

PROTOCOL
of the meeting of the Joint Commission on international road transport of passengers
and goods
between the delegations of
Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Swiss Confederation
held online on 08 July 25, 9:30 – 11:10

The delegations agreed the following agenda:

- Ad 1. Exchange of statistical data regarding the transport of passengers and goods;
- Ad 2. EU Context;
- Ad 3. Transport of passengers;
- Ad 4. Transport of goods;
- Ad 5. Miscellaneous

The list of members of both delegations is attached to this Protocol (Annex 1).

At the opening of the meeting, after the welcome address given by the Head of the Swiss Delegation, the heads of delegations introduced the members of their respective delegations. Both delegations expressed regrets it was not possible to hold the meeting in person. Both delegations have decided to not postpone the meeting and to hold it online instead, in English.

1. Exchange of statistical data regarding the transport of passengers and goods and trade exchange between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Swiss Confederation

The Swiss Delegation presented the trade statistics and freight transport between the Swiss Confederation and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2022-2024). The delegations exchanged statistical data showing a significant rise in trade exchanges between Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the Swiss Confederation. In 2024, Switzerland recorded a trade surplus of CHF 27 million, exporting about 25% more goods than it imported. This contrasts with deficits of CHF 38 million in 2022 and CHF 22 million in 2023.

BiH exports to Switzerland declined by 10% from 2022 to 2024. Key imports from BiH include furniture, wood products, steel articles, clothing, footwear, and plastics.

Swiss exports to BiH rose by 39% in the same period. Main exports include pharmaceuticals, vehicles and parts, machinery, steel products, and plastics.

- The presentation will be shared with the BiH delegation. [Sent/Received on 17.07.2025].

The BiH Delegation presented statistical data on the exchange of goods between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland over the period of time stemming from 2019-1st Quarter 2025.

It was highlighted that both exports and imports have fluctuated year by year. For example, exports from Bosnia to Switzerland peaked in value in 2023, while imports from Switzerland to Bosnia reached their highest value in 2022. The total goods exchange, both in terms of weight and value, also shows significant variation, with the highest recorded value in 2022. The data for 2024 and the first part of 2025 indicate a decrease in both exports and imports compared to previous years.

Both delegations expressed the view that cooperation is very effective and highlighted the dynamic nature of their economic exchange. It is hoped that this trend continues in this way and that the exchange of goods keeps growing.

- The BiH delegation will share the document with figures with the Swiss delegation. [Sent/Received on 14.07.2025].

Both delegations expressed satisfaction with the positive economic relations between the countries, as well as strong commitment to further intensify cooperation in transport.

2. *EU Context*

The aim of this agenda point is for the delegations to share any relevant developments in the EU context.

For Switzerland, relations in the field of transport are governed by the Land Transport Agreement of 1999. A key aspect is the legislative implementation of EU legal acts based on the principle of equivalence, meaning that Swiss legislation on land transport is similar to that in the EU (Switzerland transposed for example the EU mobility package).

One new element since the last joint commission meeting relates to the negotiations for a new package of agreements between Switzerland and the EU, which were concluded in 2024. The Land Transport Agreement will be updated and developed.

One resulting aspect will be for Switzerland having to align its national legislation with EU regulation within a shorter timeframe, by dynamic alignment.

The Swiss delegation asked the BiH about any developments on their side, in particular with reference to the recent Council Decision of June 2025 ‘authorising the opening of negotiations on the revision of the Transport Community Treaty’ COM(2025) 278 final.

- The BiH delegation will provide follow-up information.

3. *Passenger transport*

The bilateral agreement in place governs passenger transport between Switzerland and BiH. The Swiss Delegation informed the BiH Delegation about occasional and regular transport of passengers and related applicable control documents (ASOR model).

It is noted by Switzerland that there are unfortunately recurring cases where the BiH authorities have already issued an authorisation for scheduled cross-border bus services whereas the corresponding procedure in Switzerland for issuing the authorisation has not been completed.

Delegations agreed that the bilateral permit issuance process should be synchronized and well-communicated. This approach would minimize the chances of one party issuing permits before the corresponding process on the other side is completed. Additionally, such an approach should ensure that the corresponding agreements from transit countries are obtained and would reduce the likelihood of permits being issued with different validity periods.

The delegations discussed possible solutions.

- Switzerland requests that the BiH authorities wait for the confirmation by e-mail from the Swiss Federal Office of Transport (FOT) that the authorization can be issued.
- Switzerland will share the list of currently valid authorisations for cross-border regular bus services between CH-BIH, as well as web links to see if a Swiss carrier holds a

Swiss licence and if a bus company holds an authorisation for an international regular bus service. [Information sent on 17.07.2025].

Additionally, a further challenge is presented by journeys made using 9-seater vehicles. Passenger transport with such vehicles is not subject to the authorisation requirement. It falls outside the bilateral agreement and outside of FOT's jurisdiction, potentially placing it under cantonal taxi regulations. This regulatory gap poses significant challenges for some companies.

