



Road
transport

New vignette charges

As of 1st January 2006 will be implemented a new vignette charges for motor vehicles with foreign registration using the Bulgarian road network for specified periods of time. The vignettes can be purchased at the border crossing points (for more details see www.aebtri.com - freight transport - fiscal charges).

The vignette consists of two parts. The first one - called a vignette sticker - should be stuck in a prominent place to the bottom right corner of the front window of the road vehicle (this requirement will be in force as from the 1 January 2005) and the second one is kept by the driver of the vehicle.

As the validity of the vignette expires the driver of the road vehicle is obliged to immediately take off the vignette sticker from the window. The vignette charges, as well as the road sign, indicating that the using of the road is charged, are given below:

Vignette charges (EUR)		Year 2006
Motor vehicle 1st category	weekly	36.00
	monthly	91.00
	yearly	506.00
Motor vehicle 2nd category	weekly	18.00
	monthly	45.00
	yearly	253.00
Motor vehicle 3rd category	weekly	4.00
	monthly	9.00
	yearly	51.00

◇ **Motor vehicle 1st category:** all freight vehicles with more than two axles, road trains, special construction equipment, autocranes, special trailers for transport of heavy or oversized cargo and other special motor vehicles.

◇ **Motor vehicle 2nd category:** all passenger transport vehicles with more than 8 seats excluding the driver's seat and all freight vehicles with two axles, as well as construction equipment, autocranes, special trailers for transport of heavy or oversized cargo and other special motor vehicles, all of them with two axles.

◇ **Motor vehicle 3rd category:** all passenger transport vehicles with not more than 8 seats.

Road sign D25



Merry Christmas



Happy New Year



New charges for excess vehicle dimensions and weight

On 28 November were changed the charges in Tariff 14 for excess vehicle dimensions and weights. They are in force as from 6 December 2005 and are as follows:

1. Excess weight

Exceeding the gross vehicle weight	EUR/km
from 0.10 t to 5.00 t incl.	0.25
from 5.00 t to 10.00 t incl.	0.50
from 10.00 t to 20.00 t incl.	0.83
from 20.00 t to 30.00 t incl.	1.32
from 30.00 t to 40.00 t incl.	2.05
from 40.00 t to 50.00 t incl.	2.76
from 50.00 t to 60.00 t incl.	3.68
over 60.00 t	3.68 + 3.28 per each additional 10 t over 60 t

2. Excess Size

Exceeding the maximum width	EUR/km
from 0.01 m to 0.50 m incl.	0.18
from 0.50 m to 1.00 m incl.	0.26
from 1.00 m to 1.50 m incl.	0.41
from 1.50 m to 2.00 m incl.	0.59
from 2.00 m to 2.50 m incl.	0.98
from 2.50 m to 3.50 m incl.	1.56
over 3.50 m	1.56 + 2.34 per each additional meter over 3.50 m
Exceeding the maximum height	EUR/km
from 0.01 m to 0.50 m incl.	0.18
from 0.50 m to 1.00 m incl.	0.44
over 1.00 m	0.44 + 2.37 per each additional meter over 1.00 m
Exceeding the maximum length	EUR/km
from 0.01 m to 3.00 m incl.	0.30
from 3.00 m to 10.00 m incl.	0.44
from 10.00 m to 15.00 m incl.	0.81
over 15.00 m	1.62

3. Excess Axle Load

Exceeding the maximum load per axle	EUR/km
from 0.10 t to 0.50 t per axle	0.31
from 0.50 t to 1.00 t per axle	0.44
from 1.00 t to 1.50 t per axle	0.56
from 1.50 t to 2.00 t per axle	0.83
from 2.00 t to 3.00 t per axle	1.81
from 3.00 t to 4.00 t per axle	3.17
over 4.00 t per axle	3.17 + 2.25 per each additional tone over 4.00 t

NB: If, at the same time, a vehicle exceeds the norms for weight, width, height, length or axle load, charges are levied separately for each of the parameters exceeding the norms.



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4. Vehicle weighing/measuring

- truck EUR 4.00
- reweighing/remeasuring EUR 7.00

Danube Bridge tolls

The tolls levied for using the bridge across the Danube between the towns of Rousse (Bulgaria) and Giurgiu (Romania) are as follows

- freight vehicles with a load capacity of

5 t or less	EUR 13.00
over 5t up to 16 t	EUR 30.00
more than 16 t	EUR 46.00

- trailers with a load capacity of

up to 750 kg	EUR 7.00
over 750 kg	EUR 13.00

NB: Tolls are levied before crossing the bridge in the direction of Giurgiu; they are levied on all vehicles, regardless of their country of registration.

