

AGREED MINUTES

of the Latvian – Albanian Joint Committee meeting on International Road
Transport held in Riga, 13 – 14 June, 2019

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Albania.
2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the road transport permit quota for 2019 and preliminary for 2020.
3. International passenger transport, including INTERBUS agreement and passenger rights in bus transport.
4. Exchange of information on the development of road transport and the harmonization of national legislation with the European law and the Quality Charter as well as exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system.
5. Miscellaneous.

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

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

The first Latvian – Albanian Joint Committee meeting on International Road Transport since signing of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Council of the Ministers of the Republic of Albania On International Transport by Road on 28 March 2006 (in force as of 20 November 2006) the two delegations started with an exchange of statistical information concerning trade relations between the two 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 Albania.

Regardless of different approaches used for collection and processing of statistical data, as well as different reference periods covered, both delegations noted major increase of trade volume between the two countries, as well as continuous upward trend in trade development both in terms of volume and money.

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 grown by 6% in the year 2018 comparing to the previous year, reaching 4300 companies. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods has reached 16038 units. Additionally, the Latvian delegation noted the increase of the number of vehicles corresponding to EURO VI and EURO V standard amounting to 64% of the entire fleet involved in the international operations.

Both sides signified their satisfaction in the positive development of trade between the two countries and expressed hope that the trade turnover and the number of international goods transport operations between Latvia and Albania will continue upward trend in future.

2. Transport of goods by road, including establishment of the quota for 2019 and preliminary for 2020

Both delegations noted that in the year 2019 one hundred (100) permits have been exchanged out of which for the Albanian carriers 70 (seventy) Latvian permits for bilateral goods transport operations and 30 (thirty) valid for bilateral and third country transport operations) have been sent while for the Latvian carriers 70 (seventy) Albanian permits for bilateral and 30 for third country operations have been allocated.

The Albanian delegation came up with a proposal to abolish permit regime for bilateral transport operations. After discussions, taking into account the positive development of trade between the two countries and the underlying ambition of the two delegations to facilitate carriage of goods by road between Latvia and Albania, as well as referring to powers provided for by Article 8 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Council of the Ministers of the Republic of Albania on International Transport by Road signed on 28 March 2006 in Riga, the delegations of the Joint Committee agreed:

- To establish the final quota of permits for the year 2019 in the following amount:
 - 70 (seventy) permits valid for the bilateral transport operations;
 - 30 (thirty) permits valid for the bilateral transport operations and transport operations to/from third countries.
- To liberalize bilateral transport operations as from 1 January, 2020.
- To establish the preliminary quota of permits for goods transport operations to/from third countries in amount of 50 permits for the year 2020.

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



The delegations undertook an obligation to exchange the agreed contingent of permits by sending them via registered mail to the address of the competent authority of each country by 15 December of the actual year.

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.

On the request of the Latvian delegation, the Albanian delegation clarified certain requirements for filling in Albanian permits and noted that in the box requiring indication of "maximum weight allowed" maximum permissible laden weight of both the tractor unit and the trailer/semi-trailer stated in the registration documents of the vehicle is to be indicated. The Latvian side noted that when filling in the Latvian permits the actual weight of goods carried is to be indicated and not the data from registration documents of a particular vehicle.

The Albanian delegation also explained that in case of an empty trip the box requiring indication of place of loading and/or unloading shall remain blank.


3. International passenger transport, including INTERBUS agreement and passenger rights in bus transport

It was noted that there are no regular bus lines functioning between Latvia and Albania

The Albanian delegation, upon request of the Latvian delegation, informed about the process of the acceding to the additional Protocol to INTERBUS agreement covering organization of regular passenger transport operations by coach and bus as well as about implementation of the requirements of bus passenger rights as set out at Regulation No 181/2011. It was pointed out that in case of non-liberalized occasional passenger services by bus and coach between Latvia and Albania the permits under INTERBUS agreement shall be used.

The Latvian delegation informed that the competent authority for regular bus permits as well as occasional passenger transport operations by bus is Latvian Road Transport Administration, 30 Valņu Street, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia, e-mail: daiga.ancane@atd.lv, phone: +371 67686493.

The Albanian delegation informed that the respective competent authority for regular bus permits as well as occasional passenger transport operations is General Directorate of Road Transport Services (DPSHTRR) address: Street: "Muhedin Llagani", 1001. Tirana. Albania. E-mail: dpshttr@dpshttr.gov.al; phone: +355 688015833.



4. Exchange of information on the development of road transport and the harmonization of national legislation with the European law and the Quality Charter as well as exchange of views concerning further development of the ECMT quota system

It was noted that on 8 April, 2019 Albania submitted the official letter to the International Transport Forum stating their full compliance with the provisions of the Quality Charter for the international haulage under the ECMT Multilateral Quota.

The possibilities of further development of the ECMT quota system were discussed, pointing out that the main problem is the territorial restrictions maintained by some ECMT Member countries. Both delegations agreed to make any possible efforts in developing the ECMT Quota in the future.

Upon request of the Latvian delegation the Albanian delegation informed on the process of harmonization of Albanian national legislation with that of the *acquis communautaire* under the framework of negotiations of accession to the EU.

5. Miscellaneous

The Latvian delegation provided the Albanian delegation updated information 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. A more detailed information is available at: www.lv vignette.eu.

The Albanian delegation informed that Albania has no road vignette system, however there are toll roads. A more detailed information is available at: www.infrastruktura.gov.al, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy. Address Street: "Abdi Toptani" no 1; Tirane Albania; e-mail: arjan.budo@infrastruktura.gov.al; phone: +355 672081559;

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 State Police Central Public Order Police Department Traffic Safety Department Traffic Surveillance and Coordination Bureau Road Transport Supervision Unit. (Address: Ezermalas Street 10B, Riga, LV-1014, phone: +371 67208377; email: kanceleja.cpp@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:

Torna Street 7/9, Riga, LV-1050; phone/fax: +371 67036412; e-mail: atlaujas@lvceli.lv).

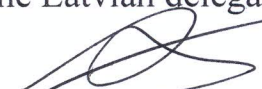
The Albanian delegation informed about the competent institutions performing control of road transport operations, namely The State Police Authority and the General Directorate of Road Transport Services, while the competent authority for providing information on obtaining permits for carriage of abnormal loads in the territory of Albania is Albanian Road Authority (ARA), address: Street: "Sami Frasheri" no. 33, Tirane, Albania. E-mail: info@arrsh.gov.al; phone: +355 42230926.

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

The Albanian delegation invited the Latvian delegation for the next Joint Committee meeting to Albania. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon by correspondence.

Done at Riga on 14 June 2019 in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation:


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For the Albanian delegation:


Mr. Enea Karakaçi