

PROTOCOL
OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT TURKISH – HELLENIC COMMITTEE
ON ROAD TRANSPORT

Athens, 18-19/6/2019

The Meeting of the Joint Hellenic – Turkish Committee on Road Transport was held in Athens, on 18-19 June 2019.

The lists of the Hellenic and Turkish Delegations are attached as Annex I and II to this Protocol.

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of statistical data
2. Road transport of Goods
3. Road transport of Passengers
4. Miscellaneous

With a view of further enhancing the Hellenic – Turkish mutual cooperation in the transport field, the two Sides held fruitful discussions on all issues of common interest and reached the following conclusions:

1. Exchange of statistical data

Both Sides exchanged statistical data on the volume of bilateral trade and international road transport and expressed their satisfaction on the growing trend of trade between the two countries over the past two years.

The Turkish Side informed that according to the statistical data, the Turkish hauliers used the whole amount of their quota for 2018, namely, 10.000 bilateral transport permits with charge and 10.000 bilateral transport permits free of charge.

Moreover, the Turkish Side asked for an extra amount of bilateral transport permits during 2018, namely 1.300 bilateral transport permits, which would be deducted from their total quota of 20.000 bilateral transport permits for 2019. The Greek Side accepted the Turkish request.

The Greek Side noticed that almost exclusively the bilateral road freight transport is currently performed by Turkish hauliers and stressed that a more balanced road transport market would be beneficial for the facilitation of bilateral trade.

In particular, the Greek Side informed that according to the statistical data, nearly 2.500 out of 20.000 bilateral transport permits, namely, 10.000 with charge and 10.000 free of charge, were used by the Greek hauliers during 2018.

2. Road Transport of Goods

The two sides presented information on the current situation in the field of transport of goods.

The Turkish Side requested to raise the total amount of quota to 15.000 bilateral transport permits with charge and 15.000 bilateral transport permits free of charge in order to facilitate the growing bilateral trade. Furthermore, the Turkish Side asked for the establishment of a "to/from third countries" quota, as a mutually beneficial step for the development of the transport sector.

The Greek Side replied that at this stage both Sides should focus on the causes of the imbalanced use of quotas. In this respect, the Greek Side aims to maintain the quotas at the current level.

Namely, the Greek Side stressed a number of possible reasons causing the current situation.

The existing quotas for year 2019 are exchanged as follows:

- 35.000 permits for transit transport operations (with charge)
- 10.000 permits for bilateral transport operations (free of charge)
- 10.000 permits for bilateral transport operations (with charge)

The Delegations decided that the duration of all the permits shall be valid until 31st January of the following year.

The Delegations agreed that any demand for additional permits will be examined in a positive approach.

The Greek Side raised the issue of the Turkish customs approach in cases of a bilateral transport assigned by a shipper established in a third country. The Greek Side referred to numerous incidents that the bilateral transport permit considered to be inadequate for the completion of such operations. Moreover, the Turkish customs authorities requested from Greek hauliers to present an ECMT licence, instead of bilateral transport permit.

The Turkish Side replied that said problem is already solved and will re-inform the domestic custom authorities

The Turkish side stated that if the Greek Side requests further information in written form regarding this issue, the Turkish Side will reply in written form.

Both Sides raised the issue of fuel limitation imposed on the vehicles' reservoirs entering either Greece or Turkey.

Both Sides referred to problems caused by the above-mentioned limitation such as the maximum amount of fuel which is free of tax in each country and the fuel quantity measurement by the relevant customs' authorities. After a lengthy discussion both Sides agreed to convey this matter to the respective Ministries of Finance, seeking for

either lifting the limitation or reconsidering the maximum amount of tax-free fuel contained in the vehicles' reservoirs.

The Turkish Side stressed that the maintenance of the charge related to transit permits is in violation of the decision of the Court of Justice of The European Union no: C-65/2016. In this context, the Greek Side agreed to examine, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, whether the above-mentioned decision creates a similar obligation to the Greek Side, namely, lifting the charge allocated to transit permits.

