

**PROTOCOL
OF THE ROMANIAN - BRITISH JOINT COMMITTEE
ON ROAD TRANSPORT
Bucharest, 29 – 30th of April, 2004**

In accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain on international road transports, concluded on 28 August, 1969, the meeting of the Romanian - British Joint Committee on road transport took place in Bucharest, April, 29th – 30th, 2004.

The members of the two delegations are presented in the Annexes to the present Protocol.

Both delegations agreed on the following agenda:

1. Exchange of statistical data; the development of the road transports between the two countries;
2. Goods transports;
3. Passenger transport;
4. Commencement of the negotiations on a new Agreement on road transport;
5. Other matters.

1. Exchange of statistical data; the development of the road transports between the two countries

The Romanian side presented statistical data regarding the evolution of the bilateral trade, underlining that the volume of trade knew an encouraging increase, reflected also in the road transports between the two countries.

The total volume of the bilateral trade is illustrated by the following figures:

YEAR	VALUE
1989	296.25 mill USD
2000	1.081 billion USD
2001	1.125 billion USD
2002	1.485 billion USD
2003	1.957 billion USD

For the year 2003, Great Britain keeps the 4th rank among the countries that is importing Romanian products, with a share of 6.71%, and the 8th rank for the British exports to Romania, with a share of 3.31%, placing Romania on the 5th rank for the commercial exchanges with U.K among central and eastern European countries.

In 2003, there were registered in Romania 1 658 companies with British capital, with a total subscription amounting to 300 mil EUR, ensuring to U.K. the 10th rank in the investors top.

The British side confirmed the conclusions of the Romanian side.

Speaking about the traffic statistics, the Romanian side showed that 3,000 British vehicles for goods transport and 23 vehicles for passenger transport entered the Romanian territory.



Concerning the Romanian transports of goods for U.K., the British side presented an interesting evolution:

1999 (1 st quarter)	187 trucks
2000	476 trucks
2001	732 trucks
2002	1231
For full year 2002	3,677 trucks transporting 36,300 tons of goods

If we have in mind that in 1999 the number of Romanian vehicles entering the U.K. was amounting to 1,264, it can be easily noticed the steady increasing of this number – 3,677 vehicles in 2002.

The Romanian side has strong reasons to consider that these figures shall increase up to 5,000 vehicles.

The Romanian Side also stated that under the conditions of the partnership between the two countries, Romania knew a notable development and the attitude of the British Government is encouraging these relations.

The liberalization in the road transport area represents a real support for the natural and increasing development of the relations in the field of the bilateral trade.

2. Goods transports

The Romanian side stated that it can be noticed that the liberalized and balanced framework of the bilateral and transit traffic between Romania and U.K. cannot offer the opportunity to interfere and to act on this segment.

Taking into account the real needs of the Romanian and British transport operators, the Romanian side proposed to the British side to increase the contingent of third country transport permits up to 400 units.

The British side agreed with the Romanian proposal, consenting to mutually increase this contingent with 100 more permits valid for third country transport.

This contingent of 400 permits is to be considered as established for 2004 and preliminary for 2005.

The two Parties approached the possibility to start the negotiations to liberalize the third country traffic between the two countries, by correspondence or on the occasion of the next Joint Committee, even before the Romania accession to E.U.

The Romanian side brought into attention of the British side the initiative of Mr. Miron Mitrea – the Minister of transports, constructions and tourism to modify the Regulations of ECMT concerning the modality of using the ECMT licence, and kindly asked to the British delegation to support this proposal, on the occasion of the next ECMT Conference in Ljubljana

The British side agreed to analyze the aforesaid initiative and committed it self to treat it with goodwill and to prepare an official point of view for the next reunion of ECMT meeting.

3. Passengers transport

Both sides exchanged views on passenger transport between the two countries and stated that both sides will consider in a positive way the future development of this type of transport.

They also agreed to solve all the future applications for opening new regular bus lines by correspondence.

