

Agreed Minutes of the Latvian – Georgian Joint Committee Meeting on International Road Transport Riga, 16 - 17 October, 2024

The meeting of the Latvian-Georgian Joint Committee on Road Transport took place in Riga, Latvia, on 16th-17th October, 2024.

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Georgia.
2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the final road transport permit quota for 2024 and preliminary for 2025.
3. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in bus transport.
4. Miscellaneous.

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

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

The two delegations exchanged statistical information concerning trade relations between the two 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 Georgia and Latvia.

The Latvian delegation noted that during the year 2023 export volume from Latvia to Georgia in terms of money exceeded 61,5 million EUR, and compared to the previous year it has risen by 8,8%, while import from Georgia has reached 8,5 million EUR thus decreasing by 6,7%. Export volume expressed in tons reached 7121 tons and in comparison with 2021 increased by 15%, while import volume amounted to 4179 tons decreased by 22,1%.

Total trade turnover expressed in EUR between both countries increased by 6,6%, totalling over 70 million EUR during 2023. While total trade turnover expressed in tons decreased by 12,1%.

The main types of goods imported from Georgia include beverages, spirits, vinegar, fruit and nuts. Export from Latvia to Georgia mainly include beverages, spirits, vinegar, pharmaceutical products and tobacco.

The Georgian delegation also highlighted that the data on trade exchange volumes closely aligns with the figures presented by the Latvian delegation. Furthermore, the Georgian delegation emphasized that in 2024, the trade turnover via road freight transportation increased by 38% compared to 2023.

The Georgian delegation took the opportunity to inform Latvian delegation about the main categories of goods involved in bilateral trade. It was noted that Georgia's imports from Latvia predominantly consist of alcoholic beverages, live cattle, ready or canned fish, sturgeon caviar, and its substitutes. In terms of exports, Georgia primarily supplies water with added sugar, natural grape wines, and various alcoholic beverages to the Latvian market. This diverse range of traded goods underscores the complementary nature of the economic relations between the two countries.

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of their heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that the number of licensed Latvian operators involved in international goods transport operations has dropped by 0.9% in the year 2024 compared to the previous year, reaching 4693 operators. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods has reached 15,308 units. Additionally,



the Latvian delegation noted the increase in the number of vehicles corresponding to EURO VI and EURO V standard amounting to 83% of the entire fleet involved in the international operations.

The Georgian delegation provided an overview of the structure of the national vehicle fleet, noting that in 2024, approximately 6,400 companies are engaged in the international transport of goods. Additionally, the number of vehicles involved in international carriage is recorded at 11,800 units. The Georgian delegation also highlighted that 78% of the fleet involved in international operations complies with EURO V and EURO VI standards, reflecting the country's commitment to environmental and technical standards.

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 Georgia will continue an upward trend in the future as well as co-operation in developing new logistics chains will be strengthened.

2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the final road transport permit quota for 2024 and preliminary for 2025

Both delegations noted that in the year 2024 five hundred (500) universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations have been exchanged.

The delegations exchanged information on the usage of permits within the year 2024.

The Georgian delegation proposed considering the possibility of exchanging an additional two hundred (200) universal permits for the current year.

The delegations agreed to exchange additionally 150 (one hundred fifty) universal permits for bilateral, transit, and third-country transport operations for the year 2024 and noted that the final quota of the year 2024 shall be 650 universal permits.

The additional permits for 2024 will be exchanged at the earliest opportunity through diplomatic channels.

After discussions and taking into account the development of trade between the two countries, as well as the underlying ambition of the two delegations to further carriage of goods by road between Latvia and Georgia, the delegations agreed to establish the preliminary quota of universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations in amount of 700 permits for the year 2025.

The permits for 2025 shall be exchanged by 15 December 2024 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, any of the Parties can request an additional number of permits and such requests will be examined in the spirit of goodwill.

The delegations discussed the provisions of usage of universal permits and it was noted that the conditions laid out in the Agreed minutes of the previous Joint Committee meeting (signed on 29th September, 2023) are valid.

