



Brief to Members

AXLE LOAD HARMONISATION AGREED UPON, AT LAST

After three meetings of the technical team to harmonise the axle load, the 3rd Meeting, 17-19 August 2011 in Nairobi has agreed and harmonised the axle loads. Out of the 26 recommendations the following are key ones;

- 1. The Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) will now be 56 Metric Tonnes on 7 axles in the 5 Partner States of EAC**
- 2. The links for the trucks have also been allowed and will not be subject to making request**

The implications

The cost of transport to and from the sea will be reduced since 6 more tonnes will be allowed to be transported through Kenya while Tanzania will allow 4 more tonnes since their respective axle load limits have been 48 MT and 52 MT respectively. This has been one of the most critical NTB Uganda has been facing and has been one of the most important NTB, PSFU has been pursuing through advocacy.

The Negotiations Process:

The EAC Council of Ministers had earlier deliberated on this issue and the Partner States had engaged a consultancy which was funded by JICA. Partner States FURTHER set up a negotiation team for which PSFU has been a very active member. 3 Negotiations meetings took place starting February 2011 but the ice was broken today when Kenya finally agreed to move from 48 Metric Tonnes to 52 Metric tonnes then 56 Metric Tonnes. Different axle limits between Uganda and Kenya is a big Non Tariff Barrier especially in the Transportation of goods to and from the Sea.

When will this be implemented?.

Unfortunately, it will take a while before this is implemented. The final report will be presented to the Council of Ministers who tasked the Partner States to negotiate and harmonise axle loads issues, then a draft law will be agreed (for which PSFU will ensure it is friendly to the Private Sector) and sent to the Council of Ministers who will then send it to East African Legislative Council. **This means that the Implementation of this decision will not take place until at least 1st Quarter of 2012.**

Ugandan Team:

Ugandan team was led by Permanent Secretaries Mr. Muganzi Charles and Mrs. Edith Mwanje of Works & Transport and East African Affairs respectively. The Private Sector was represented by Moses Ogwal of PSFU and supported Mr Lawrance Lugwana and Kassim Umar of Uganda Transport Agencies Ltd and UCIFA respectively