

ESTONIAN-LATVIAN GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR THE LATVIAN-ESTONIAN GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION IN 2018

The legal and administrative cross-border obstacles identified by the Estonian-Latvian Governmental Commission (GC) in 2018 for the 2018/2019 Intergovernmental Commission's (IGC) agenda:

1. Development of joint packing deposit system between Estonia and Latvia

- 1) To initiate cooperation on developing of a joint packaging deposit system that would increase the recycling of packing waste across the border;
 - 2) To map opportunities for a project that develops transnational cooperation and would identify possible solutions. The project could set an example of the possibility of implementing a joint deposit packing system on the supranational level in the European Union;
 - 3) To initiate after the 2018 Joint Session the exchange of contacts between relevant institutions and specialists in order to start the consultations in the format on Recycling Joint Expert Group;
 - 4) To include the topic into the agenda of the Joint Session for 2018/2019.
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The Estonian-Latvian GC proposals in regard of the current 2017/2018 IGC agenda issues:

1. Amendments to the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income

The Estonian-Latvian GC is currently formulating the position in regard the Latvian-Estonian GC proposal and will inform the Secretariat of the Joint Session of the Estonian-Latvian and Latvian-Estonian IGC about it during August 2018.

2. Health care and health care related public services in cross-border regions

- A) Emergency medical assistance
- B) Cooperation in health emergencies and disasters
- 1) To assist when necessary the Medical Joint Expert Group in preparing the relevant agreements (both A & B subtopics);
- 2) To keep the topic on the IGC 2018/2019 agenda.

3. Cooperation in providing passenger traffic services in Riga-Tartu line

- 1) To recognize the improved conditions in regional connectivity and encourage "ELRON" and "Pasažieru Vilciens" to continue the cooperation in synchronising train schedules.
 - 2) To ask Estonian "ELRON" and Latvian "Pasažieru Vilciens" to identify the critical number of passengers on regional lines on daily/monthly basis which would be needed to initiate the harmonisation of ticketing systems of the two companies;
 - 3) To provide an overview of the Pasažieru Vilciens and the Republic of Latvia railway network and train park modernization plans;
 - 4) To keep the topic on the IGC 2018/2019 agenda.
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The Estonian-Latvian GC positions towards the legal and administrative cross-border obstacles identified by the Latvian-Estonian GC in 2018:

1. Coordination of cross-border rescue operations' procedures and plans

- 1) To acknowledge the importance of joint institutional coordination of cross-border rescue operations' procedures and plans;

- 2) To initiate before the 2018 Joint Session the exchange of contacts between relevant institutions and specialists in order to start the preliminary consultations in the format on Rescue Joint Expert Group;
- 3) To include the topic into the agenda of the Joint Session for 2018/2019.

2. Elaboration of the unified geodetic justification for the Rail Baltic railway line construction

- 1) To acknowledge the importance of elaboration of the unified geodetic justification for the Rail Baltic railway line construction;
- 2) To initiate before the 2018 Joint Session the exchange of contacts between relevant institutions and specialists in order to start the preliminary consultations in the format on Geodetic Joint Expert Group;
- 3) To include the topic into the agenda of the Joint Session for 2018/2019.

3. Determination, prioritisation and coordination of the list of road sections for reconstruction in a border area

- 1) To acknowledge the importance of determination, prioritisation and coordination of the list of road sections for reconstruction in a border regions;
- 2) To initiate before the 2018 Joint Session the exchange of contacts between relevant institutions and specialists in order to start the preliminary consultations within the Railway and Transport Joint Expert Group;
- 3) To include the topic into the agenda of the Joint Session for 2018/2019.

4. Lack of transport (ferry) connection between Saaremaa and Kurzeme

- 1) To acknowledge the importance of identification of the legal and administrative obstacles that prevent maritime transport connections between the island of Saaremaa and Kurzeme region;
- 2) To initiate before the 2018 Joint Session the exchange of information and contacts between relevant municipalities, institutions and specialists in order to start the preliminary consultations within the Maritime Joint Expert Group;
- 3) To include the topic into the agenda of the Joint Session for 2018/2019.

In addition, the Estonian-Latvian GC proposes to conclude in regard of the following issues that were not including into IGC agenda but were highlighted to be taken into account formulating new initiatives and re-evaluating those previously considered within IGC that might need to be further tackled by the specialists of both countries:

1. Agreement between Estonia and Latvia on exchange of data from the population register, monitoring the situation until the Agreement is concluded and signed

- 1) To conclude that the cross-border cooperation legal obstacle in regard of the exchange of personal data between Estonia and Latvia has been resolved and finalized by a transnational agreement.

2. Creation of the Cross-Border Obstacle Identification Form

- 1) To update the Rules of Procedure in order to include the methodology of identification of future initiatives of the Joint Session;
- 2) To approve the cross-border obstacle identification form as Annex 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Session as the methodology of identification of future initiatives of the Joint Session.

The Estonian-Latvian GC proposals to the Latvian-Estonian CG in order to highlight during the First Joint Session of the Governments of the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Estonia on August 21 2018 the following:

1. Cross-Border Mechanism on Resolving Legal and Administrative Obstacles in a Cross-Border Context

- 1) To note that the use of the mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context proposed by the European Commission should be voluntary;
- 2) To emphasize the Member State's competence in choosing an appropriate and effective mechanisms in resolving legal and administrative obstacles in border regions.