight load is already the responsibility of the state joint – stock company “Latvian State Roads”.

The Latvian delegation invited the Bulgarian delegation in Latvia for the next Joint Committee meeting in 2012. The exact dates will be determined through correspondence.

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Done in Sofia on August 31, 2011 in two originals in English.

FOR THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION:



Valentin Bojkov

FOR THE LATVIAN DELEGATION:



Māris Pēkalis

THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION:

- 1. Valentin Bojkov** Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Executive Director of Executive Agency "Road Transport Administration", head of the delegation;
- 2. Diana Yordanova** Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Executive Agency "Road Transport Administration", State expert in Road Transport Department at Road Transport and International Relations Directorate, member of the delegation;
- 3. Tsvetelina Ilieva Yordanova** - Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Executive Agency "Road Transport Administration", State expert in European Affairs and International Relations Department at Road Transport and International Relations Directorate, member of the delegation;
- 4. Yana Koseva** Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Executive Agency "Road Transport Administration", Chief Expert in European Affairs and International Relations Department at Road Transport and International Relations Directorate, member of the delegation;
- 5. Boryana Peneva** Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Executive Agency "Road Transport Administration", Junior Expert in European Affairs and International Relations Department at Road Transport and International Relations Directorate, member of the delegation;
- 6. Antoaneta Ivanova** Chief Expert, Association of the Bulgarian Enterprises for International Road Transport and the Roads (AEBTRI), member of the delegation.

THE LATVIAN DELEGATION:

1. Māris Pēkalis

Deputy Director of Land Transport
Department, Ministry of Transport;

2. Andulis Židkovs

Member of the Board, Road Transport
Administration;

3. Jūlijs Vaitužs

Deputy Head of Licencing Division, Road
Transport Administration.