

AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian – Macedonian Transport Experts meeting held in Riga, 26th -27th October, 2011

The delegations agreed upon the following agenda:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Macedonia;
2. Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on International Transport by Road;
3. Application of the principles established in the Draft Agreement for the road transport between two countries and establishment of the preliminary quota of goods transport permits for the year 2012;
4. Miscellaneous.

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

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

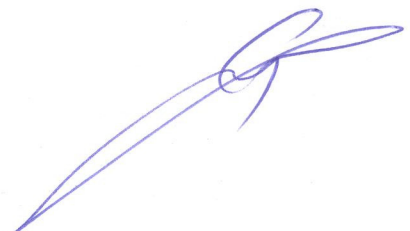
The delegations exchanged information on the statistical data regarding the development of trade and international goods transport by road between Latvia and Macedonia.

According to the information presented by the Latvian side during the year 2010 in comparison with the previous year export volume in tons to Macedonia increased 1,4 times and import volume from Macedonia increased 6,7 times.

Total trade turnover in EUR between both countries during the year 2010 increased by 119,7% and reached 2,13 mln. EUR. The main export goods to Macedonia are textiles, industrial and metal goods, but import goods from Macedonia are textiles, vegetable products and machinery products.

The Latvian side noted that in EUR import from Macedonia 2 times exceeds export from Latvia.

The data provided by the Macedonian side coincided with Latvian data and confirmed that statistical data have the same tendency.



The Macedonian delegation noted positive tendency of trade development after joining WTO.

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

The delegations presented the information related to organization of road transport operations in both countries, to the structure of the fleet at disposal of carriers and to the legal preconditions for access to the road transport market in both countries.

Both sides noted that a number of environmentally friendly vehicles has considerably increased within the last years.

Both delegations expressed their hope that international road transport operations between Latvia and Macedonia will develop after the signing of the bilateral Agreement.

2. Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on International Transport by Road

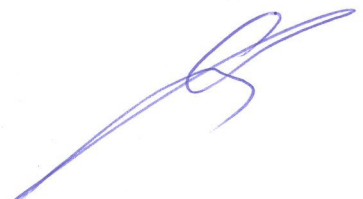
It was noted that the draft of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on International Transport by Road was discussed and initialed in the year 1998 in Skopje but it should be amended taking into consideration latest developments in the road transport market.

Both sides agreed on the procedure for the preparation of the draft Agreement for signing.

Both delegations agreed that the previous version could be taken as the basis for drafting the new version of the text of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on International Transport by Road.

The delegations discussed the draft of the Agreement article by article and agreed on the final version of the draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Macedonia on International Transport by Road (Annex 2).

In order to meet the national legal requirements both sides will coordinate the draft of the Agreement with their relevant competent authorities of their countries and by correspondence will inform each other about future steps for preparing of the Agreement for signing.



3. Application of the principles established in the Draft Agreement for the road transport between two countries and establishment of the preliminary quota of goods transport permits for the year 2012;

The Latvian delegation informed that under the principles of the draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on International Transport by Road initialed in the year 1998 in Skopje, starting from the year 1999 both sides annually exchanged 500 permits valid for bilateral, transit and third country goods transport operations by road.

Taking into account principles of the agreed draft of the Agreement the Macedonian delegation proposed liberalizing of bilateral and transit transport operations starting as from the year 2012.

The Latvian delegation accepted the Macedonian proposal to liberalize the bilateral and transit transport operations starting from 1st January, 2012.

After having discussed the proposals regarding number of permits for international goods transport operations to/from third countries the delegations agreed on the following preliminary quota of permits for the year 2012 under the principles established in the Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on International Transport by Road:

- 200 permits valid for to/from third countries goods transport operations.

Delegations noted that in case of necessity additional permits may be exchanged upon request by either party. The permits of current year will be valid till the 31st January next year. Permits for the next year will be exchanged till the 15th December current year.

4. Miscellaneous.

The Macedonian delegation informed about implementation of the digital tachograph and noted that the national legislation of their country is harmonized with the EU legislation.

Both delegations exchanged opinions concerning organization of public transport in their countries.

It was noted that in case of international occasional passenger transport operations for hire or reward an INTERBUS passenger waybill shall be used.

The Latvian delegation informed that in accordance with the 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 from this year. Taking into account global economical situation it has been decided to delay introduction road vignette till 1st of January 2014. Latvian side noted that the vignette will be electronic. It is planned to organize purchasing of it by a fuel card, a credit card, by mobile phone or by internet. It is foreseen 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.

Latvian side informed that starting as from the first April 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).

Special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads are issued by:

- in Latvia: 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);
- in Macedonia: Agency for State Roads, Str. Dame Gruev, No. 14, tel. +389 2 3118 044, Fax: +389 2 3228 454, contact person: Tevdovski Blagoja, e-mail: tevdovskib@roads.org.mk

The Macedonian delegation informed that control of road transport operations is performed by the Transport Inspection, but at the borders by the Customs authority.

The Macedonian side informed that the system of road charging for foreign carriers was abolished as from the year 2009 but there are toll roads at certain sections of the road network of Macedonia.

The delegations exchanged information on implementation and 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”

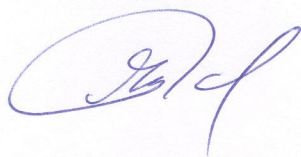
The delegations exchanged information on possible scenarios for the ECMT Multilateral Quota restructuring in 2013 and beyond. The Latvian side noted that it supports maintaining as a basis the conventional statistical sources, criteria and methodology for the quota distribution, supported the redistribution 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 meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Macedonian delegation proposed to organize the next meeting on international road transport in Skopje in 2012, the exact time of which will be agreed by correspondence.

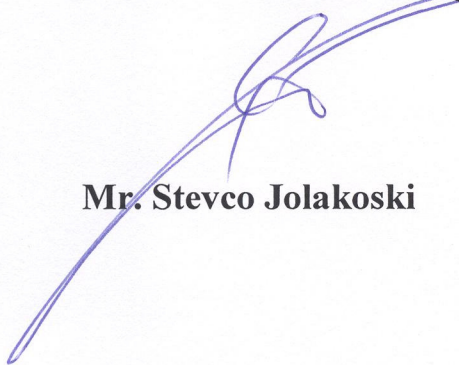
Done in Riga, on 27th October 2011, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation



Mr. Māris Pēkalis

For the Macedonian delegation



Mr. Stevco Jolakoski

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 Road Carriers Association „Latvijas Auto”

The Macedonian delegation:

Mr. Stevco Jolakoski	Head of the Sector of Road Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Head of delegation
Ms. Daniela Jakimoska	Interpreter, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Ms. Elena Angelovska - Atanasovska	Ministry of Transport and Communications
Ms. Biljana Muratovska	General Secretary A.N.S.K.T.M “Makamtrans”
Mr. Ivan Ilievski	A.N.S.K.T.M “Makamtrans”
Mr. Goran Trpkovski	President of ZPPS “East”