The delegations agreed that the competent control authorities of both countries would be informed about this.

Control documents/ Interbus Agreement:

As Switzerland has not acceded to the Interbus Agreement, Swiss transport companies are not permitted to identify themselves with the Interbus journey form.

Swiss coaches are therefore permitted to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina with the ASOR journey form. The protocol of the bilateral agreement does not specify the control document but only includes an example.

The BiH Delegation informs that BiH fulfils all the requirements of EC Regulations 1071/2009, 1072/2009, 1073/2009 and as such wishes to see that the bilateral agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland in place is amended in order to facilitate bilateral transport.

Switzerland requested detailed information about the nature of the proposed amendment. As a subsequent step, the BiH delegation would send an official notice through diplomatic channel with initiative in order to specify which areas of amendments to the bilateral agreement (CH-BiH) it would like to consider.

In case a modification of the bilateral agreement is desired by the Bosnian side, the Swiss Delegation requests the BiH Delegation to forward documents (i.e. agreement EU-Bosnia) which state the extent to which Bosnia Herzegovina's regulations comply with the 3 EC Regulations (1071/2009, 1072/2009, 1073/2009).

The BiH Delegation agreed that this information would be sent during the process of negotiating regarding the changing of bilateral agreement.

4. Goods transport

Both delegations noted that transport of goods is carried out smoothly and without any obstacles. The carriage of goods by road between Switzerland and Bosnia and Herzegovina is liberalized.

Switzerland strives to liberalize freight transport whenever possible. BiH also wants to move in this direction.

In the case of transport involving third countries, either CEMT applies or the provisions in the bilateral agreements between Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the third country concerned.

5. Miscellaneous

BiH Delegation discussed the implementation of the digital CEMT system on 1 January 2026. In Switzerland, stakeholder instructions are currently in progress. The digitalisation of CEMT authorisations is a positive step, particularly as a pilot through the CEMT framework. The BiH Delegation informs that they are in a similar process and that an ITF-delegation visited Bosnia the previous week to discuss implementing questions of the new digital system. BiH is also engaged in creating the new digital accounts for national carriers.

Regarding the separate issue of visa requirements for professional truck drivers or seasonal workers from BiH, the BiH Delegation indicates that there should be an exemption in place. This topic is of the remit of the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) in Switzerland and exchanges via the embassies have taken place.

- The Swiss embassy in BiH would share any information available regarding the status of the discussions with the Ministry of Transport and Communication of BiH.

As part of concluding remarks, the excellent cooperation maintained between both the Ministry of Communications and Transport of BiH and the Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH, and the Swiss Embassy and Regional Centre in Vienna were noted.

The final version of this protocol will be signed after the meeting. The document will be signed electronically if electronic signature is also possible for the BiH Delegation. Otherwise, two originals, signed by the Head of the Swiss Delegation, will be sent to the BiH Delegation via the Swiss Embassy in Sarajevo. The BiH Delegation will then return one countersigned original to the Swiss Embassy. As an alternative, Switzerland could accept a scanned copy of the hand-signed protocol to facilitate electronic exchange, thereby avoiding the need to exchange the original paper version. Communication regarding the final decision on signing shall take place electronically between the two delegations.

The meeting was conducted in a friendly and constructive manner. The Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina invited Switzerland to the next meeting of the Joint Commission to be held in Sarajevo. The exact date and time of the meeting will be determined by e-mail correspondence.

Done online, on 8 July 2025, in English.

For the BiH Delegation

Miroslav Đerić

For the Swiss Delegation

Anna Lena Aeschlimann

Annex 1

Meeting of the Joint Commission on international road transport of passengers and goods between the delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Swiss Confederation

List of members of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Mr. Miroslav Đerić, Chief of Department of Road and Rail Transport, Sector for Transport, Ministry of Communications and Transport (Head of Delegation)
2. Mrs. Lejla Mehanović-Turić, Expert advisor for international cooperation, Sector for Transport, Ministry of Communications and Transport
3. Mr. Samir Planinčić, Expert Licensing Advisor, Sector for Transport, Ministry of Communications and Transport
4. Mr. Dejan Savić, Expert advisor for road transport of passengers and goods, Sector for Transport, Ministry of Communications and Transport
5. Mr. Zijad Sinanović, Director of Sector for Transport, Foreign Trade Chamber

List of members of the delegation of the Swiss Confederation

1. Ms. Anna Lena Aeschlimann, Co-Director, International Affairs section, Federal office of Transport (Head of Delegation)
2. Mr. Urs Lühinger, Movement of goods, Federal office for Customs and Border Security
3. Ms. Jasmina Trlajic, Market Access section, Federal office of Transport
4. Ms. Kamlesh Brocard, International Affairs section, Federal office of Transport
5. Ms. Sanela Ademovic, Policy Advisor on Trade, Culture and Education, Swiss Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina
6. Ms. Eleonora Maestranzi, Management Affairs section, Federal office of Transport.