The Turkish Side raised the issue of seizing the plates of Turkish vehicles in cases of committing infringements within the Greek territory, until the payment of fine. The Greek Side replied that the Greek Ministry of Infrastructure & Transport, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance has launched the process of implementing a system of an on-site fine collection via electronic means of payment.

The Turkish Side underscored that Greek Government is requiring vehicles' Approval Certificate for the transport operations made without the TIR Carnet (e.g. with T1/under common transit regime). However, this document should be required only for the transit transports made with TIR Carnet. The Greek Side replied that the said issue falls into the sphere of competency of custom authorities and will convey the issue to the competent authorities.

3. Road Transport of Passengers

Both Delegations agreed that between both countries are currently operating five regular bus lines, namely the following:

- Athens – Istanbul
- Xanthi – Bursa
- Xanthi - Istanbul
- Thessaloniki – Istanbul
- Thessaloniki – Izmir

operated by 9 pairs of carriers.

The Greek Side presented some issues concerning the authorization process, for example the issuing of a Turkish authorization in the name of a Greek carrier before the competent Greek Ministry has approved the said Greek carrier's application.

The Turkish Side requested that the steps of the authorization granting procedure should be sent to them, in written form, in order to avoid future misunderstandings and delays.

The Greek Side asked for clarifications regarding the number of services (365) appearing in a field of the Turkish authorization forms in relation to the number of the buses that operate this line during the year.

The Turkish Side explained that the abovementioned number represents the number of buses allowed to operate the said line during the year, for each one of the Greek and Turkish carriers.

The Greek Side asked that in the case of periods of high demand, extra buses should be allowed in the same bus service running one after the other under the same authorization, in order to cover the extra demand, as it has been applied from the Greek authorities so far, for the Turkish carriers.

The Turkish Side replied that this could be possible if a request for approval of an extra number of buses to cover the additional demand is submitted well in advance.

The Greek side stated that although this process causes difficulties in the operation of the bus service, it will be followed for the Turkish carriers as well according to the principle of reciprocity.

The Greek Side proposed the establishment of a new regular bus line «Thessaloniki – Kavala – Xanthi – Komotini – Alexandroupoli – Didymoteiho – Orestiada - Kastanies/Pazarkule - Edirne». The Turkish Side agreed with the Greek proposal.

The Greek Side proposed that the transit authorizations should have the same duration as the bilateral authorization (three years) and this was accepted by the Turkish Side.

The Greek Side stated that occasional bus services should be operated according to the provisions of the Interbus Agreement. In that case, only the control document for the said service and not the whole book should be required. The Turkish side agreed and undertook the obligation to inform the relevant Turkish custom authorities.

Both sides reiterated the need that priority should be given to buses operating in regular lines and undertook to inform accordingly the custom services.

The Greek Side requested that no limit of 200 liters of fuel contained in the standard tank of the bus is applied in bus services, and the Turkish Side stated that they will reply in written form.

The Greek Side asked if there are any restrictions as far as the age of buses operating in international bus services is concerned. The Turkish Side replied that there are no age restrictions and that only a technical inspection certificate is required.

Both Sides agreed to inform each other in case of restrictions imposed by their national legislation in order that all carriers are able to conform to the new conditions.

4. Miscellaneous

The Turkish Side presented the E-Permit system which enables the control authorities to monitor the proper use of permits through the vehicle circulation and invited the Greek Side to share the benefits of using such an application in bilateral level.

The Greek Side appraised the Turkish Side for their initiative and recognized the usefulness of the above-mentioned system.

The Turkish Side proposed to establish a system of the value added tax (VAT) return on transport services.

The Greek Side showed a positive stance on the Turkish proposal and both sides agreed to convey this issue to the competent Ministries.

Both sides raised the issue of VISA issuance for the drivers operating in the transport sector.

Namely, the Turkish Side referred to delays in the process of VISA issuance.

The Greek Side stressed that the Turkish Consulates request a valid TIR Carnet, to issue a VISA to Greek drivers, which in turn prevents Greek hauliers with unloaded trucks to enter Turkey, as TIR carnets are not issued for unloaded trucks.

