Agreed Minutes of the Latvian – Tajik Joint Committee Meeting on International Road Transport 12 June, 2023, Riga

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

- 1. Exchange of information on road transport between Latvia and Tajikistan.
- 2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of road transport permit quota for 2023 and preliminary for 2024.
- 3. Miscellaneous, including exchange of information on road charges, competent authorities etc.

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

1. Exchange of information on road transport between Latvia and Tajikistan

The two delegations exchanged statistical information on the organization of the road transport sectors in each of their country.

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of their heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that the number of licensed Latvian companies involved in international goods transport operations has decreased by 0,9% in the year 2023 comparing to the previous year, reaching 4808 companies. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods has reached almost 16000 units. Additionally, the Latvian delegation noted the increase of the number of vehicles corresponding to EURO VI and EURO V standard amounting to approximately 80% of the entire fleet involved in the international operations.

The Tajik delegation presented its information on the structure of the vehicle fleet and noted that in 2022 there were about 40 companies involved in international goods transport. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods in 2022 has reached 2000 units. Approximately 70% of the entire fleet involved in the international operations correspond to EURO 3 to 5 standards.

The Tajik side informed that, considering the current trend of the request for permits and the geopolitical situation, the number of permits issued in the same period of 2023 compared to the analogous period in 2022 has increased by 120%.

The Latvian side confirmed that the number of permits issued in the first five months of 2023 compared to the analogous period in 2022 has grown.

Both sides noted that the demand for international road transport permits shows positive growth of the road transport industry and the trend towards the development of new transport corridors.

2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of road transport permit quota for 2023 and preliminary for 2024

Both delegations noted that in the year 2023 fifty (50) permits valid for the bilateral and transit transport operations, as well as fifty (50) permits valid for goods transport operations to/from third countries have been exchanged.

The delegations exchanged information on the usage of permits in the year 2022, as well as in the first five months of the year 2023.

The Tajik side informed the Latvian side about the potential of the Tajik hauliers and the difficulties they face in international road transport. The Latvian side took note of the information, and expressed its willingness to act supportively in efforts of the Tajik side in resolving their issues.

In view of the increase of goods transport operations to/from Tajikistan, the Tajik delegation proposed to exchange the following additional number of permits for the year 2023:

- 2000 permits for bilateral and transit goods transport operations;
- 500 permits for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

Having thoroughly analysed the needs of the industry of both countries and discussed the effects of the current geopolitical situation on supply chains, the Latvian side proposed to exchange additionally permits of 2023 in the following amount:

- 300 permits for bilateral and transit goods transport operations;
- 50 permits for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

The two delegations agreed to exchange additionally the following number of permit forms valid for the use in the year 2023:

- 500 permits for bilateral and transit goods transport operations;
- 100 permits for goods transport operations to/from third countries.

Both sides committed to provide the agreed amount of permit for 2023 by the end of July via diplomatic channels.

The delegations agreed that in case of necessity any of the Parties can request an additional number of permits and such requests will be examined in the spirit of goodwill.

The Latvian side proposed as from January 1, 2024, to establish quota of permits valid for bilateral, transit and third-country goods transport operations replacing

the existing permit types of quota. The Tajik side agreed to the Latvian proposal starting from 2024.

The two delegations agreed to establish the preliminary quota of permits valid for bilateral, transit and third-country goods transport operations in the amount of 1000 permits for the year 2024 for each side.

Any exchange of permits shall be carried out via diplomatic channels.

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

3. Miscellaneous, including exchange of information on road charges, competent authorities etc.

Both delegations exchanged information on licensing systems and issuing permits in their countries.

The Latvian delegation informed the Tajik delegation changes in Latvian legislation concerning imposing penalties in the field of road transport. Subject to the law all infringements will be calculated in fixed penalty units (one penalty unit equals 5 EUR). Both legal persons and natural persons will be subjected to legal liability.

The Latvian side also updated on road charging in Latvia, including that the system is extended to goods vehicles with permissible total weight over 3.0 tons. The Latvian side noted that the vignette is electronic. It is possible purchasing of it by a fuel card, a credit card, by mobile phone or by internet. The carriers are able to purchase a day, a week, a month and a year vignettes. An electronic database is used for control of the vignette system. The vignettes are issued taking into consideration ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc. More detailed information is available at: www.lvvignette.eu.

The Tajik side informed that according to the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of November 2, 2007, #546 "On approval of the rates of the fee for performing legally significant actions and the fee for issuing permits for the use of natural and other available resources" charging of road users in the Republic of Tajikistan is carried out by the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Such fees are stipulated for vehicles of international transport, i.e., buses, trucks, cars and motorcycles carrying passengers and goods in international traffic is 200 US dollars.

The delegations exchanged information on competent authorities and bodies in the field of road transport in both countries.

The Latvian side pointed out that road transport control functions inside the country are executed by the Bureau of Traffic Supervision and Coordination of Traffic Safety Directorate of Main Directorate of State Police (address: 10B)

Ezermalas Street, Riga, LV-1009, phone: +371 67208143; email: sdp@vp.gov.lv).

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: 7/9 Torna Street, Room 203, Riga, LV-1050; phone: +371 67036412; email: atlaujas@lvceli.lv).

The Tajik delegation mentioned that on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan for the transportation of oversized and heavy cargoes it is necessary to have a special permit, which is issued by the State Service on Transport Supervision and Regulation of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Tajikistan, address: 9/3 J. Rasulov Street, Dushanbe, telephone: +992 37 -236-35-34, fax +992 37 236-45-04.

Issuance of permits and execution of documents on transportation of dangerous goods is done by the State Automobile Inspection of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Tajik side proposed to consider the possibility of facilitation of the visa acquisition system separately for professional drivers carrying out international goods transport operations. In order to address this issue, the delegations agreed to contact the relevant competent authorities of their respective countries.

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Tajik delegation invited the Latvian delegation to Tajikistan for the next Joint Committee meeting in 2024. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

Done at Riga, on 12 June, 2023, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation

For the Tajik delegation

Ms. Annija Novikova

Ms. Shoista Saidmurodzoda

Chairly.

