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**Latvia, Estonia
and
Lithuania**

Agreement on the consular assistance and co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Latvia, the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Vilnius, 5 February 1999

Entry into force: *23 September 1999, in accordance with article 15*

Authentic text: *English*

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**Lettonie, Estonie
et
Lituanie**

Accord relatif à l'assistance consulaire et la coopération entre le Gouvernement de la République de Lettonie, le Gouvernement de la République d'Estonie et le Gouvernement de la République de Lituanie. Vilnius, 5 février 1999

Entrée en vigueur : *23 septembre 1999, conformément à l'article 15*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

AGREEMENT

on the consular assistance and co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Latvia, the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

The Government of the Republic of Latvia, the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties"):

Desiring to promote the consular co-operation between themselves;

Taking into account the developments on the field of consular co-operation within the framework of the Baltic Committee of Ministers;

Taking note of the fact that consular relations, privileges and immunities are dealt with in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations signed on 24th April 1963, and recalling the Article 8 of the Convention which provides that a consular post of the sending State may, unless the receiving State objects, exercise consular functions in the receiving State on behalf of a third State;

Bearing in mind the best interests of their citizens;

have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present agreement:

1. "The assisting State" means the Contracting Party whose permanent diplomatic mission or consular post provides the consular protection for the citizens of the other Contracting Party in third countries.

2. "The assisted State" means the Contracting Party whose citizens may seek the consular protection in the third countries from the permanent diplomatic mission or consular post of an assisting State.

Article 2

General principles

1. A Citizen of the assisted State in need of consular protection in States where the assisted State has no permanent diplomatic mission or consular post, may seek the consular assistance from the permanent diplomatic mission or consular post of the assisting State.

2. Such assistance should be provided in conformity with the rules and regulations in force both in assisting State and in assisted State.

Article 3

Scope of assistance

The consular protection of citizens of the assisted State will include following consular functions:

- a) assistance in cases of death;
- b) assistance in cases of serious accident or illness;
- c) assistance in cases of arrest, detention or imprisonment;
- d) assistance to victims of a violent crime;
- e) relief and repatriation of distressed nationals;
- f) issuance of the certificates of return;
- g) acting as notary in similar capacities and performing certain functions of an administrative nature, in conformity with the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

Article 4

Evidence of citizenship

1. Consular officer of the assisting State may take measures to clarify whether the applicant is a citizen of the assisted State.

2. Such measures include:

- a) asking the applicant to submit a valid citizen's passport;
- b) asking the applicant to submit any other certificate of citizenship;

c) in case of doubt the consular officer of the assisting State should refer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the nearest diplomatic mission of the assisted State for confirmation of applicant's citizenship.

d) any other means that does not contradict the international law and internal law of the Contracting Parties.

Article 5

Assistance in cases of death

When the death of the citizen of the assisted State is reported to a diplomatic mission or consular post of the assisting State, the consular officer:

a) inform immediately the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the nearest diplomatic mission of the assisted State;

b) may, in accordance with local rules and regulations, having established the wishes of the next-of-kin, assist through appropriate channels for the body to be buried, cremated or repatriated to the home country;

c) enables the next-of-kin of the deceased person to obtain a certificate of death;

d) may provide any other kind of assistance that does not contradict the interests of the assisted individual, the Contracting Parties and principles of international law.

Article 6

Assistance in cases of serious accident or illness

1. A citizen of the assisted State who is seriously ill or who is a victim of a serious accident should receive, by whatever means appropriate, all possible assistance.

2. Such assistance may include:

a) notification to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the nearest mission of the assisted State;

b) visits of a consular officer;

c) advice on provision of suitable medical treatment;

d) any other kind of assistance that does not contradict the interests of the assisted individual, the Contracting Parties and principles of international law.

Article 7

Assistance in cases of arrest, detention or imprisonment

1. Taking into account the standards settled in the international law, the detained should receive by appropriate means all possible assistance.
2. Such assistance may include, in conformity with the international law, internal law of the Contracting Parties and local rules and regulations:
 - a) visits of consular officer;
 - b) petitions for pardons;
 - c) legal aid (including legal representation);
 - d) payment of fines as settled in Article 11 of the present Agreement;
 - e) co-operation in cases of transfer of prisoners;
 - f) any other kind of assistance that does not contradict the interests of detained, the Contracting Parties and principles of international law.
3. Mission of an assisting State shall inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the nearest mission of the assisted State of arrest, detention or imprisonment of its citizen.

Article 8

Assistance to victims of violent crime

1. A citizen of the assisted State who is the victim of a violent crime, should receive, by whatever means appropriate, all possible assistance.
2. Such assistance may include:
 - a) support to obtain medical treatment and legal advice;
 - b) report of the crime without delay to the appropriate police authorities;
 - c) any other kind of assistance that does not contradict the interests of the assisted individual, the Contracting Parties and principles of international law.
3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the nearest mission of assisted State whose citizenship the victim possesses, should be informed of such incidents in full details.