

**No. 52919\***

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**Latvia  
and  
Estonia**

**Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Estonia on co-operation in the combating of the effects of marine pollution incidents. Trakai, 16 January 2015**

**Entry into force:** *16 January 2015 by signature, in accordance with article 13*

**Authentic texts:** *English, Estonian and Latvian*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Latvia, 8 September 2015*

*\*No UNTS volume number has yet been determined for this record. The Text(s) reproduced below, if attached, are the authentic texts of the agreement /action attachment as submitted for registration and publication to the Secretariat. For ease of reference they were sequentially paginated. Translations, if attached, are not final and are provided for information only.*

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**Lettonie  
et  
Estonie**

**Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République de Lettonie et le Gouvernement de la République d'Estonie relatif à la coopération dans la lutte contre les effets des incidents de pollution marine. Trakai, 16 janvier 2015**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *16 janvier 2015 par signature, conformément à l'article 13*

**Textes authentiques :** *anglais, estonien et letton*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *Lettonie, 8 septembre 2015*

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[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA**

**ON CO-OPERATION IN THE COMBATING OF THE EFFECTS**

**OF MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS**

The Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Estonia, hereinafter the Parties,

HAVING REGARD to the general principle of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, in regard to the obligation for States to co-operate for the protection and preservation of the marine environment, as well as to the principle of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC 1990), specifically expressed in Article 10 on promotion of bilateral and multilateral co-operation in preparedness and response;

DESIRING to develop and extend bilateral co-operation in the disposal of the effects of marine pollution incidents based on the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992, hereinafter the Helsinki Convention, and in particular its Annex VII on combating marine pollution, and corresponding co-operation in order to enhance the preparedness to respond to oil pollution incidents,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

**Article 1**  
**Definitions**

For the purpose of this Agreement:

- 1) "Oil" means petroleum in any form including crude oil, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse and refined products;
- 2) "Pollution incident" means an occurrence or series of occurrences having the same origin, which results or may result in a discharge of oil and which poses or may pose a threat to the marine environment or to the coastline or related interests of either Party, and which requires emergency action or other immediate response;
- 3) "Response region" means a region in the Baltic Sea, defined by Article 1 of the Helsinki Convention in which the Parties are obliged to carry out pollution incident response

activities whenever a significant spillage of oil or any pollution incidents causing or likely to cause pollution have occurred or is likely to occur.

## **Article 2**

### **General provisions**

- (1) The Parties undertake to maintain ability to respond to pollution incidents on the sea. This ability shall include adequate equipment, ships and manpower prepared for operations in coastal waters as well as on the high sea.
- (2) The Parties shall within their response regions conduct surveillance and monitoring to spot and monitor pollution incidents and take necessary measures.
- (3) The Parties agree to assist each other to respond to pollution incidents within the response region of either Party.

## **Article 3**

### **Competent authorities**

- (1) For the purposes of this Agreement "Competent authorities" shall mean:
  - a) For the Latvian Party - National Armed Forces Naval Forces Flotilla;
  - b) For the Estonian Party – Police and Border Guard Board.
- (2) The Competent authorities may co-operate directly in matters related to this Agreement.
- (3) The Competent authorities shall co-operate in developing combating equipment and methods as well as in training of combating personnel.

## **Article 4**

### **Notification of an incident**

The Parties shall notify without delay those pollution incidents occurring within its response region, which affect or are likely to affect the interests of the other Party.

**Article 5**

**Assistance**

Assistance shall be provided on the basis of a request presented by the Competent authority of one Party to the Competent authority of the other Party. The Party having received a request shall, within its ability, provide the assistance requested as soon as possible.

**Article 6**

**Termination of assistance**

(1) The assisting Party may cease the assistance completely or partly, if the circumstances so require. The Competent authority of the requesting Party shall be informed of the termination of the assistance. The assisting units and equipment of the assisting Party shall then be relieved promptly.

(2) The requesting Party may cancel the request for assistance when the need for assistance ceases.

**Article 7**

**Reimbursement of costs of assistance**

The requesting Party shall reimburse to the assisting Party the costs of the assistance provided.

If the request of assistance was cancelled by the requesting Party, it shall bear the costs already incurred or committed by the assisting Party. The Parties may in an individual case agree otherwise on the reimbursement of the costs.

**Article 8**

**Command of combating operations**

Combating pollution incident operations shall be commanded by the Competent authority of the Party, within the response region of whom the operation is conducted, unless otherwise agreed by the Competent authorities in an individual case.