4. Discussions on concluding a new Agreement on road transport

The Romanian side suggested the opportunity that, till the accession of Romania to E.U., the relations between the two countries in the field of road transport to be ruled by the Agreement on road transport in force, by the *Agreement between Romania and E.U. enforcing some specific conditions on road transport of goods and promoting the combined transport* and by INTERBUS Agreement.

The Romanian side handed over the draft of a new road agreement.

The British side agreed on the Romanian side point of view and it will convey its comments by correspondence.

The British side stated that the negotiations may be continued to a timetable that Romania wishes.

They also acknowledged that Romania accession into the E.U will take priority and considered that the new Agreement on road transport may be concluded afterwards.

5. Other matters

The Romanian side informed the British side on the legislative measures promoted with the view to harmonize the national law to the communitary one, the harmonization of permissible weights and dimensions, the improvement of weighting procedures in the border crossing points and the compliance of the requests concerning the access to profession and to market, including also the gradual introduction of the financial ceiling of the generalization of the application of the special conditions provided in A.E.T.R. and to the national traffic, of licensing and control of the road traffic of goods and passengers.

The Romanian side presented, at the British side request, the control procedures in the border crossing points performed by the representatives of the National Company of Motorways and National Roads, including imposition of fines and rights of appeal.

The British side showed its satisfaction on the information and details provided by the Romanian side on these subjects.

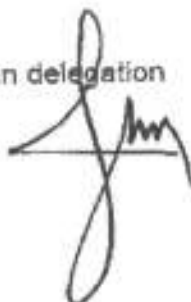
The representative of professional unions in Romania brought into attention to the British side several issues to which the British side offered explanations.

The meeting of the Joint Committee took place in an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual understanding.

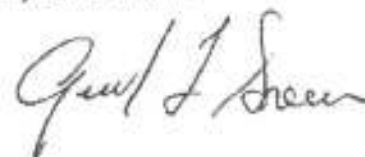
The British side invited the Romanian side in U.K. for the next reunion of the Joint Committee on road Transport.

Done in Bucharest, on April 30, 2004, in two original copies, both in the English language.

Head of the Romanian delegation
Lucian SOVA



Head of the British delegation
Gerry SREENAN



ANNEX 1

**ROMANIAN DELEGATION
THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ROAD TRANSPORT
ROMANIA – THE UNITED KINGDOM
BUCHAREST, 29-30 APRIL 2004**

1. THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION

No.	Name and surname	Rank
1.	Mr. LUCIAN ȘOVA	Director General, General Directorate for Road Transport within the Ministry of Transports, Constructions and Tourism-The head of the Romanian delegation
2.	Mrs. LIZETA VOLCINSCHI	Senior Counselor , General Directorate for Road Transport within the Ministry of Transports, Constructions and Tourism
3.	Mr. ADRIAN FRANTZ KALAPIS	Senior Counselor , General Directorate for Road Transport within the Ministry of Transports, Constructions and Tourism
4.	Mrs. CAMELIA ARMENCEA	Senior Counselor , Departament for EU and international co-ordination within the Ministry of Transports, Constructions and Tourism
5.	Mrs. FLORENTINA TONT	Deputy Director General, Romanian Road Authority
6.	Mrs. ECATERINA MUNTEANU	Commercial Director, National Company for Motorways and National Roads

2. INVITED PERSONS-representatives of professional unions and associations

No.	Name and surname	Rank
1	Mr. Dragos Anastasiu	President of Romanian Private Carriers Asociasion




ANNEX 2

**THE BRITISH DELEGATION
THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ROAD TRANSPORT
ROMANIA - THE UNITED KINGDOM
BUCHAREST, 29-30 APRIL 2004**

1. THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION

No.	Name and surname	Rank
1.	Mr. GERRY SREENAN	Head of delegation-International Road Freight Operations Policy, Department for Transport
2.	Mr. GEOFF FINCH	International Branch, International Road Freight Operations Policy, Department for Transport
3.	Mr. DON ARMOUR	International Affairs, Freight Transport Association