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**Latvia
and
Georgia**

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Georgia on collaboration within the field of civil emergency prevention, preparedness and response. Batumi, 30 May 2014

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**Lettonie
et
Géorgie**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République de Lettonie et le Gouvernement de la Géorgie sur la collaboration dans les domaines de prévention , de préparation et de réponse aux urgences civiles. Batumi, 30 mai 2014

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AGREEMENT
between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the
Government of Georgia on Collaboration within the Field of Civil
Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response

The Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Georgia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

recognising the necessity of collaboration between the two Parties and endeavouring to facilitate mutual assistance in the field of prevention, preparedness and response to civil emergencies and elimination of their consequences;

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 and severity of civil emergencies, where co-ordinated assistance interventions may be required to complement the response capabilities of the affected Party with a purpose to reduce the loss of human life and damage to the environment and property;

have agreed as follows.

Article 1
Definitions

For the objective of the Agreement the following expressions shall mean:

1. “civil emergencies” refer to situations that originated as a result of natural and man-made disasters, such as fire, technological, radiological and environmental accidents, epidemics and other types of disasters which severely threaten or damage human life, health, property and environment;
2. “requesting Party” refers to the Party which addresses to the other Party with the request for sending assistance groups, equipment and maintenance materials;
3. “offering Party” refers to the Party which complies with the request of the other Party for sending assistance groups, equipment and maintenance materials;
4. “assistance groups” refer to groups of specialists from offering Party assigned to render assistance and to provide necessary equipment;
5. “equipment” refers to materials, technical facilities, means of transport, medicines and medical equipment, equipment of assistance groups and personal equipment used for rendering assistance;

6. “maintenance materials” refer to material means intended for free of charge delivery to the population affected by civil emergencies;

7. “competent authorities” refer to authorities designated by each Party for the coordination of activities related to the implementation of the Agreement.

Article 2

Object of Collaboration

The Parties to the Agreement convinced of the necessity of collaboration set up a permanent co-operation to encounter civil emergencies and to develop this co-operation by suitable means within the available resources and due to the needs of both Parties.

Article 3

Forms of Collaboration

Collaboration within the framework of the Agreement will include the following forms:

a) elaboration and perfection of measures and methods for the prevention of civil emergencies and for the elimination of their consequences;

b) organization of operative exchange of information:

i. on civil emergencies, that occurred on the territories of the states of the Parties;

ii. on requests and proposals of the Parties in the field of mutual assistance, as well as assistance rendered by respective international organizations;

iii. on mutual assistance rendered for elimination on the consequences of civil emergencies;

c) attraction of international organizations to ensure preparedness of the Parties in prevention of civil emergencies and to obtain assistance in case of their occurrence;

d) organization and realization of monitoring over natural and technological processes;

e) prediction of civil emergencies and assessment of their consequences;

f) exchange of experts;

g) training of personnel;

h) organization of joint consultations;

i) exchange of information and technologies;

j) organization of joint seminars and meetings;

k) joint planning, elaboration, realization and demonstration of research projects;

- l) maintenance of connection between the competent authorities of the Parties;
- m) elimination of consequences of civil emergencies;
- n) any other activity related to the prevention of civil emergencies and to the elimination of their consequences, as it may be agreed between the competent authorities of the Parties.

Article 4

Competent Authorities

1. For the purpose of the Agreement the competent authorities of the Parties are:
 - a) In the Republic of Latvia:
State Fire and Rescue Service,
Emergency Medical Service;
 - b) In Georgia:
Emergency Situations Management Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.
2. Both Parties of the Agreement will provide contact information and details of the competent authorities through diplomatic channels, as well as their contact points, which will be accessible on a 24 hour basis.
3. In execution of the Agreement the competent authorities of the Parties are entitled to get into immediate direct contact.
4. The Parties of the Agreement will inform each other immediately of any change concerning the competences of the competent authorities through diplomatic channels.

Article 5

Request for Assistance and Exchange of Information

1. Assistance shall be provided on the basis of a written request of the competent authority of the requesting Party, or, in the extremely urgent case, on the basis of a verbal request. Any verbal request shall be confirmed in writing as soon as possible, but not later than in 3 (three) hours after receipt of a verbal request. In the request, the competent authority of the requesting Party shall provide information about the place, time and date of the beginning of the civil emergency, the nature and extent of the civil emergency and the evaluation of the current situation; the measures already taken and planned and the required support and the priorities of assistance.
2. The competent authority of the offering Party shall, within the shortest possible period of time, make a decision on possibility to provide assistance and inform the competent authority of the requesting Party of its immediate capabilities, the conditions and extent of assistance.

3. The competent authority of the offering Party informs the competent authority of the requesting Party in writing on the border crossing point planned for crossing by the assistance group, time of the border crossing and used vehicles.

Article 6

Mutual Assistance and Co-ordination Measures

1. The provision of assistance may be implemented by sending assistance groups, equipment and maintenance materials or by transferring the necessary information and experience.

2. The competent authority of the requesting Party shall coordinate, manage and supervise the activities of assistance groups of the offering Party through the appointed representative of the aforementioned assistance groups.

3. The competent authority of the requesting Party shall inform the appointed representative of the assistance group of the changes in the situation in the area of the civil emergency and shall determine the order of activities and, whenever necessary, shall provide interpreters and other necessary support and tools to these assistance groups free of charge.

4. The equipment of the assistance groups should be sufficient to operate autonomously in the area of civil emergency during at least 72 hours from the moment of their arrival.

5. The requesting Party shall ensure the safety of the assistance groups; provide free emergency medical care, meals and accommodation, as well as the basic means of sustenance after the stocks of the assistance groups have run out.

6. Assistance groups shall honour the national laws and regulations of the requesting Party during their stay in the territory of the state of the requesting Party.

Article 7

Border Crossing

1. With a view to ensure rapid and efficient assistance, the Parties shall limit the formalities of the border crossing procedure to the lowest possible level.

2. Assistance groups may cross the state border of the requesting Party out of turn at the border crossing points open for international traffic with valid travel documents.

3. The appointed representative of the assistance groups must have a letter of assignment issued by the competent authority of the offering Party, indicating powers of the assistance group and the list of members of the assistance group. The driver of the vehicle if any shall present