## Agreed Minutes of the Latvian – Kyrgyz Joint Committee Meeting on International Road Transport 21-22 October, 2024

The meeting of the Latvian-Kyrgyz Joint Committee on Road Transport took place in Riga, Latvia, on 21st-22nd October, 2024 in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on International Carriage by Road signed on 11 April, 1997 in Bishkek.

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

- 1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between the Republic of Latvia and the Kyrgyz Republic.
- 2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the final road transport permit quota for 2024 and preliminary for 2025.
- 3. 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 the Republic of Latvia and Kyrgyz Republic

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 Latvia and Kyrgyz Republic.

The Latvian delegation noted that during the year 2023 export volume from Latvia to Kyrgyzstan reached 58.2 million EUR, and compared to the previous year it has risen by 142.7%, while import from Kyrgyzstan has exceeded 2.1 million EUR thus decreasing by 71.9%. Total trade turnover between both countries increased by 92.5%, totalling 60.2 million EUR during 2023.

The main types of goods imported from Kyrgyzstan include nickel, glass and electrical machinery. Export from Latvia to Kyrgyzstan mainly include pharmaceutical products, mineral fuels and oils and electrical machinery.

The Kyrgyz delegation noted that their data on the trade exchange volume is very similar and highlighted a significant increase in 2023 while showing a slight weight-wise decrease in 2024.

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 Kyrgyz delegation presented the information on the structure of the vehicle fleet and noted that in 2024 there are about 130 companies involved in international goods transport. The number of vehicles involved in the international carriage of goods in 2024 is 6000 units.

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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 Kyrgyzstan will continue an upward trend in the future.

## 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 2024, the Latvian side received 500 (five hundred) permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations and 400 (four hundred) universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations. On the other hand, the Kyrgyz side received 2000 (two thousand) permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations and 200 (two hundred) universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations.

The delegations exchanged information on the usage of permits within the year 2024. The Kyrgyz side emphasized that Latvia is a transit country and a gateway to EU countries.

The delegations discussed the possibility of introducing a new type of permit that allows bilateral and transit transport operations through Latvian ports. The permit is valid in cases where the carrier can prove an intent to transport goods to/from or via any port of Latvia. The Latvian delegation stressed that the following documents can be considered as a proof:

- CMR consignment note;
- ferry booking confirmation;
- ferry ticket, etc.

The Kyrgyz delegation proposed considering the possibility of exchanging an additional 300 (three hundred) permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations for the year 2024.

The Latvian delegation agreed to allocate 200 (two hundred) additional permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations and 100 (one hundred) new type of permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations involving Latvian ports for the year 2024 for the Kyrgyz side.

Both delegations agreed to establish the final quota for the year 2024 in amount of:

- 500 permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations for the Latvian side;
- 400 universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations for the Latvian side;
- 2200 permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations for the Kyrgyz side;
- 100 permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations involving Latvian ports for the Kyrgyz side;
- 200 universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations for the Kyrgyz side.

The additional permits for 2024 will be exchanged in November through diplomatic channels.

After discussions and taking into an account the positive 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 Kyrgyzstan, the delegations agreed to establish the preliminary for 2025 in amount of:

- 500 permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations for the Latvian side;
- 400 universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations for the Latvian side;

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- 2000 permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations for the Kyrgyz side;
- 500 permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations involving Latvian ports for the Kyrgyz side;
- 200 universal permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country transport operations for the Kyrgyz side.

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.

On the request of the Latvian delegation, the Kyrgyz side provided an explanation concerning the use of universal permits in cases when types of transport operations are being changed during the performance of a particular carriage thus requiring the use of one universal permit. The Kyrgyz side noted that the universal permits cover all three types of transport operations and as such provide flexibility to choose combinations of types of transport operation, e.g., a bilateral carriage can be followed by a third country operation and *vice versa*. The Latvian side noted that it has the same approach.

## 3. Miscellaneous

The Latvian side inquired about the possibility of transporting Chinese cargo from Kyrgyz territory. The Kyrgyz side informed that Chinese cargo is mainly transported from a cargo terminal located in the People's Democratic Republic of China. It was noted that Latvian carriers can transport goods of Chinese origin from a terminal near Bishkek if agreed with the Chinese shipper or the Kyrgyz freight forwarder.

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 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: <a href="mailto:sdp@vp.gov.lv">sdp@vp.gov.lv</a>).

The Kyrgyz delegation informed that in Kyrgyz Republic road transport control, including control of maximum permissible weights and dimensions is performed by the Department of inland and water transport (address: 42 Isanov Street, Bishkek; phone: +996312314110).

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: <a href="mailto:atlaujas@lvceli.lv">atlaujas@lvceli.lv</a>).

The Kyrgyz delegation informed that special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in Kyrgyz Republic are issued by the Department of inland and water transport (address: 42 Isanov Street, Bishkek; phone: +996312314110).

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

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

Done at Riga, on 22 October 2024, in two originals in the English language and the Kyrgyz language. In case of divergence between the language versions, the English version shall prevail.

For the Latvian delegation

For the Kyrgyz delegation

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