

No. 30928

**FRANCE
and
LATVIA**

**Agreement concerning the international transport of goods
by road (with protocol and related letter). Signed at Paris
on 26 November 1992**

Authentic texts: French and Latvian.

Registered by France on 29 April 1994.

**FRANCE
et
LETTONIE**

**Accord concernant les transports routiers internationaux de
marchandises (avec protocole et lettre connexe). Signé à
Paris le 26 novembre 1992**

Textes authentiques : français et lettonien.

Enregistré par la France le 29 avril 1994.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS BY ROAD

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Latvia, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,

Desiring to promote the transport of goods between the two States and in transit through their respective territories,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The provisions of this Agreement shall apply to international goods traffic, in other words transport operations carried out on behalf of others or on behalf of the actual carrier, from or to one of the Contracting Parties by vehicles registered in the other Contracting Party, and to traffic in transit through the territory of one of the Parties by a road vehicle registered in the other Party.

Article 2

Firms of one Contracting Party shall not be authorized to carry out internal transport operations in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Article 3

All transport of goods as referred to in article 1 of this Agreement and all unladen travel by vehicles shall be subject to the prior issuance of a permit.

Transport permits shall entitle the carrier to take on a return load of goods.

Article 4

1. Firms of one of the Parties to this Agreement may carry out transport operations, under the terms of the permits referred to in articles 3, 5, 7 and 8 of this Agreement, between the territory of the other Party and a third State provided that such transport operations are carried out in transit through the country of registration of the vehicle.

2. Such transport operations may, however, be carried out without transit through the country of registration of the vehicle provided that a special permit issued by the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party has been obtained.

Article 5

1. Transport permits shall be issued to firms by the competent authorities of the State of registration of the vehicles carrying out the transport operations, and,

¹ Came into force on 26 November 1992 by signature, in accordance with article 19.

if necessary, within the limits of quotas agreed upon annually by the Contracting Parties.

2. To this end, the competent authorities of the States shall exchange the necessary printed forms.

Article 6

The following transport operations shall not require the permit referred to in article 3 of this Agreement:

- (a) Transport operations of a humanitarian nature;
- (b) The transport of goods by road vehicles whose total laden weight (including trailers) does not exceed 6 tons or whose authorized payload (including trailers) does not exceed 3.5 tons;
- (c) The transport of art objects and works of art intended for fairs, exhibitions and displays;
- (d) The occasional transport of articles or materials intended exclusively for publicity or information purposes;
- (e) The removal of households;
- (f) The transport of equipment, properties and animals to or from theatrical, musical, cinematographic and sporting events, circuses, fairs or festivals and to or from radio broadcasting recording sessions and cinematographic or television filming sessions;
- (g) The transport of luggage by trailers attached to vehicles intended for passenger transport;
- (h) Postal transport;
- (i) The entry of breakdown and towing vehicles and the transport of damaged vehicles;
- (j) The transport of human remains.

Article 7

Permits shall be printed in the languages of both Contracting Parties in accordance with the models drawn up by agreement between their competent authorities.

Article 8

1. Permits shall be drawn up in the name of the firm carrying out the transport operation; they shall be non-transferable.
2. The competent authorities shall exchange the permits provided for under this Agreement free of charge.
3. The transport permits must be carried on board the vehicle and be produced whenever required by inspection officials.
4. The permits must be accompanied by or contain a transport log to be stamped by the customs authority upon entry into and exit from the territory of the Contracting Party for which they are valid.

Article 9

Where the weight or dimensions of a vehicle registered in one Party exceed the limits permitted in the territory of the other Party, the vehicle must be provided with a special permit issued by the competent authority of that Contracting Party.

Article 10

1. Firms carrying out transport operations covered by this Agreement shall be subject to the taxes and charges levied in the territory of the other Contracting Party in respect of transport operations carried out in that territory.

2. The Contracting Parties may, however, grant a reduction of or exemption from such taxes and charges to the extent specified in the Protocol referred to in article 17 of this Agreement.

Article 11

The members of the crew of the vehicle may import free of duty and without an import licence their personal effects and such equipment as may be necessary for their business for the length of their stay in the country into which the articles are being imported. They may re-export such articles without a licence.

Article 12

Spare parts imported temporarily for the repair of road vehicles travelling on international routes shall be exempt from import duties and charges in the territory of either Contracting Party.

Such imports shall remain subject to the national regulations in force in the territory of either Contracting Party. Parts which have been replaced shall be re-exported or destroyed under customs supervision.

Article 13

Firms receiving permits and their personnel shall be required to respect the regulations in force in the territory of the Contracting Parties with regard to transportation, road traffic, customs and the police.

Article 14

The domestic legislation of each Contracting Party shall apply to all matters not regulated by this Agreement or by international conventions to which the Contracting Parties have acceded.

Article 15

If the provisions of this Agreement are violated in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the competent authorities of the State in which the vehicle is registered shall, at the request of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party, impose one of the following penalties:

(a) Caution;

(b) Suspension, temporarily or permanently, partially or totally, of the authorization to carry out the transport operations referred to in article 1 of this Agreement in the territory of the State in which the violation was committed.

The authorities applying the penalty shall inform the requesting authorities of the action they have taken.

Article 16

1. A Mixed Commission shall be established to implement this Agreement.
2. Representatives of both authorities shall meet in the Mixed Commission when necessary to ensure the proper application of the Agreement, to adapt it to any traffic developments, and to exchange all necessary statistical and other information.
3. The said Commission shall meet, at the request of either Contracting Party, alternately in the territory of each Contracting Party.

