

First Meeting of the Joint Committee established by the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on the Carriage of Freight by Road

Online meeting, 16 March 2023

Minutes

Participants:

From the European Commission:

- Kristian Schmidt, Director DG MOVE.C., Chairman of the meeting, Head of the EU delegation
- Jean-Louis Colson, Head of Unit DG MOVE.C.1
- Thomas Kaufmann, DG MOVE.C.1.
- Pablo Serrano, DG MOVE.C.1
- Thibaud Bodson, DG TRADE.B.2
- Lucas Maurer, EEAS EURCA.2
- Rikke Mengel-Jorgensen, DG TRADE.E.1
- Jeroen Smits, DG AGRI.E.4
- Agnieszka Skiba, EEAS-Kyiv
- Daniel Jacques, NEAR.E.2
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Representatives from Ukraine:

- Oleksandr KUBRAKOV, Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration of Ukraine, Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development, Head of the Ukrainian delegation
- Serhiy DERKACH, Deputy Minister, Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development
- Iryna KUCHERUK, Director of the Department of Investment Policy, Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development
- Oleksandr ZADOROZNYI, Director of the Department of Road and Air Transportation, Tourism Development and Transport Safety, Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development
- Kateryna ONICHSHENKO, Head of International Road Transportation Division of the Department of Road and Air Transportation, Tourism Development and Transport Safety, Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development
- Olga SAVCHENKO, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and European Integration, Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development
- Olena MELNYKOVA, Head of the Division for Ensuring Institutional Cooperation with the EU, Department of Cooperation with the EU, Department of Economic Cooperation with the EU and the Countries of the World, Ministry of Economy
- Gulsanna MAMEDIYEVA, Director of the European Integration Directorate, Ministry of Digital Transformation
- Evgeny KARPENKO, Deputy Director of the Department of international cooperation, head of the contract law department, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Maryna MYKHAYLENKO, Director of the EU and NATO Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Oleksiy BILOSHYTSKY, First Deputy Chief of the Patrol Police Department, National Police

Representatives from EU Member States:

- Veli-Matti Syrjäne (Finland)
- Anđa Đogaš (Hungary)
- Vincent Casserly (Ireland)
- Annija Novikova (Latvia)
- Emilie Sort Mikkelsen (Denmark)
- Christophe Le Bihan (France)
- Donatella Orlandi (Italy)
- Andrea de Cesare (Italy)
- Dragan Udovicic (Austria)

1. *Opening statements*

The EU co-chair welcomed the participants, including the Ukrainian delegation, colleagues from other Commission departments, and the representatives of Member States who participate as observers.

2. *Adoption of the agenda*

The Agenda was adopted.

3. *Adoption of the Rules of Procedure*

The two co-chairs declared that they agree on the rules of procedures, as they were exchanged before the meeting, and both signed a copy of Decision 1/2023 of the Joint Committee, by which these rules of procedure are adopted. These copies will then be exchanged.

4. *Adoption of the Decision on the continuation of the Agreement*

The EU co-chair stated that the Agreement has to be considered as a full success. Clear statistical data are showing that the Agreement has successfully supported the solidarity lanes, which are there to help the Ukrainian economy in the face of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The available data show that the Agreement has greatly helped Ukrainian hauliers to develop alternative ways to export grain and other products to the EU and third countries, which is very important, also in view of the uncertainties surrounding the UN Black Sea Agreement.

The Ukrainian co-chair thanked the EU for the extension of this important agreement. It has allowed a rapid change in the logistical chains for exports of Ukrainian products. The number of carriers crossing the border increased by 53%, while the number of border crossings increased by 43% in 2022, in comparison to the respective period in 2021. He also reported on the different activities to increase the capacity of border crossings with neighbouring countries, which are also done in connection with CEF projects. Together with European partners, Ukraine is currently developing the necessary logistics infrastructure at the border. In particular, since the beginning of the invasion, two new checkpoints have been opened on the border with Romania, as well as a control point for the passage of empty cargo vehicles on the border with Poland. In addition, the throughput capacity of the Korczowa-Krakovets checkpoint and the operation of the Yahodyn-Dorohusk checkpoint on the border with Poland were expanded, as the Ukrainian co-chair explained. He also expressed his hopes for a longer extension of the Agreement in the future.

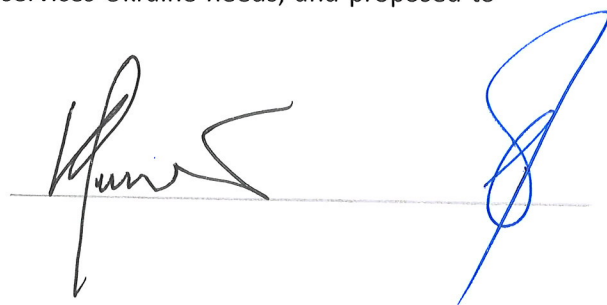
Both co-chairs adopted Decision 2/2023 by signing a copy of the Decision, which will then be exchanged.

5. Closing remarks

The Ukrainian delegation expressed the wish to extend the transport rights contained in the Agreement as regards transit between third countries.

The EU co-chair explained that an extension of the scope of the Agreement cannot be decided by the Joint Committee. It needs a new mandate from Council. He announced that this point will be recorded in the minutes, and proposed to follow up on this at the level of experts. Jean-Louis Colson added that it is first necessary to understand which kind of transport services Ukraine needs, and proposed to work on this with the relevant Ukrainian services.

Kristian Schmidt, Head of the EU delegation
Oleksandr Kubrakov, Head of the Ukrainian delegation

The image shows two handwritten signatures on a horizontal line. The signature on the left is in black ink and appears to be 'Kristian Schmidt'. The signature on the right is in blue ink and appears to be 'Oleksandr Kubrakov'.