

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE CREATION
OF A CROSS-BORDER TESTBED FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF AUTOMATED
MOBILITY BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF CLIMATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ESTONIA, THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA,
AND THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

The Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia, and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to individually as a "Participant" and jointly as "the Participants"),

DESIRING to enhance cooperation and to establish a strategic partnership for the development, testing, and real-world deployment of automated vehicles and modern transportation modes across the Baltic region, based on equality, mutual benefit and respect;

RECOGNISING that automated mobility requires a system-level approach in designing services for end users, taking into account the interactions between vehicles, passengers, other road users, and the supporting digital and physical environment and infrastructure;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the successful scaling of automated vehicles from testing to real-world deployment depends not only on harmonised vehicle approval and safety frameworks, but also on the existence of coherent and predictable Single Market conditions for the provision of automated road transport services, including on-demand passenger services, ride-hailing and freight logistics;

AIMING to foster innovation, reduce regulatory fragmentation, and support the competitiveness of the regional mobility ecosystem, while enabling the transition from pilot projects to commercial-scale automated transport services;

The Participants have reached the following common understanding:

**SECTION 1
(OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF COOPERATION)**

1. The Participants will cooperate in good faith with a view to establishing a functional cross-border testbed for the deployment of automated mobility across the territories of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, covering both passenger transport and freight logistics.
2. The cooperation will in particular address:
 - harmonised approval, testing and operational conditions for automated vehicles and automated road transport services;

- the progressive transition from small-scale or geographically limited operations to large-scale commercial deployment;
- the identification and reduction of regulatory and operational barriers affecting automated road transport services;
- the exchange of safety-relevant data and best practices, in accordance with applicable laws;
- the joint coordination of national positions regarding the development of automated mobility frameworks at the European Union level, through the mechanisms established in Section 7.

SECTION 2

(REGULATORY COOPERATION AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION)

1. The Participants will share best practices regarding their national regulatory frameworks and will seek progressive alignment on the basis of Regulation (EU) 2018/858, Regulation (EU) 2019/2144 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1426, as well as applicable international standards.
2. With a view to facilitating the operation of automated vehicles across the testbed, the Participants will, to the extent permitted under their respective national law, endeavour to recognise mutually:
 - national type-approvals of vehicles produced in small series as referred to in Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2018/858, subject to the conditions in Article 43(3) of that Regulation;
 - national individual vehicle approvals as referred to in Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2018/858, subject to the conditions in Article 46(3) of that Regulation;
 - technical documentation and testing results produced by designated technical services of the other Participants.
3. It is understood that the exclusive competence and responsibility to authorise a specific vehicle to operate on public roads remains with the Participant in whose territory the operation takes place.
4. The Participants will establish a cooperative exchange of information between their authorities regarding the interpretation of technical requirements and in-service monitoring and reporting based on separate operational arrangements to be agreed upon.

SECTION 3
**(SINGLE MARKET INTEGRATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF AUTOMATED
ROAD TRANSPORT SERVICES)**

1. The Participants concur that automated mobility must be treated not only as a vehicle technology but also as a services dimension of the Single Market. The Participants will jointly identify and, within their respective competences, seek to address regulatory and operational barriers to the provision of automated road transport services across the testbed.
2. The Participants will exchange views on proportionate and non-discriminatory conditions for market access applicable to automated passenger transport services, including ride-hailing and on-demand services, with a view to enabling predictable and investment-grade scaling conditions.

SECTION 4
(TECHNOLOGY-AGNOSTIC AND USE-CASE-DRIVEN APPROACH)

1. The implementation of this Memorandum will remain agnostic of any specific technology or vendor and will be open to all technological solutions that contribute to the objectives set out in Section 1.
2. The Participants will invite and examine use-case proposals from public and private stakeholders, provided such proposals contribute to shared objectives of road safety, accessibility, sustainability and Single Market integration.

