



## **Road transport**

### **Bulgarian-Hungarian meeting on road transport**

A meeting between representatives of Bulgarian and Hungarian branch organisations for international road transport and their colleagues from the Hungarian road transport association ATRH was held in Hungary on 28 January. The Bulgarian delegation included: Mr. Georgi Petrov - Chairman of AEBTRI Executive Board, Mr. Koitcho Rusev - Chairman of the National Transport Chamber and member of AEBTRI Executive Board, Mr. Alexander Chakarov - Chairman of the National Association of the Bulgarian hauliers and Mrs. Neli Salo - AEBTRI Deputy Secretary General.

The Hungarian delegations was led by Mr. Tibor de Sörgo - President of ATRH and Mr. Hinfner - Secretary General of ATRH. Bulgarian delegation put questions about some problems met by Bulgarian hauliers on Hungarian territory, such as shortage of permits and daily vignettes, high rate of road charges (when paid permit are used), etc. Hungarian side committed itself to eliminate the present problems. Hungarian delegation presented the current experience and opportunities of the Hungarian road transport operators in the context of EU enlargement.

Both sides agreed to add supplemental number of permits in the Protocol of the next Joint Bulgarian-Hungarian Commission on road transport.

### **Agreement on combined transport between Bulgarian and Azerbaijan**

The government ratified Agreement on combined transport of goods between Bulgarian and Azerbaijan, which was signed last October in Baku. The document governs the cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of combined transport and it aims at facilitating the movement of freights between both countries. The Agreement is expected to boost the international transport of goods between the signatory countries, as well as the transit through their territories.

### **The European Commission grants over EUR 144 million to Bulgarian**

Minister of Finance Milen Velchev and the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Bulgaria Dimitris Kourkoulas signed a financial memorandum, which envisages granting EUR 144.328 million to Bulgarian under the Phare programme 2004 - II part.

This is the biggest sum that EU has ever granted to Bulgaria in the framework of the financial memorandum under Phare programme, which shows that EU recognised the ability of Bulgarian to manage projects under the EU programme. It is also a sign of the growing confidence of the European institutions in Bulgarian, Minister Velchev pointed out.

The increase in financing is a clear and concrete indication that the EC is convinced of Bulgaria's ability to become a successful EU member, the head of the EC Delegation Dimitris Kourkoulas said.

A part of the funds will be allocated to improvement railway system and custom control of future EU borders.





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## **The first two port terminals to be offered for concession**

Bulgarian government decided to grant on a concession basis port terminals Lesport of Varna and Somovit of Rousse. According to the Minister of Transport and Communications Nikolay Vassilev the concessionaire of Lesport must invest at least BGN 2 million for the first two years and not less than BGN 7 million for the first ten years after signing the contract. The terms for Somovit terminal are as follows: at least BGN 1 million for the first two years and not less than BGN 3 million for the first ten years after signing the contract. The envisaged concession period for both terminals is 30 years. The next ports expected to be approved for concession are the new terminal for dangerous goods Varna-West, the port of Balchik and the ferry line between Silistra and Kalarasi.

The decision aims to increase service efficiency and to attract additional freights.

## **New Cross Border Checkpoint at Ivailovgrad - Kiprinos**

Bulgarian Council of Ministers adopted a draft Agreement between the governments of Bulgarian and Greece regarding the opening of a new Cross Border Checkpoint and road connections between both countries, which will connect the town of Ivailovgrad and the Greek town Kiprinos. The Agreement conforms with the priority of Bulgarian policy concerning the construction and development of the regional infrastructure.

The construction of a new border checkpoint at Ivailovgrad - Kiprinos aims at boosting development of Bulgarian Greek relations.

## **New terminal Nicopol - Turnu Magurele in operation in 2006**

The construction of the ferryboat terminal Nicopol - Turnu Magurele officially started on 11 January. The project amounts to EUR 4.5 million. The financing is provided by PHARE Trans Border Cooperation Programme (70%) and the state budget (30%). Contractor is Bulgarian holding "Patishtha". The project's term of construction is 16 months and the terminal is expected to operate in July 2006. The capacity of the equipment is 80 TIR trucks for 24 hours.

## **Tender for the road connection to the Sofia airport announced**

Tender procedure for design and construction of road connection between Brussels Boulevard and the new passengers terminal of Sofia airport might start within few months. The Ministry of Transport and Communications announced the preliminary stage of the public order for design and final stage of design for construction works of the road section that connects Brussels Boulevard and the new passengers terminal of Sofia.

It is the sixth project that has a national importance status. Thus will be facilitated its realisation on the basis of the Spatial Development Act special provisions. The project, financed by the national budget, amounts to some BGN 12 million.

## **Bidders confirm their interest in Bulgarian sea airport concession**

Five candidates who were shortlisted as bidders in the tender for concession of the airports of Bulgarian Black sea cities of Varna and Bourgas have confirmed their further participation in the procedure.

The five companies include a German-Bulgarian consortium between Hochtief Airport GmbH and Albena, German airport operator Fraport AG Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide in partnership with Bulgarian company BM Star, Copenhagen Airports A/S, Italian Vinci Airports together with Vinci Concessions and the consortium between Kuwait's Mohammed Abdulmohsin Al-Kharafi and Sons and Aeroports de Paris.

They have to submit their final offers by 7 March. Concession contracts are expected to be signed before the start of busy summer season.