Both Sides agreed to convey the issues related to VISA issuance to the competent Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

In order to promptly resolve emerging issues, both Sides agreed to exchange contact points.

From the Greek Side:

For road transport of passengers:

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k.blatsou@yme.gov.gr

a.iordanidou@yme.gov.gr

p.taki@yme.gov.gr

For road transport of goods:

dem@yme.gov.gr

a.neamonitaki@yme.gov.gr

a.douras@yme.gov.gr

From the Turkish Side:

ohakan.ozdemir@uab.gov.tr

ucan.akin@uab.gov.tr

The Meeting of the Joint Hellenic – Turkish Transport Committee was held in a friendly atmosphere depending upon mutual understanding and fruitful cooperation.

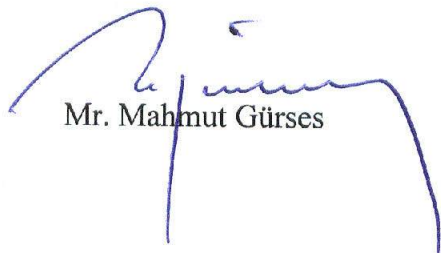
The Turkish Side invited the Greek Side for a Meeting of the Joint Hellenic - Turkish Transport Committee to be held in Izmir in October 2019 aiming to revise the

Agreement on Road Transport between the two parties. The date and the agenda of the meeting will be determined through the diplomatic channels.

The provisions of this Protocol shall be valid until replaced by a new Protocol by the parties.

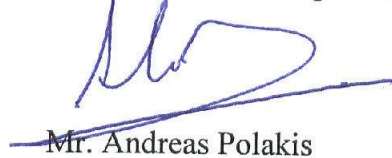
This Protocol was done in Athens on the 19th of June 2019 in two original copies in the English language.

For the Turkish Delegation



Mr. Mahmut Gürses

For the Greek Delegation



Mr. Andreas Polakis

ANNEX I

Turkish Delegation

1. Mr. Mahmut Gürses Head of the Delegation-Acting Director General,
Directorate General for Road Transport Regulation
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
2. Mr. Oğuz Hakan Özdemir Head of Department
Directorate General for Road Transport Regulation
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
3. Mr. Ufuk Can Akın EU Expert
Directorate General for Road Transport Regulation
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
4. Ms. Yasemin Şükran Uçar Trade Expert
Ministry of Trade
5. Mr. Eyüp Can Dervişoğlu, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in
Athens
6. Ms. Ayşe Erbilgin, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of
Turkey in Athens

PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

7. Mr. Can Özkaymak The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of
Turkey (TOBB)
8. Mr. Alper Özel Association of International Transporters (UND)
9. Mr. Ayhan Turan Association of International Road Transport
Operators and Agency Owners (UKAT)

ANNEX II

Greek Delegation

1. Andreas Polakis – General Director for Transport – Head of Delegation
2. Triantafyllos Papatriantafyllou – Director – Directorate of External Actions Policy and International Issues
3. Georgios Patsiavos – Director – Directorate for Road Passengers Transport
4. Aspasia Gourvelou – Director – Directorate for Road Freight Transport
5. Kondylenia Blatsou – Head of Road International Passenger Transport Division – Directorate for Road Passengers Transport
6. Alexandros Ntouras – Expert on Road Freight Transport – Directorate for Road Freight Transport
7. Argiro Neamonitaki - Expert on Road Freight Transport – Directorate for Road Freight Transport
8. Aspasia Iordanidou – Expert on Road Passenger Transport - Directorate for Road Passengers Transport
9. Sofia Prokou - Interpretator
10. Nerina Kioseoglou - Interpretator

PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

11. Apostolos Kenanidis – President of the Association of the Hellenic Freight Hauliers (OFAE)
12. Michail Pezikoglou – Vice President of OFAE – Road Passenger Transport
13. Iro Doumani – Executive Assistant – OFAE