The Georgian side also informed the Latvian side that, if necessary, Latvian transport operators could obtain a special permit within Georgia. This permit allows transport operators registered in foreign countries to load goods within Georgia and transport them abroad. The special permit can be obtained from branches of the LEPL - Land Transport Agency of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, located in the cities of Tbilisi, Poti, Batumi, and Kutaisi, for a total fee of 1,500 GEL. To obtain this special permit, the transport operator must submit the following:

- A copy of the document confirming the registration of the motor vehicle(s);
- A copy of the driver's license for the corresponding vehicle category;

- A document confirming payment of the permit fee and/or the fee for services provided by law;
- A copy of the valid periodic technical inspection report issued by inspection centers accredited in Georgia, or based on the Agreement of 13 November 1997 on the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodic Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Mutual Recognition of Such Inspections, or on the basis of Article 92 of the Code of Product Safety and Free Movement, confirming the roadworthiness of the vehicle.

3. International passenger transport, including passenger rights in bus transport

Both delegations noted that there are no regular bus lines between Latvia and Georgia.

It was noted that 10 permits for occasional non-liberalized passenger services have been exchanged in 2024 and it was agreed to exchange preliminary the same number for 2025.

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, 30 Valņu Street, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia, e-mail: daiga.ancane@atd.lv, phone: +37167686493.

The Georgian delegation informed that the competent authority for regular bus permits as well as occasional passenger transport operations by bus is Road Transport Department of the LEPL - Land Transport Agency Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, 16 Vazha-Pshavela Ave, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia, e-mail: VGiorgobiani@lta.gov.ge, phone: + 995 599 30 40 60.

4. Miscellaneous

The two delegations discussed the possibilities of further development of the ECMT quota system. It was noted that after implementation of digitalized ECMT licence system the possibilities of digitalization of bilateral licences could be examined. Both delegations agreed to make any possible efforts in developing the ECMT Quota in the future.

The Georgian delegation informed the Latvian delegation that plans are underway to open an additional border crossing point on the border with Azerbaijan, aimed at facilitating transit through Georgia. Furthermore, the Georgian side underscored the ongoing negotiations with the People's Republic of China to establish a new logistical center in Georgia. This initiative is anticipated to play a pivotal role in bolstering trade turnover and streamlining logistics operations along the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (Middle Corridor), ensuring seamless transportation between Asia and Europe.

In this regard, the Georgian delegation reiterated its firm commitment to fully harnessing the potential of the Black Sea and strengthening international road freight transportation along the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (Middle Corridor). As part of this effort, Georgia is actively engaged in the development of maritime routes linking it with Bulgaria and Romania, including enhancing regular Ro-Ro/ferry services between the ports of these countries.

The Latvian side notified about the planned fuel import limit of 200 liters in vehicle standard tanks. After enactment, the information will follow via diplomatic channels.

The Georgian delegation proposed to the Latvian delegation to exchange quarterly information on the usage of all types of international road freight transportation permits and report any violations in the field of road transport committed by transport operators from both countries. The Latvian side agreed to explore this proposal and evaluate the technical possibility as well as the legal framework.

The Georgian side informed that there is no road tolling system in their country but when performing transit operations by a loaded vehicle through the territory of Georgia a carrier is obliged to pay a fee in amount of 350 GEL which is charged on non-discriminatory basis.

The Georgian delegation informed the Latvian delegation that upon the completion of the ongoing road transport reforms in Georgia, roadside inspections will be carried out by the LEPL - Land Transport Agency under the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

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).

The Georgian delegation informed that in Georgia road transport control, including control of maximum permissible weights and dimensions is performed by the patrol police and customs authorities at border crossing points.

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@lvceļi.lv).

The Georgian delegation informed that in Georgia when a carrier performs carriage of abnormal loads it should be escorted. Applications for such escorting service should be submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in advance (address: Gulua Street 10, 0114, Georgia, Phone (+995 32) 241 11 58).

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

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

Done at Riga, on 17 October, 2024, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation



Annija Novikova

For the Georgian delegation



Levan Gamkrelidze