Roads



Air  
transport



## New fees for excess weight and dimensions in force

As of 01.01.2005 all heavy vehicles, which exceed the maximum authorised weights and dimensions, are subject to the following charges regardless of the vehicle's country of registration:

### 1. Excess weight

Exceeding the gross vehicle weight by	Fee (EUR/km)
from 0.10 t to 5.00 t incl.	0.25
from 5.00 t to 10.00 t incl.	0.50
from 10.00 t to 20.00 t incl.	0.83
from 20.00 t to 30.00 t incl.	1.32
from 30.00 t to 40.00 t incl.	1.82
from 40.00 t to 50.00 t incl.	2.48
from 50.00 t to 60.00 t incl.	3.47
over 60.00 t	3.47 + 3.31 per each additional 10 t over 60 t

### 2. Excess Size

Exceeding the maximum authorised width by	Fee (EUR/km)
from 0.01 m to 0.50 m incl.	0.18
from 0.50 m to 1.00 m incl.	0.26
from 1.00 m to 1.50 m incl.	0.41
from 1.50 m to 2.00 m incl.	0.59
from 2.00 m to 2.50 m incl.	1.18
from 2.50 m to 3.50 m incl.	1.98
over 3.50 m	1.98 + 3.68 per each additional metre over 3.50 m

Exceeding the maximum authorised height by	Fee (EUR/km)
from 0.01 m to 0.50 m incl.	0.22
from 0.50 m to 1.00 m incl.	0.44
over 1.00 m	0.44 + 2.94 per each additional metre over 1.00 m

Exceeding the maximum authorised length by	Fee (EUR/km)
from 0.01 m to 3.00 m incl.	0.30
from 3.00 m to 10.00 m incl.	0.44
from 10.00 m to 15.00 m incl.	0.81
over 15.00 m	1.62

### 3. Excess Axle Load

Exceeding the maximum authorised load per axle by	Fee (EUR/km)
from 0.10 t to 0.50 t	0.50
from 0.50 t to 1.00 t	0.58
from 1.00 t to 1.50 t	0.67
from 1.50 t to 2.00 t	0.83
from 2.00 t to 3.00 t	1.99
from 3.00 t to 4.00 t	3.98
over 4.00 t	3.98 + 3.31 per each additional tone over 4.00 t

NB: If, at the same time, a vehicle exceeds the norms for weight, width, height, length or axle load taxes are levied separately for each of the parameters exceeding the norms.



## DRIVING RESTRICTIONS, 2005

- I. There is a prohibition on movement of all kind vehicles with total laden weight over 15 t on I-5, section Tchernootchene - Kardjali. The traffic is diverted along to following alternative roads:
- direction Haskovo - Kardjali: road I-5 - road III-505 - Manastir - road III-507 - Voyvodino - Most - Tchiflik - Kardjali;
  - direction Assenovgrad - Kardjali: follow the route road III-58 - road I-5 - road III-505 - Manastir - road I-5 - road III-507 - Voyvodino - Most - Tchiflik - Kardjali;
  - direction Mineralni Bani - Kardjali: follow the route road III-506 - III-806 - road I-5 - road III-505 - Manastir - road III-507 - Voyvodino - Most - Tchiflik - Kardjali.

### II. SUMMER RESTRICTIONS

During the summer period there is a prohibition on movement of trucks with a total laden weight of over 20 t in the period from 12h00 to 19h00 when temperatures exceed 35°.

### III. PROHIBITION ON MOVEMENT OF OVERSIZED AND OVERLOADED VEHICLES:

There is a prohibition on movement of oversized and overloaded vehicles throughout the year in case of visibility under 50 m due to mist, heavy rain or snow, of black ice, during the hours of darkness and at peak times during the day except in cases of emergency or natural catastrophe.

### IV. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

During the year 2005, due to reconstruction and rehabilitation works the road transport vehicles may encounter difficulties when using the following roads:

1. Kazanlak - Stara Zagora (International road I-5)
  - from km 198+700 to km 225+685;    - from km 225+685 to km 235+267
2. "Hemus" motorway:
  - from km 11+300 to km 15+197.82;    - from km 22+000 to km 25+146.40 (25+174.77);
  - from km 34+530 to km 40+709;       - from km 34+500 to km 44+551.14.
3. Sliven - Burgas (International road I-6 (E-773)):
  - from km 387+300 to km 393+625.52;    - from km 414+300 to km 421+158.59;
  - from km 425+900 to km 435+896.88;    - from km 445+935 to km 449+614.88;
  - from km 453+600 to km 459+560.28;    - from km 467+000 to km 471+996.97;
  - from km 475+700 to km 482+225.90;    - from km 488+115.22 to km 495+939.28
4. Vidin - Montana (International road I-1 (E-79)):
  - from km 3+450 to km 21+147.43;       - from km 25+596.88 to km 39+586.72;
  - from km 61+384.85 to km 103+090.91.
5. International road I-6 (E-79), section between Daskalovo and Dupnitsa from km 287+450 to km 326+638.
6. International road I-6 (E-79), construction of new pipe of the tunnel near Dupnitsa, section from km 328+110 to km 328+380.99.
7. International road I-4, section between Omurtag and Targovishte, from km 205+670 to km 213+345;
8. International road I-7, section between Elhovo and Knyajevo, from km 302+123 to km 302+838;

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