

No. 46591

**Latvia
and
Ukraine**

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the co-operation in the field of prevention of disasters and elimination of their consequences. Riga, 27 April 2006

Entry into force: *8 August 2008 by notification, in accordance with article 17*

Authentic texts: *English, Latvian and Ukrainian*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Latvia, 12 October 2009*

**Lettonie
et
Ukraine**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République de Lettonie et le Conseil des Ministres de l'Ukraine relatif à la coopération dans le domaine de la prévention de catastrophes et de l'élimination de leurs conséquences. Riga, 27 avril 2006

Entrée en vigueur : *8 août 2008 par notification, conformément à l'article 17*

Textes authentiques : *anglais, letton et ukrainien*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies : *Lettonie, 12 octobre 2009*

[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
AND THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE
ON THE CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION
OF DISASTERS AND ELIMINATION OF THEIR
CONSEQUENCES**

The Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties";

being guided by the Agreement on the Friendship and Co-operation Between the Republic of Latvia and Ukraine dated 23 May 1995;

being aware of the likelihood of disasters and existing danger to persons, national economy and environment;

recognising that co-operation in the sphere of prevention of disasters and elimination of their consequences will promote the prosperity and safety of both States;

considering the benefits which may be brought to the Parties by the exchange of scientific and technical information in the above-mentioned field;

taking into account the probability of disasters, which cannot be eliminated by own resources of the Parties and, hence, the subsequent need for co-ordinated actions of the Parties for the purpose of preventing and mitigating consequences of disasters;

supporting the UN efforts in the field of prevention of disasters and elimination of their consequences, respecting and acknowledging the generally recognised norms and rules existing within the framework of various international organisations, relevant international conventions and agreements, as well as aiming to contribute to the elaboration of appropriate national legislation;

have agreed as follows:

**Article 1
Scope of application**

1. The present Agreement shall establish principles and frameworks of mutual co-ordinated activities of the Parties in the field of prevention of disasters and elimination of their consequences.

2. The present Agreement shall be applied in the event of disasters, if the resources of the Party are deficient for the prevention of disasters or elimination of its consequences.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of the present Agreement, a term:

- 1) "disaster" means an event, caused by devastating natural forces or human activity or omission, which severely threatens and/or damages human life, health, property and/or the environment;
- 2) "requesting Party" means the Party applying for assistance;
- 3) "assisting Party" means the Party providing assistance;
- 4) "assistance team" means an organized and trained group of specialists from the assisting Party, assigned to provide assistance and equipped as necessary;
- 5) "expert" means a specialist in a certain field sent to provide assistance to the requesting Party;
- 6) "equipment" means materials, technical and transport facilities, medicines and medical equipment and individual kits of the members of the assistance team and/or experts;
- 7) "goods of assistance" means material resources allocated for free distribution among the population affected by the disasters;
- 8) "Competent Authority" means the authority, designated by each of the Parties for the management and co-ordination of the activities, related to the implementation of the present Agreement;
- 9) "transit State" means a State of the Party through whose territory the assistance team and/or experts, equipment and goods of assistance are transported in order to provide assistance to third state.

Article 3

Forms of providing assistance

1. The Parties shall co-operate in accordance with the provisions of the present Agreement as well as internationally recognised norms and principles in order to provide prompt relevant information and assistance in the event of disasters or threat of its occurrence.
2. Assistance can be provided by sending assistance teams and/or experts, equipment, goods of assistance, as well as by providing necessary information and experience.
3. In the event of disasters in the territory of the State of one of the Parties, this Party may request assistance from the other Party in the prevention of disasters and elimination of their consequences. The assisting Party provides assistance to the requesting Party by means and measures aimed at preventing and/or eliminating consequences of the disasters.

4. The Parties provide each other assistance according to their possibilities.

5. The requesting Party ensures unhindered receipt and distribution of goods of assistance exclusively among the affected population.

Article 4

Competent Authorities and liaison points

1. The Competent Authorities of the present Agreement are the following:

For the Republic of Latvia:

the Ministry of the Interior;

For Ukraine:

the Ministry of Ukraine of Emergencies and Affaires of Population Protection from the Consequences of the Chornobyl Catastrophe.

2. The Parties can designate other authorities entitled to request assistance and pass decisions on the ways of implementation of the present Agreement.

3. The Competent Authorities shall nominate or establish one or several liaison points for purpose of notification in the event of disasters.

4. The Parties shall notify each other in writing through the diplomatic channels of any designation or change related to the Competent Authority, as well as to the liaison point(s).

5. Each Party shall ensure continuous functioning of its Competent Authority and liaison point(s).

Article 5

Request for assistance and information exchange

1. In the event of disasters the assistance is provided upon written request wherein the requesting Party specifies:

1) place, time, character, scale and current status of disaster in the affected area;

2) information on activities already carried out or planned, setting the priorities of the requested assistance.

2. The assisting Party shall immediately decide on providing assistance and inform the requesting Party about the possibility, scope, time and other essential conditions of it.

Article 6
**Co-ordination and management of assistance in the event of
disasters**

1. The Competent Authority of the requesting Party shall co-ordinate, manage and supervise the activities of assistance teams through their leaders.

2. The requesting Party shall inform leaders of assistance team and/or experts about the development of the situation in the disaster area and at specific spots of activities and, if necessary, provide the assistance teams and/or experts with interpreters and means of communication with the headquarters, which shall co-ordinate all the search and rescue and other urgent activities.

3. The equipment of the assistance teams and/or experts should be sufficient to operate autonomously in the disaster zone during at least 72 hours from the moment of their arrival.

4. The requesting Party shall ensure security, free medical assistance, food and accommodation and also provide the members of the assistance teams and/or experts with first necessity goods in case their members run out of their stock.

Article 7
**Border crossing procedure and the rules of stay for the assistance
teams and/or experts**

1. The requesting Party shall ensure prompt completion of all necessary formalities provided for in the legislation of the State of this Party upon crossing the state border by the assistance teams and/or experts of the assisting Party.

2. The leader of the assistance team shall submit to the respective border guard official of the requesting Party the following documents, certified by the Competent Authority of the assisting Party:

a) the document of prescribed sample agreed upon by the Competent Authorities of the Parties, indicating powers of the assistance team and/or experts and the aim of arrival to the territory of the State of the requesting Party;

b) the list of members of the assistance team and/or experts;

c) the list of equipment and goods of assistance.

3. Upon submitting the afore-mentioned documents the visas for the citizens of Ukraine shall be issued free of charge by the border guard official of the Republic of Latvia as a requesting Party, provided that