

Agreed Minutes
of the Latvian - Norwegian Joint Committee Meeting
on International Road Transport

Riga, June 27-29, 2005

The members of the delegations are listed in Annex I of the Minutes.

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Analysis of the changes and problems in the road transport market after the enlargement of the EU.
2. Exchange of views regarding the development of the ECMT multilateral quota.
3. Exchange of viewpoints regarding the possible liberalization of cabotage and third country traffic.
4. Implementation of social rules in road transport.
5. Control of road transport operations.
6. Miscellaneous.

- 1. Analysis of the changes and problems in the road transport market after the enlargement of the EU.**

The Latvian delegation presented to the Norwegian delegation information on the international road transport and trade between Norway and Latvia during recent years and noted that there is a positive development tendency. The same was confirmed by the Norwegian side. It was pointed out that after joining the EU the number of Latvian companies willing to operate in the international goods transport market and vehicles at their disposal have increased. Approximately 70% of the fleet of Latvian carriers correspond to EURO 2 and EURO 3 standards. The costs of transport operations during the last year have increased considerably. There is also a problem of lack of professional drivers.

The Norwegian delegation pointed out that their country is experiencing inflow of working force from the Baltic countries.

Both delegations agreed that there are no special problems related to international road transport between Norway and Latvia. The possibilities

of developing combined transport between both the countries were discussed.

The Latvian delegation informed about the peculiarities of the copy of Community authorization issued to the Latvian carriers, namely, that the registration number of a vehicle is mentioned on the copy and the validity of this document is one year. A sample of the Latvian Community authorization was provided. The Norwegian side promised to send a sample of the document to be on board Norwegian vehicles when performing international road transport operations for hire or reward.

2. Exchange of views on development of the ECMT multilateral quota

The delegations exchanged views on the results of the ECMT Deputies meeting that was held in Paris June 23, 2005 where the issue of the journey related restriction for the usage of ECMT licences was on the agenda. Though the majority of countries, including Norway and Latvia, support the option of 4 journey restriction without returning to the country of registration, it was decided to approve 3 journeys

The Latvian delegation pointed out that the ECMT quota because of its geopolitical situation still plays an important role in order to get access to the road transport markets of the non-EU countries.

The Norwegian delegation noted that in the year 2004 the Norwegian carriers used only ~29% of its ECMT quota and emphasized the need to modernise the system.

Both the delegations agreed that it is of high importance to support proposals and efforts which help the ECMT quota system to become an effective road transport market tool.

3. Exchange of viewpoints regarding the possible liberalization of cabotage and third country traffic

The delegations exchanged views regarding possibilities of liberalization of third country transport operations. After having analysed the situation, it was agreed to retain the existing system and to set the exchanged forty (40) permits valid for third country transport as the quota of the year 2005 and the preliminary quota for the year 2006.

The Norwegian delegation confirmed that after Latvia's accession to the EU there is no need for a third country permit when transporting goods between Norway and any EEA country. If a Latvian carrier transports goods between Norway and Switzerland the Norwegian third country permit is necessary.

The delegations discussed the issue of liberalization of cabotage in the EU territory taking into consideration the transitional scenarios for the

new EU Member States. The Norwegian delegation pointed out that these transitional measures are also binding for the Norwegian side and the opening of the cabotage between Latvia and Norway is going to be performed according the transitional scenario set out for Latvia, namely 2+2+1.

4. Implementation of social rules in road transport

The delegations exchanged information on implementation of Directive 2002/15 on the organisation of the working time of mobile workers and on introduction of digital tachographs.

The Norwegian delegation informed that the necessary legislation regarding working time of mobile workers has been adopted and the respective provisions are being enforced.

The Latvian delegation informed that the legal acts for transposition of the above mentioned directive are at the finalization stage and draw the attention to the difficulties the enforcement causes.

With regard to the introduction of the digital tachograph the Norwegian side informed that it is going to be ready to start issuing of cards in July this year but the legislation regarding approval of workshops has not yet been adopted. Latvian could start issuing of cards at the end of October, 2005 because of a complicated procedure of production of tachograph cards.

Both the delegations agreed that there is a lot to be done with regard to training of drivers, company personnel, workshops and controllers and the overall digital tachograph system is not yet ready.

5. Control of road transport operations

Both delegations exchanged information and experience on the organization of road transport control. The Latvian delegation informed about the plans according the decision of the Cabinet to establish an independent road transport control authority as from 01.01.2006 as well as about the organization of roadside checks, control of dangerous goods transport, control of weight and dimensions and driving/resting time of drivers in Latvia.

The Norwegian delegation informed that there are two different road control authorities in Norway. The Public Roads authority and the Police. The information concerning sanctions for violation of road transport related rules in Norway was provided, for example, if there is no respective transport documents the carrier is obliged at his own expense to reload goods into another truck holding all the necessary documents.

In addition the carner may also be subject to police investigation.

6. Miscellaneous

The delegations exchanged information regarding documents to be on board when performing passenger transport operations.

The Norwegian delegation informed that the Norwegian carriers perform international occasional passenger services in accordance with the EEA. The information concerning amendments to the Norwegian rules related to the usage of tire chains in winter time was provided. The Norwegian delegation draw the attention to the problem that the Baltic hauliers rather often use 4 - page TIR carnet instead of 6 -page that causes control problem and asked to inform Latvian hauliers about the obligation to use at least 6-page TIR carnet.

The Latvian delegation expressed a request to the Norwegian delegation to support Latvia's participation at the meetings of Nordic countries on transport related matters. The Norwegian delegation promised to consider this matter.

It was agreed to organize the next Joint Committee meeting in Norway, the exact time of which will be agreed by correspondence.

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

Done at Riga on June 28, 2005 in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation



Mr Jūlijs Vaitužs

For the Norwegian delegation



Mr Arnfinn Øen

ANNEX1

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

Mr Jūlijs Vaitužs	Head of the delegation, Deputy Director of the Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Mr Aivars Olants	Head of Foreign Relations Division, Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Mrs. Indra Gromule	Head of International Road Carriage Co-ordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Ms Ieva Hlevicka	Officer, Foreign Relations Division, Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport

The Norwegian delegation:

Mr. Arnfinn Øen,	Head of the delegation, Deputy Director General, Department of Transport, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Ms. Mona Sanden Olivier,	Ministry of Transport and Communications
Ms. Unni Augland Eik,	Public Roads Administration
Mr. Jan Mejlænder Larsen,	Norwegian Hauliers Association