

AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian – Norwegian Joint Committee meeting on International Road Transport Issues held in Riga, 12th – 13th October, 2011

The delegations agreed upon the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Norway.
2. Transport of goods by road.
3. International passenger transport.
4. Exchange of views regarding the implementation of EU Road Transport Package.
5. Miscellaneous (control of road transport operations, road user charges, further development of the system of ECMT quota, implementation of digital tachograph system).

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

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

The delegations exchanged information on the statistical data regarding the development of trade and international goods transport by road between Latvia and Norway.

According to the information presented by the Latvian side during the year 2010 in comparison with the previous year export volume in tons to Norway increased by 63% and import volume from Norway by 42%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during the year 2010 increased by 18,5% and reached 275 mln. EUR. The main export goods to Norway include timber and timber products, metals and metal products and mineral substances, import goods from Norway - mineral products, metals and metal products, animals and meat.

The data provided by the Norwegian side confirmed the same tendency.

Volume of goods transported by Latvian carriers in the year 2010 to Norway increased by 19,5% and from Norway by 50%. The total volume of goods

transported by Latvian carriers between both countries during the year 2010 was 179 thsd tons.

Both delegations expressed their satisfaction on increasing of trade volume and road transport operations between the two countries, especially, during the last year.

Both delegations presented the information related to organization of road transport operations in both countries and to the structure of the fleet at disposal of carriers.

The Norwegian side informed that sea transport is the dominant freight transport between Norway and Latvia expressed in tons.

The delegations noted that a number of environmentally friendly vehicles has considerably increased within the last years and expressed hope that international road transport operations between Latvia and Norway will increase in the nearest future.

2. Transport of goods by road

It was noted that within the last years there have not been any problems as to performance of international goods transport operations by road between Latvia and Norway.

The delegations exchanged views regarding possibilities of liberalization of third country transport operations. Considering the provisions of point 2 of Article 8 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway relating to international transport by road and having analyzed the situation, it was agreed to retain the existing system. Both sides agreed to establish the final quota of fifty (50) permits valid for third country transport operations for the year 2011 and the same preliminary quota, i.e., fifty (50) permits for the year 2012 and also for the following years.

All permits of a current year shall be valid till 31st January of the following year.

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 two countries.

The Norwegian delegation confirmed that there is no need for a third country permit when transporting goods between Norway and any EEA country and Switzerland. If a Latvian carrier transports goods between Norway and a country outside the EEA the Norwegian third country permit or ECMT licence is necessary.

The delegations discussed the issue of liberalization of cabotage transport operations in both countries and in the EU territory.

The Norwegian delegation confirmed that the main principles of the EU cabotage rules, namely, once the goods carried in the course of an incoming international carriage have been delivered, hauliers are permitted to carry out, with the same vehicle, or, in the case of a coupled combination, the motor vehicle of that same vehicle, up to three cabotage operations within seven days in the territory of Norway, are incorporated into their national legislation and are in force.

3. International passenger transport

It was mentioned that there are no regular lines between Latvia and Norway. At the same time occasional transport of passengers and tourism between both countries is well developed. Occasional transport operations performed under provisions of EU legislation and control document is EU waybill.

The Latvian delegation highlighted the urgent necessity of drafting regulatory framework for organizing regular passenger transport services by coach and bus which covers EU and non-EU countries. The information on current situation with regard to two possible options in this respect, namely, drafting of OMNIBUS agreement or extension of the scope of INTERBUS agreement was exchanged.

The Norwegian side informed that at the moment they have not problems for regular passenger transport to third countries and they are performed under the requirements of bilateral agreements.

The parties exchanged views on occasional passenger cabotage transport. The Norwegian delegation noted that it is acceded to the EU legislation on this issue. However, Norway is planning to introduce a special register to control that cabotage operations are temporary. All EEA states will be informed about the introduction of the system.

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

The Norwegian delegation informed that the EU Road Transport Package is going to be transposed in the Norwegian law but due to the fact that these regulations are not included in the EEA agreement at the present moment its implementation in the Norwegian law will be delayed.

The Latvian side highlighted that all the legal acts necessary for implementation of the EU Road Transport Package as from December 4, 2011 are being finalized.

The delegations exchanged the views on progress with the development of national registers and contact points under the EU Road Transport Package. The Latvian side noted that for exchange of the information among different national registers it has opted for using the TACHONET system. The same system is planned to be used in Norway.

Parties exchanged information about the licensing system in their countries.

5. Miscellaneous (control of road transport operations, road user charges, further development of the system of ECMT quota, implementation of digital tachograph system)

The Latvian delegation informed that in accordance with 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 as from this year. Taking into account the global economical situation it has been decided to postpone introduction of a road vignette by January 1, 2014. The Latvian side noted that the vignette will be electronic. It is foreseen to organize purchasing of it by a fuel card, a credit card, by mobile phone or by internet. It is planned that the payment will be fixed in the amount of 11 EUR per day and applied only on main roads. The carriers will be able to purchase a day, a week, a month and a 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 Latvian side informed that starting as from April 1 of this year road transport control functions are executed by the Traffic Control Bureau of the Prevention Department of the State Police Central Public Order Police Department (address: Stabu street 89, Riga, LV – 1009, Latvia; Phone: +371 67208108; fax: +371 67274789; email: inta.lujane@cpp.vp.gov.lv).

The Norwegian delegation informed that the transport control is performed by police and the Public Roads Administration. In case of infringement the vehicle may be detained for up to one week.

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: Gogola street 3, Riga, LV – 1743; phone/fax: +371 67036412; email: kadikis@lvceli.lv and lvceli@lvceli.lv).

The Norwegian side informed that during the winter period chains must be on board of a vehicle and that a driver is able to use them if necessary

The delegations exchanged information on functioning of digital tachograph systems in both countries. The Latvian delegation informed about the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EEC) Nr. 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council”

The delegations exchanged information on possible scenarios for the ECMT Multilateral Quota restructuring in 2013 and beyond. The Latvian side noted that it supports maintaining as a basis the conventional statistical sources, criteria and methodology for the quota distribution, supported the redistribution concept, the margin of which should be defined, and the approach that redistributed licenses should be used for EURO IV and EUROV vehicles fitted with digital tachographs.

The Norwegian delegation noted that it would be useful to develop a system of ECMT permits policy for at least three years period.

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

The Norwegian delegation proposed to organize the next Joint Committee meeting in Norway, the exact time of which will be agreed by correspondence.

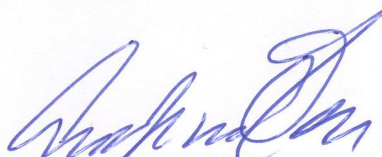
Done in Riga on 13th October, 2011, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation:



Mr. Māris Pēkalis

For the Norwegian delegation:



Mr. Arnfinn Øen

The list of participants

The Latvian delegation:

Mr. Māris Pēkalis	Deputy Director of Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Head of Delegation
Ms. Annija Novikova	Senior Officer, Road Transport Division, Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Mr. Andulis Židkovs	Member of the Board, Road Transport Administration
Ms. Indra Gromule	Head of International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Aivars Olants	Senior Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Alvis Keziks	Expert, International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration
Mr. Valdis Trēziņš	President of Latvian Association of International Road Carriers „Latvijas Auto”

The Norwegian delegation:

Mr. Arnfinn Øen	Head of the delegation, Head of Road and Sea Transport Division, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Ms. Marianne Engeset Kristing	Senior Adviser, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Mr. Alf Heggeseth	Adviser, Norwegian Public Roads Administration
Mr. Jan - Terje Mentzoni	Norwegian Haulier Association