The new BCC Ilinden was opened

On 9th December 2005 was opened a new border-crossing checkpoint between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece. The ceremony took place in the presence of the Presidents of the two countries – Mr. Georgy Parvanov and Mr. Karolos Papoulias.

The building of the BCC Ilinden – Exohy is under the implementation of an agreement between the two governments of Bulgaria and Greece from 1995 for opening of three new border-crossing checkpoints.

Building of an access road, border checkpoint and a tunnel is in the framework of the project. The financing is under Phare program – Cross-border cooperation with Greece and from the state budget.

The building of the access road to the new BCC covers construction works on 12 km new road, including cross-roads and 10 large facilities – bridges, subways, overpasses, drain-pipes, etc. The total amount of the construction works sums up to over EUR 9 million provided by Phare program.

The building of the border tunnel is a result of further researches carried out by ecologists authorized by the European Commission in order to be preserved the population of brown bears. The total length of the tunnel is 447 m of which the Bulgarian part is 147 m and the length of the access road to the tunnel from Ilinden BCC is 420 m.



*Presidents of Bulgaria and Greece
at the opening ceremony*

The “Hemus” Motorway rehabilitation is accomplished

The Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works opened the rehabilitated section of the “Hemus” motorway financed by the European Union under ISPA program. The sector is a part of Lot 4 of the project “Transit Roads” 3. The contractor of the construction works is the Austrian company “Strabag”.

The contract was signed in October 2003 and comprises rehabilitation of four sectors of “Hemus” motorway. The repaired sectors are on the direction of the European Transport Corridor IV linking the Danube river with the Thessalonica Port.

The implementation of the reconstruction works on the project for modernization of the transport corridors VIII and IX which include the sectors Stara Zagora – Kazanlak and Sliven – Burgas is about to be accomplished.



Roads



International Seminar “The Bulgarian Road Transport in the European Union”

On 30 November 2005 the Bulgarian Minister of transport Mr. Peter Mutafchiev opened the international seminar “The Bulgarian road transport in the European Union”, which was organized jointly by the Bulgarian Ministry of transport, the French Ministry of transport, public works, tourism and sea and the German Ministry of transport, construction and public works and Federal office of goods transport. The event was part of a twinning project, regarding the improvement of the system of control of road transport operations (technical control on the road and checks of driving and resting times) in Bulgaria.

The different topics were unified into three panels – “European policy in road transport – main changes for the Bulgarian hauliers”, “State of road transport in France and Germany” and “Road transport in Bulgaria – expectations and adaptations” followed by the relevant discussions. The participants – representatives of different companies in road transport were most interested in the topics “Access to the profession and the market”, “European social legislation”, “Economic aspects”, “Road transport in France” and “Road transport in Germany”

In spite of the differences all the experts outlined the main tendency prevailing in the European Union – the establishment of unified regulations for the united multinational transport market and the access to the market. Their aim is to facilitate the general policy and gradual cancellation of the discriminatory measures not only in the EU, but also in third countries to which goods are transported.

Bulgarian – Italian Joint Committee on International Road Transport

A meeting of the Joint Bulgarian –Italian Committee on International Road Transport was held on 26 and 27 of October 2005 in Sofia.

Upon request of the Bulgarian delegation additional permits for goods transports during the year 2005 were negotiated, as well as transforming the contingent of permits for the year 2006 in favour of the vehicles, which meet the requirements at least of EURO2 .

Concerning the forthcoming accession of Bulgaria to the EU the Italian delegation proposed a mechanism for making the transition from the system of the currently operative bilateral bus lines to the requirements set in Directive 684/94/EEC.

Both delegations noted with satisfaction that there are no difficulties for the transport of passengers between Bulgaria and Italy.

Bulgaria: Public holidays for the year 2006

1 January	- New Year’s Day
3 March	- National holiday
23 April	- Easter (Orthodox)
24 April	- Easter Monday
1 May	- Labour Day
6 May	- Day of Bulgarian Army
24 May	- Day of Slavonic Alphabet
6 September	- Union Day
22 September	- Independence Day
24 December	- Christmas Eve
25 December	- Christmas Day
26 December	- Christmas Day

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