

AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian - Macedonian Joint Committee meeting on International Road
Transport Issues held in Riga, 21st – 22nd July, 2016

The delegations agreed upon the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of road transport and trade between Latvia and Macedonia.
2. Transport of goods by road and establishment of the quota of international road transport permits for the year 2016 and preliminary for 2017.
3. International transport of passengers.
4. Miscellaneous (road user charges, control of road transport operations, etc.).

The composition of both delegations is annexed to the protocol (Annex 1).

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

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both 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 Macedonia.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2015 in comparison with the previous year the export volume in EUR to Macedonia increased by 18,4% and the import volume from Macedonia increased by 11.5%. Conversely in tons export volume increased by 20.2%, but import volume decreased by 3,6%.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2015 increased by 15,8% and constituted 4,8 million EUR. At the same time trade turnover in tons increased by 2,6%.

In EUR the export of goods from Latvia to Macedonia exceeds import from Macedonia to Latvia 1,7 times but in tons import from Macedonia to Latvia exceeds export of goods from Latvia 2,3 times. It means that more valuable goods are exported from Latvia to Macedonia.

The Latvian side informed that main types of goods imported from Macedonia are vegetable products (52%), textiles and textile articles (28,9%), base metals and articles of base metals (13,4%). Main types of goods exported to Macedonia are machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical equipment (48,1%), textiles and textile articles (29,5%), transport vehicles (7%).

The Macedonian delegation informed about their statistical data and noted that total trade turnover between both countries during the year 2015 constituted 3,7 million USD dollars and all in all their statistical data show similar tendencies. The main types of goods imported from Latvia are fish products, mechanical appliances and electrical equipment.

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2015, in comparison with the previous year, the fleet involved in international carriage of goods increased by 2.8% and reached 14709 units. The number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations decreased by 0.7% and at the end of the year there were 3920 such companies.

The Macedonian delegation informed about companies involved in international and national goods transport operations and noted that there are 3096 companies for hire and reward as well as 1431 companies for own account transport operations. Regarding passenger transport there are 726 companies involved in international and national carriage of passengers and 271 for own account transport operations.

Regarding the structure and size of heavy goods vehicle fleet the Macedonian delegation noted that more than 5600 vehicles are involved in international for hire and reward carriage of goods and more than 2900 vehicles perform own account goods transport operations. More than 700 vehicles comply EURO 6 and more than 2700 with EURO 5 standards. Year by year the fleet becomes "greener".

Both sides expressed hope that the trade turnover and the number of international goods transport operations between Latvia and Macedonia will increase in the future.

2. Transport of goods by road and establishment of the quota of international road transport permits for the year 2016 and preliminary for 2017.

It was noted that in 2015 the countries have exchanged 200 permits valid for the third country transport operations. The usage of this type of permits in 2015 and the current year was discussed by the delegations.

The delegations agreed that the final quota for the year 2016 and the preliminary quota for the year 2017 shall be established in amount of 200 permits valid for to/from third countries goods transport operations.

The sides agreed that any demand for additional permits will be dealt within the framework of good intentions.

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

The Macedonian delegation proposed to discuss the issue of liberalization of third country transport operations. The Latvian delegation noted that this issue shall be dealt within the framework of the general policy of the EU on access to third country market. The delegations agreed to discuss this proposal at the next Joint Committee meeting.

The delegations noted with satisfaction the approval of the Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System at the Council of Ministers held on 28 May, 2015 in Leipzig which can be regarded as a major step in the development of the qualitative aspects of the Multilateral quota and elimination of existing territorial restrictions.

At the same time the ECMT quota system is experiencing serious problems because of existing numerous restrictions and protectionism policies of some countries. It was stressed that the further functioning of the quota is of high importance and both countries are going to join their efforts to continue functioning of the system.

3. International transport of passengers.

The delegations noted that up to now regular passenger services by coach between both countries are not developed.

The Latvian delegation informed that the competent authority for regular bus permits is the Latvian Road Transport Administration, Valnu street 30, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia, e-mail: daiga.ancane@atd.lv, phone: +37167686493, fax: +37167686490.

The Macedonian delegation informed that the competent authority for regular international bus services is the Macedonian Ministry of Transport and Communications, ul. Crvena Skopska Opshtina br.4, Skopje, e-mail: dragan.jovev@mtc.gov.mk, phone: +38923145879.

Both sides agreed to facilitate opening of regular passenger service between the countries.

The delegations highlighted the necessity of drafting regulatory framework for organizing regular passenger transport services by coach and bus which covers EU and non - EU countries. The information with regard to extension of the scope of INTERBUS agreement was exchanged.

4. Miscellaneous (road user charges, control of road transport operations, etc.).

The delegations exchanged information on road charges in both countries.

The Latvian delegation handed over an informative leaflet on road user charges (vignette) introduced on 01.07.2014 in Latvia.

The Macedonian delegation provided information on road tolls in the Republic of Macedonia and indicated that detailed information is available at www.roads.org.mk.

The Latvian delegation pointed out that road transport control functions inside the country are executed by the State Police Central Public Order Police Department Traffic Safety Department Traffic Surveillance and Coordination Bureau Road Haulage Supervision Unit. (address: Stabu street 89, Riga, LV-1009, Latvia; Phone: +371 67208377; fax: +371 67274789; email: kanceleja.cpp@vp.gov.lv).

The Latvian delegation reminded that since Latvia joined the Schengen Agreement on 21st December, 2007 at the internal borders of Latvia with Lithuania and Estonia control authorities has been removed and, therefore, foreign drivers, when crossing the Latvian – EU internal border and performing transport operations for which the Latvian permits for international carriage of goods are needed, should mark themselves in the column of a permit “date and stamp of the customs or border control authority” the place and date of border crossing. Without such records a permit is regarded as not valid.

The Macedonian delegation informed about the competent institutions performing control of road transport operations, namely the State Inspectorate for Road Transport, ul. Kuzman Josifovski Pitu, br.21, Skopje, phone: +38922464510.

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: maris.ankorins@lvceli.lv and lvceli@lvceli.lv).

The competent authority issuing special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in the territory of Macedonia is the Public Enterprise for Roads, ul Dame Gruev, br. 14, Skopje, phone: +38923118044.

Both delegations exchanged information on the existing systems for access to the profession in their countries.

Upon request of the Latvian delegation, the Macedonian delegation provided information regarding the implementation of Digital Tachograph system and

possibilities to exchange information on issued digital tachograph driver cards via TACHONET.

The contact address concerning issuing of digital tachograph cards:

- in Latvia: Road Transport Administration, Valnu Street 30, LV-1050, Riga, Latvia, e-mail: atd@atd.lv, phone: +37167686462, fax: +37167686490
- in Macedonia: SIZ Makedonija soobrakaj AMERIT, bul. Partizanski odredi br. 17/4, Skopje, phone: +38923298967.

The delegations expressed their concerns about extending of minimum wage law in Germany and France to foreign international road transport companies and administrative barriers related to that as well as about interpreting the Directive on posting of workers in a similar way by some other western countries. It was also noted that the ban introduced by Belgium and France to spend regular weekly 45-hour rest period in a vehicle and very high fines applied in case of non-compliance shall be regarded as social protectionism measures.

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

The Macedonian delegation invited the Latvian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting to Macedonia in the year 2017. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon by correspondence.

Done at Riga on 22nd July, 2016 in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation:



Ms. Annija Novikova

For the Macedonian delegation:



Ms. Elena Angelovska-Atanasovska