Article 17

1. The Contracting Parties shall determine the procedures for the application of this Agreement by means of a Protocol signed at the same time as the said Agreement.
2. The Mixed Commission established under article 16 of this Agreement shall be competent to make the necessary amendments to the said Protocol.

Article 18

The provisions of this Agreement shall apply without prejudice to present and future regulations and obligations deriving from the Treaty of Rome,¹ which established the European Communities.

Article 19

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period. Either Contracting Party may denounce this Agreement by giving at least three months' notice.

It shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

This Agreement has been drawn up in duplicate in the Latvian and French languages, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE at Paris on 26 November 1992.

For the Government
of the Republic of Latvia:
ANDRIES GUTMANIS

For the Government
of the French Republic:
JEAN-LOUIS BIANCO

¹United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 298, p. 3.

PROTOCOL DRAWN UP PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 17 OF THE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA CONCERNING
THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS BY ROAD

For the application of the said Agreement, the French delegation and the Latvian delegation have agreed as follows:

With reference to articles 7 and 8

(a) Permits valid in Latvian territory shall bear the letters “LV” on the left-hand side; those valid in French territory shall bear the letter “F”;

(b) Permits shall be numbered and shall bear the stamp and signature of the issuing authority;

(c) Permits shall be valid for a return journey over an indefinite period; the permits referred to in article 4, paragraph 2, shall bear the words “valid for transport to or from a State which is not a Party to the bilateral Agreement and without transit through the State of registration”;

(d) Logs accompanying or forming part of permits shall comprise:

- The name and address of the firm;
- The dates of outward and return journeys;
- The permit number to which they relate;
- The registration number of the vehicle carrying out the transport operation;
- The payload and total laden weight of the vehicle;
- The points at which goods are to be loaded and unloaded;
- The nature and weight of the goods transported;
- A space for customs stamps.

(e) Permits and logs shall be returned by recipients to the issuing service after use or upon the expiry of their period of validity if they have not been used.

With reference to article 9:

Applications for special permits must be submitted to:

(a) In the case of French carriers:

Latvijas Republikas Satiksmes Ministrijas
Celu Satiksmes Drošības Departaments
Blieku iela 9
LV 1001 Riga Latvia
Telephone: 371086
Fax: 376904

(b) In the case of Latvian carriers: the Prefecture of the *département* of entry into French territory or the Prefecture of the French *département* where loading takes place.

With reference to article 10:

There is currently no tax in Latvia on movement by road vehicles registered in France. As a reciprocal measure, Latvian vehicles on the road in France are exempt

from the special tax on certain road vehicles (the so-called “axle tax”) established by article 16 of Law No. 67-1114 of 21 December 1967, as amended.

The Parties agree to notify one another immediately of any circumstance which might change the above-mentioned situation.

With reference to articles 15 and 16:

The competent authorities for the implementation of the Agreement are:

In the case of France:

Ministry of Equipment, Housing and Transport
Land Transport Administration
Grande-Arche, Paroi Sud
92055 Paris La Défense CEDEX 04

In the case of Latvia:

Latvijas Republikas Satiksmes Ministrijas
Autotransporta Departaments
Brivibas iela 58
LV 1743 Riga Latvia
Telephone: 0132-212662, 0132-223478
Fax: 0132-217180

Quota

For the first year of application of the Agreement, the annual number of “outward” and “return” journeys which carriers of either country are permitted to carry out in the territory of the other country or in transit through that country shall be set at 500 for the normal quota. The number of permits provided for under article 4, paragraph 2, shall be 100.

This Protocol has been drawn up in duplicate in the Latvian and French languages, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE at Paris on 26 November 1992.

For the Government
of the Republic of Latvia:
ANDRIES GUTMANIS

For the Government
of the French Republic:
JEAN-LOUIS BIANCO

RELATED LETTER

Paris, 26 November 1992

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the French Republic concerning the international transport of goods by road and to state that the interpretation of this agreement is as follows:

1. *With reference to the Agreement*

(a) Owing to a technical fault, the date of the entry into force of the Agreement did not appear in the Latvian text; for that reason, in preparing the text for signature, we have taken the date from the French text;

(b) All other changes in respect of the Latvian text as initialled are solely of a drafting nature and have been made to ensure that the Latvian text corresponds to the French text as initialled.

2. *With reference to the Protocol*

With reference to articles 7 and 8 of the Agreement:

(a) In paragraph (c), the words “for a return journey within the period indicated on the permit” shall be understood to mean the entire period up to the end of the year in which the permit is valid;

(b) In the fifth item in paragraph (d), the Latvian word *svars* has been replaced by the word *celtspēja*, which expresses the idea more accurately and is a more precise translation of the corresponding French word;

(c) In the sixth and seventh items in paragraph (d), the French word *marchandises (preces)* has been translated by the Latvian word *kravas (charges)*, the term *preces* being used in Latvian legal and economic texts solely to refer to goods intended for sale.

3. All other changes in respect of the Latvian text as initialled are solely of a drafting nature and have been made to ensure that the Latvian text corresponds to the French text as initialled.

I should be obliged if you would inform me of your Government's agreement with the contents of this letter.

Accept, Sir, etc.

ANDRIES GUTMANIS