

Working Party on the Transport
of Dangerous Goods
(Seventyfirst session,
(Geneva, 5 -9 November 2001)

Transmitted by the Government of Latvia

Secretariat of Transport Division
Inland Transport Committee
Economic Commission for Europe
Fax: 41 22 917 0039

Re.: TRANS/WP.15/2001/17 - Convention on Civil Liability for Damage caused during Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigations Vessels (CRTD)

The Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia has studied the list of questions put forward by the ECE Transport Division concerning the Convention on Civil Liability for Damage caused during Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigations Vessels (**CRTD**) and would like to provide the following information:

1. The Republic of Latvia has set as a priority to harmonize the national legislation with that of EU and there are a great number of requirements to be introduced.. Taking into consideration the fact that CRTD has not yet entered into force, the issue about joining to this Convention has not yet been put forward for debate on the governmental level.
2. After having discussed the possible joining to CRTD on an expert level it was concluded that the limits of liability are rather high but from the carriers point of view it is also very important to know what the premiums are going to be in case a country joins this Convention because it influences costs in general.
3. Official statistics concerning the third question is not available.
4. In our opinion lowering of level of compulsory insurance could not solely facilitate the process of accession. In general, the Convention does not cover all the cases when the carriage of dangerous goods could cause damages and losses. The issue of sharing of the liability is a very complicated one.
5. Such a requirement have not been adapted in Latvia and therefore we can not give you detailed answer.
6. This issue requires more detailed investigation.

Taking into consideration the fact that carriage of dangerous goods may cause considerable losses therefore the issue about the limits of liability is an important one and the work should be continued.

Sincerely Yours,
Vigo Legzdins
State Secretary