

PROTOCOL
of the first Macedonian – Latvian Joint Committee
Meeting on International Road Transport Issues

At the invitation of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Macedonia, the first Macedonian - Latvian Joint Committee meeting on the international road transport, was held in Skopje, on 20 and 21 November 2013.

The list of members of both delegations is attached to this Protocol.

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information on road transport and trade between the Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Latvia.
2. Transport of passengers.
3. Transport of goods.
4. Other matters.

1. Exchange of information on road transport and trade between the Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Latvia.

Both delegations expressed their satisfaction that the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Latvia on International Transport by Road signed in Riga, on 27th April 2012, came into force on December 16, 2012.

The delegations informed each other about trade relations between both the countries and about the organization of the road transport sectors in each of them.

The Macedonian side noted that in 2012, the total trade exchange of the Republic of Macedonia with the Republic of Latvia amounts to US\$ 3,04 million and the same participates with 0,03% in the structure of the total realized trade exchange of the Republic of Macedonia with all other countries in the world.

The export amounts to US\$ 2,4 million and participates with 0,1% in the structure of the total export of the Republic of Macedonia, and the import amounts to US\$ 683 thousand and participates with 0,01% in the structure of the total import of the Republic of Macedonia. The coverage of the import by the export in 2012 is 345,4%.

In the period January – September 2013, the total trade exchange of the Republic of Macedonia with the Republic of Latvia amounts to US\$ 2,3 million. The export amounts to US\$ 1,9 million and the import amounts to US\$ 337 thousand.

The Latvian delegation presented information on international trade between Macedonia and Latvia as well as information on passenger and goods transport by road in Latvia.

The Latvian side noted that during the year 2012 in comparison with the previous year the export volume of goods in EUR to Macedonia increased by 40,9 % and the import volume from Macedonia increased by 19,6 %.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during 2012 increased by 25% and reached EUR 2,88 million. At the same time trade turnover in tons decreased by 3,7 %.

The import of goods expressed in EUR from Macedonia to Latvia exceeds export from Latvia to Macedonia 2,5 times but in tons 16 times that confirms advantage in mutual trade of Macedonian side but at the same time it means that more valuable goods are exported from Latvia.

The data on import and export cargo turnover of Latvia and Macedonia up to August 2013 confirms that total trade volume between both countries could stay at the level of the previous year.

Both delegations expressed their satisfaction on increasing in trade volume between the two countries in EUR.

The Latvian side informed about the structure of the heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that in 2012 in comparison with the previous year the fleet involved in international carriage of goods has increased by 10,1% and reached 13688 units. The number of Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations decreased by 3,0 % and was 4098.

Both sides expressed hope that the international transport operations between Macedonia and Latvia will increase in the nearest future.

2. Transport of passengers.

Both sides noted that because of distance between the countries regular passenger services by coach are not developed.

Both sides exchanged information on the situation in the field of transport of passengers between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Latvia .

Both sides agreed that at present there are no established international regular bus services between the two countries and expressed their willingness in the future if there is interest in establishing an international bus service the competent ministries will meet the wishes of the carriers concerned to quickly establish the regular bus service.

The Latvian delegation informed that as from 30 September 2011 the competent authority for regular bus permits is the Latvian Road Transport Administration, Valnu Street 30, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia, email: daiga.ancane@atd.lv, phone: +37167686493, fax: +37167686490.

Both delegations 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.

Both delegations noted that in case of international occasional passenger transport operations an INTERBUS passenger waybill shall be used.

3. Transport of goods.

Both sides exchanged information on the usage of permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

The Macedonian delegation informed about the usage of Latvian permits valid for goods transport to/from third countries by Macedonia carriers. In 2013 only 20 permits have been issued.

Taking into consideration that the existing quota of to/from third country permits meets the needs of the transport operators from both countries, Macedonian side proposed to liberalize the transport to/from third countries and transport operations to be carried out without any regime of permits.

The Latvian delegation informed that during the year 2012 in comparison with 2011 the number of Macedonian permits used by their carriers has decreased. In 2013 only 10 Macedonian permits have been issued.

Latvian side pointed out that the proposal by the Macedonian side for the transport operations to/from third countries to be carried out without permits will be taken into consideration and discussed in more details at the next Joint Committee meeting.

Both sides agreed to establish the final quota for the year 2013 and preliminary quota for 2014 as follows - 200 permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

The Latvian delegation handed over 200 Latvian permits (AA 870891 -871090) valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries in 2014.

Delegations noted that in case of necessity additional permits may be exchanged upon request by either party. All permits of the current year shall be valid till 31st of January of the following year.

4. Other matters.

The Latvian side informed that according to the European Union Road Transport Package provisions in Latvia the Community licences are issued for the period of up to 10 years, but the validity of the certified copies of Community licences is one year and issued only for vehicles registered in Latvia. A certified copy contains the registration number of the particular vehicle. A transport manager is allowed to manage the transport activities in not more than two of related undertakings with a total fleet of no more than 50 vehicles. The necessity of periodic training for transport managers is not specified.

The delegations exchanged the information on the latest developments within the ECMT Multilateral Quota System. Both sides noted that it is important to develop ECMT Multilateral Quota System and to eliminate territorial restrictions.

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 plans to introduce road vignette for trucks with permissible total weight over 3.5 tons starting as from July 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, 2011 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 meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. Both delegations expressed mutual satisfaction of the results achieved.

Latvian delegation invited the Macedonian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting to be held in 2014, in the Republic of Latvia. The time and venue will be determined in writing.

This Protocol is drafted in Skopje, on 21 November 2013, in two original copies in English language.

For the Macedonian delegation,

Steyco Jolakoski



For the Latvian delegation,

Maris Pekalis



COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATIONS

Macedonian delegation:

1. Stevco Jolakoski, Head of delegation, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Head of Department;
2. Elena Angelovska Atanasovska, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Head of Section;
3. Aleksandra Angelova, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Head of Section;
4. Dragica Niciforovic, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Adviser;
5. Vera Danailova, A.N.S.K.T.M „Makamtrans“;
6. Viktor Stoimenovski, A.N.S.K.T.M „Makamtrans“;
7. Goran Trpkovski, President of ZPPS „Istok“.

Latvian delegation:

1. Mr. Maris Pekalis, Deputy Director of Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport;
2. Mr. Normunds Narvaišs, Chairman of the Board, Road Transport Administration;
3. Mr. Aivars Olants, Senior Expert of International Road Carriage Coordination Division, Road Transport Administration.