SECTION 5
(DATA SHARING AND SAFETY)

1. The Participants will cooperate on the exchange of safety-relevant data, including reports required under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1426.
2. Data exchange will focus on operational outcomes and safety performance, excluding proprietary software or algorithms, which will remain confidential to the respective rights-holders.
3. The Participants will ensure that any exchange of data complies with applicable data protection laws and that, where possible, data remains within the European Union.

SECTION 6
(STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT)

1. The Participants recognise that the success of the testbed depends on the active involvement of the private sector, research institutions, and local authorities.

2. The Participants will facilitate dialogue between innovators and regulatory authorities to ensure that national frameworks evolve along technological progress.
3. The Participants express their intention to support stakeholders that contribute meaningful value to the regional mobility ecosystem, regardless of their origin, provided they meet the safety and technical requirements.

SECTION 7

(GOVERNANCE AND METHODS OF COOPERATION)

1. Each Participant will designate competent authorities or contact points to coordinate the implementation of this Memorandum.
2. The Participants may establish temporary or permanent joint working groups and conduct consultations to review the progress of the testbed and align strategic goals.
3. The Participants will jointly explore funding opportunities, including European Union instruments, to support cross-border infrastructure and research projects.

SECTION 8

(FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS)

1. Each Participant will bear its own costs and expenses incurred in connection with the implementation of this Memorandum, unless otherwise mutually decided in writing.

SECTION 9

(CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION)

1. Any non-public information exchanged under this Memorandum will be used solely for the purposes for which it was shared and will not be disclosed to any third party without the prior written consent of the providing Participant.
2. The obligations under this Section will continue to apply notwithstanding the termination of this Memorandum.

SECTION 10

(INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY)

1. This Memorandum does not affect the ownership of any intellectual property rights existing before its entry into effect.
2. Any intellectual property rights arising from joint activities will be managed in accordance with separate arrangements between the involved Participants and stakeholders.

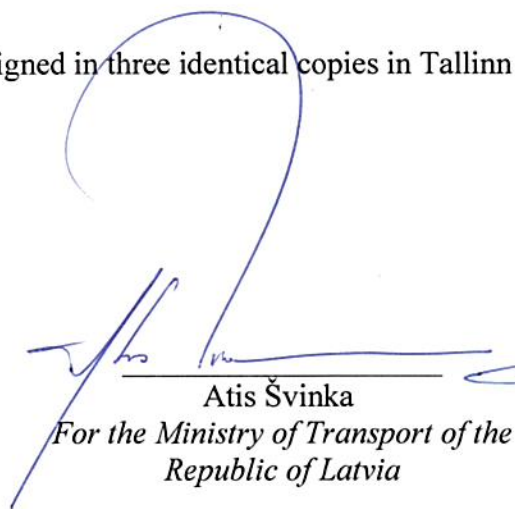
SECTION 11
(SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES)

1. Any difference of view arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum will be settled amicably through consultations between the Participants through diplomatic or official channels.

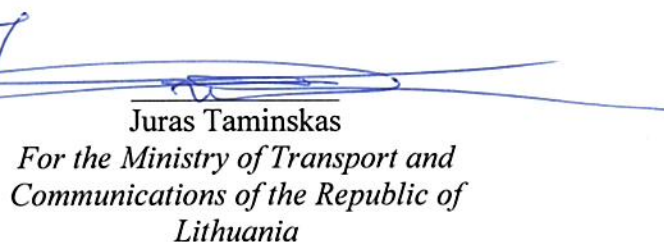
SECTION 12
(STATUS, AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION)

1. This Memorandum does not constitute an international treaty and is not intended to create any rights or obligations under international or national law.
2. This Memorandum will come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years.
3. This Memorandum may be amended at any time by mutual written consent.
4. Any Participant may terminate its participation at any time by giving six (6) months prior written notice. Termination will not affect the continued application of Sections 9 and 10.

Signed in three identical copies in Tallinn on 19 May 2026 in English.



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