

31st Meeting of the Commission for the Karavanke Road Tunnel 29th November 2018, Ljubljana

The Slovenian Delegation

- Ms. Darja Kocjan (Ministry of Infrastructure)
- Mr. Zvonko Zavasnik (Ministry of Infrastructure)
- Mr. Damijan Leskovšek (Ministry of Infrastructure)
- Ms. Jana Lenarčič (Ministry of Infrastructure)
- Ms. Ervina Jarc (Ministry of Finance)
- Ms. Barbra Borota (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- Mr. Janez Kušnik (DARS)
- Mr. Bojan Banfi (DARS)
- Mr. Matjaž Safran (DARS)
- Ms. Branka Bogdan (Interpreter)

The Austrian Delegation

- Mr. Michael Kainz (Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs)
- Ms. Karin Stanger-Herok (Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology)
- Ms. Sonja Wiesholzer (Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology)
- Mr. Norbert Hack (Austrian Embassy Ljubljana)
- Ms. Ursula Zechner (ASFINAG)
- Ms. Jana Veber (Interpreter)

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report of the Building Committee
3. Report of the Operation Committee
4. Toll related issues
5. AOB

Ad1.

The agenda of the 31st Meeting of the Commission for the Karavanke Road Tunnel was adopted.

Ad2.

The representative of DARS presented the work of the Building Committee in the recent period. All the tasks of the Building Committee, which were primarily related to the harmonization of technical solutions, project documentation and tender documentation for the construction, were carried out. In June 2018, DARS decided to select the contractor, but unselected bidders appealed against the decision. DARS is

waiting for the National Review Commission's decision, which could be passed in December 2018.

The representative of ASFINAG confirmed the very good work of the Building Committee, while warning that it would be necessary to verify the actual contact point defined in the Elaborate of the designation of the contact point.

The Interstate Commission for the Karavanke Road Tunnel took note of DARS and ASFINAG reports related to the Building Committee activities and adopted the following decision:

Decision 1/31

The contact point defined in the Elaborate of the designation of the contact point will be checked again at the meeting of the Building and Operation Committee for the Karavanke Road Tunnel.

Ad3.

The DARS representative reported on the recent work of the Operation Committee. The committee met twice in 2018. During the meetings standard topics related to the costs of operating the tunnel, management and maintenance of the tunnel and revenues from the toll collection were discussed. Furthermore, activities concerning the definition of efficient measures related to traffic congestion during the next tourist season were discussed as well. The report was also approved by the representative of ASFINAG.

The Interstate Commission for the Karavanke Road Tunnel took note of DARS and ASFINAG reports on the activities of the Operation Committee.

Ad4.

DARS informed the Interstate Commission that in coordination with ASFINAG they harmonized the increase of toll fee for the use of the Karavanke road tunnel for vehicles above 3,500 kg of the maximum permissible weight and the value of a non-transferable tolling point card. The increase of toll or the value of a non-transferable tolling point card is the result of a decision adopted by the Interstate Commission in year 2015, namely that the amount of toll for vehicles up to 3,500 kg should be adjusted once a year with the growth of consumer prices in the previous year. The amount of the toll is adjusted on the basis of the harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP) as published by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) for the previous year, taking into account the average value for the territory of Slovenia and Austria. The proposed harmonization is also agreed between the Slovenian and Austrian ministries responsible for transport.

The Austrian delegation highlighted an Austrian legal problem concerning the change of toll fees for the use of the Karavanke road tunnel. Prior to the introduction of the toll fee change, the Council of Ministers must approve it. In order to avoid this problem in the future, an understanding was reached, that the formula developed during the 29th meeting, concerning the adjustment of toll fees for inflation, is applicable to all future adjustments.

Decision 2/31

From 1st January 2019, the toll fee for the use of the Karavanke road tunnel for vehicles up to 3,500 kg of the maximum permissible weight will be increased from the current € 7.20 to € 7.40 excluding VAT and the value of the non-transferable tolling point card from the current € 32.20 to 32, 90 € excluding VAT.

Decision 3/31

The decision 2/29 has been amended in the way that the underlying proposal of the toll collectors concerning the method of future inflation adjustments, has gained retroactive validity as proposal pursuant to Article 12 (3) Treaty on the Karavanke Road Tunnel, for all prospective toll rate adjustments.

Ad5.

The Austrian delegation highlighted the issue of irregular / occasional meetings of the Interstate Commission. In this context, it was suggested that meetings of the Interstate Commission could be held via video conference from time to time as well. The Slovenian delegation agreed with the proposal, but at the same time proposed that the Interstate Commission meets at least once a year in a regular manner.

Decision 4/31

The meetings of the Interstate Commission are usually organized in a regular manner, occasionally and also depending on urgent problems, digital technologies could be used (video conference).

Ljubljana, 29th November 2018

Darja KOCJAN



Michael KAINZ

