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**Latvia
and
Georgia**

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Georgia on international transport by road. Tbilisi, 5 July 2000

Entry into force: *28 October 2005 by notification, in accordance with article 16*

Authentic texts: *English, Georgian and Latvian*

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**Lettonie
et
Géorgie**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République de Lettonie et le Gouvernement de la Géorgie relatif au transport routier international. Tbilissi, 5 juillet 2000

Entrée en vigueur : *28 octobre 2005 par notification, conformément à l'article 16*

Textes authentiques : *anglais, géorgien et letton*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

A G R E E M E N T
between
the Government of the Republic of Latvia
and
the Government of Georgia
on international transport by road

The Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Georgia (hereinafter called “the Contracting Parties”) on the basis of principles of co-operation and bilateral interests and for the purpose of liberalisation of international transport by road as well as desiring to promote transport of passengers and goods by motor vehicles between and in transit through the territories of both countries, have agreed as follows:

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
Definitions

1. “*Country of establishment*” means the territory of the Contracting Parties within which a carrier is established and a vehicle registered.
2. “*Host country*” means the territory of a Contracting Party in which a vehicle is being used in transport operations but other than the vehicle’s country of registration.
3. “*Carrier*” means any physical or legal person, established on the territory of the Republic of Latvia or Georgia, and authorised in accordance with the relevant national laws and regulations to engage in the international carriage of passengers or goods by road.
4. The term “*vehicle*” means:
 - in the carriage of passengers – any power driven road vehicle which is adapted for carriage of passengers, has more than nine seats, including the driver’s seat, and is registered in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties;

- in the carriage of goods – any power driven road vehicle which is registered in the territory of either Contracting Party and adapted and normally used for goods transport. For the purposes of this Agreement this term also applies to any trailer or semi-trailer coupled to any vehicle disregarding the place of registration of trailer or semi-trailer as well as to any combination of road vehicles.

5. “*Permit (authorisation)*” means a document authorising a carrier to perform transport operations under the framework of this Agreement.

6. “*Transit*” means transporting of passengers (without boarding or leaving) or goods (without loading or unloading) by a carrier of one of the Contracting Parties through the territory of the host country.

7. “*Quota*” means a number of permits, agreed upon by the Joint Committee, established under Article 4 of this Agreement, and annually exchanged by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

8. “*Cabotage*” means carriage of passengers or goods by vehicles registered in the territory of one of the Contracting parties between the two points located in the territory of the host country.

Article 2

Scope

This Agreement applies to international road transport operations performed by the carrier who in his country of establishment according to its national legislation is entitled to perform international road transport operations on hire and reward or on own account, and may perform such operations to, from, or in transit through the other country’s territory.

Article 3

Compliance with national legislation and recognition of documents

1. Carriers and their staff must comply with national laws and provisions in force in the territory of the host country while performing road transport operations within the host country’s territory.

2. When performing transport operations under this Agreement a driver must have a valid national or international driving licence, vehicle registration documents and the distinguishing sign of the country of establishment.

Article 4

Joint Committee and competent authorities

1. For the application of the provisions of this Agreement the two Contracting Parties establish a Joint Committee formed from the delegates designated by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

2. This Joint Committee shall meet at the request of competent authorities of the either Contracting Party at meetings that will be held alternately in the territories of the Contracting Parties at least once a year.

3. Any issue concerning the interpretation or the application of this Agreement shall be solved by the Joint Committee.

4. Under this Agreement, the competent authorities shall be:

- for the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Transport;
- for Georgia, Ministry of Transport.

II. PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Article 5

Authorisation

All transport operations by vehicles between the territories of the Contracting Parties and in transit through them, except those specified in Article 7.2, must have the respective authorisation issued by the competent authority of the host country.

Article 6

Regular and shuttle services

1. Regular and shuttle services operated between the territories of the Contracting Parties or in transit through them shall be approved jointly by their competent authority in advance.

2. The term “*regular service*” means passenger transport along routes and according to schedules and tariffs agreed in advance and whereby passengers may enter or exit the vehicle at predetermined stops. These regular services shall be established on reciprocity basis. Each competent authority shall issue the permits for the section of the itinerary operated in its territory.

3. Shuttle services are services whereby, by means of repeated outward and return journeys, groups of passengers assembled in advance are carried from a single place of departure to a single place of destination.

Each group, consisting of the passengers who made the outward journey, is carried back to the place of departure on a later journey.

4. Carriers must address applications for authorisations for regular and shuttle services to the competent authority of their country of establishment. If that competent authority approves the application, it forwards to the competent authority of the host a recommendation and relevant documents.

5. The Joint Committee should:

- a) establish the conditions and requirements that must be fulfilled by the applications and the list of documents to be forwarded in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article;
- b) define the concepts of place of departure and destination on shuttle services.

Article 7

Occasional services

1. Occasional services denote services falling neither within the definition of regular service nor within the definition of shuttle service provided in article 6 of this Agreement.

2. The following occasional services carried out using vehicles registered in the territory of one Contracting Party will not require any transport permit in the territory of the host country:

- a) round trip services, i.e. services whereby the same vehicle is used to transport the same group of passengers throughout the journey and to bring them back to the same place of departure;
- b) services which make the outward journey laden and the return journey unladen;
- c) services which make the outward journey unladen and the return journey laden, provided that passengers:
 - constitute a group formed under a contract of carriage entered into before their arrival in the territory of the Contracting Party where they are picked up and carried to the territory of the country of establishment;