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LATVIA

Riga

June 15, 2005

**Cooperation Memorandum between Non-governmental Organizations
and the Cabinet of Ministers**

Recognizing the role of a civil society in sustainable development of the state and the nation, as well as the impact that cooperation between the state and non-governmental organizations has on the quality of adopted decisions, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia (hereafter – the Cabinet) represented by Prime Minister Aigars Kalvītis, and non-governmental organizations represented by persons undersigned, conclude this cooperation memorandum (hereafter – the Memorandum) on mutual cooperation of non-governmental organizations and the Cabinet (hereafter – the Parties).

I. Objective

1. The objective of the Memorandum is to facilitate operation of an efficient public administration system that meets the interests of the society by ensuring involvement of the civil society in the decision-making process at all levels and stages in public administration, thus promoting development of the basic element of a democratic country – civil society.

II. Achieving of the objective

2. The Parties support the principles and tasks for achieving the objectives included in the Policy Guidelines for Strengthening Civil Society 2005–2014 and National Programme "Strengthening of Civil Society 2005–2009".

3. When ensuring achievement of the objective, the Parties respect openness and interests of the whole society. Cooperation of the Parties is based on established legal principles and observes the distribution of competence and scope laid down in regulatory enactments, as well as resources available to the Parties.

4. In order to facilitate implementation of principles and objectives included in the Memorandum, non-governmental organizations and the Cabinet undertake to:

a) develop an effective mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Memorandum;

b) ensure assessment of implementation of the National Programme "Strengthening of Civil Society 2005–2009", as well as planning and development of necessary changes;

c) implement similar projects providing to the society comprehensive civil education on issues concerning public administration, as well as education of employees of public administration on issues concerning the operation of non-governmental organizations;

d) promote development and practical implementation of a transparent and accessible mechanism for utilization of structural funds of the European Union and other sources of funding;

e) prepare proposals on the amount of funding necessary for achieving the common objectives;

f) prepare proposals on changes in regulatory enactments in order to ensure the channelling of 1 per cent of personal income tax towards public benefit organizations.

5. The Parties undertake to continue the development, implementation and improvement of the necessary mechanisms, in order to ensure that non-governmental organizations are well-informed and able to effectively participate in decision-making processes, by ensuring that:

a) opinions provided by non-governmental organizations are reflected in protocols of coordination of issues;

b) representatives of interested non-governmental organizations can participate in coordination sittings, advisory councils and working groups established for developing particular projects;

c) non-governmental organizations are informed on decisions adopted in relation to proposals submitted by them; substantiation for the adopted decisions is provided;

d) non-governmental organizations have the opportunity to follow the development of draft legal acts and give opinions on them; non-governmental organizations are better informed on the course of processing of draft legal acts and policy planning documents in the Cabinet and ministries.

6. The Cabinet undertakes to facilitate delegation of public administration tasks to societies, establishments and other civil society institutions:

a) by supporting the development of a concept for promoting the delegation of public administration tasks, thus promoting operation of an efficient public administration and implementation of functions assigned to it;

b) by supporting the involvement of non-governmental organizations and their cooperation networks in policy making in the framework of respective programmes and cooperation agreements;

c) by promoting the conclusion of cooperation agreements (both short-term and long-term);

d) by ensuring laying down of precise conditions for performing public administration tasks;

e) by continuing work on establishing unified costs for services provided by public administration, which is one of the criteria for evaluating efficiency of public administration;

f) by promoting the development of necessary regulatory basis to ensure more efficient participation of civil society in decision-making processes concerning issues that are within the competence of local governments.

7. Recognizing that mutual coordination of cooperation of non-governmental organizations and principle of openness is very important in achieving the objective of the Memorandum, non-governmental organizations undertake to promote effective exchange of opinions among non-governmental organizations and ensure constructive cooperation between non-governmental organizations, the society, and the Cabinet.

III. Final Provisions

8. The Memorandum comes into force on the next day after its signing.

9. The Memorandum is open for signing to other organizations that have not been listed here.

10. The Parties, through their representatives, at least twice a year jointly assess the course of implementation of the Memorandum and discuss issues concerning further promotion of cooperation.

11. The Parties settle all disputes concerning the implementation of the Memorandum by means of mutual negotiations.

12. The implementation of the Memorandum is coordinated and technically ensured by the State Chancellery.

13. The Memorandum has been prepared in two copies; each of the Parties receives a copy. Non-governmental organizations inform the State

Chancellery on the keeper of the copy of non-governmental organizations. The State Chancellery keeps the copy of the Cabinet.

14. Other non-governmental organizations can join the Memorandum every six months after the coming into force of the Memorandum.

15. When new non-governmental organizations join the Memorandum, both copies of the Memorandum are signed.

Prime Minister

Aigars Kalvītis

Non-governmental organizations:

On behalf of the Open Public Fund
"ZĪMES Fonds"

Armands Strazds

On behalf of the Open Public Fund
"ATSPULGS"

Vairis Nartišs

On behalf of the Baltic-American
Partnership Program in Latvia

Ieva Morica

On behalf of the Orphans' Society
"Saules bērni"

Gunta Užane

On behalf of the Society "Alliance for
Sustainable Development"

Agris Bombiza

On behalf of the Society "Balgales
pagasta "Strops""

Ilze Kreicberga

On behalf of the Society "*Inflanty*"

Ivans Griņevičs

On behalf of the Society
"Coalition for Protection of Nature
and Cultural Heritage"

Sandra Jakušonoka

On behalf of the Society "Latvijas bērniem ar kustību traucējumiem"

Ineta Stelbovica

On behalf of the Society "Latvijas pilsoniskā alianse"

Rasma Pīpiķe

On behalf of the Society "Pilsoniskā iniciatīva 21"

Vjačeslavs Vasins

On behalf of the Society "Skalbes"

Dace Beināre

On behalf of the Security Business Association

Genādijs Seibūtis

On behalf of the Trade Union of Employees of Education and Science

Astrīda Harbacēviča

On behalf of the Society "Save the Children"

Valentīna Eihenberga

On behalf of the Society "Latvian Packaging Association"

Eleonora Brice

On behalf of the Society "Latvian Transit Business Association "

Aivars Lembergs

On behalf of the Society "Rīga Samaritan Association"

Andris Bērziņš

On behalf of the Society "Velku biedrība"

Liāna Velka

On Behalf of the European Movement in Latvia

Andris Gobiņš

On behalf of the Latvian Chamber of Crafts

Vilnis Kazāks

On behalf of the Latvian Diabetes Association

Jeļena Butikova

On behalf of the Society of Georgians
in Latvia "*Samšoblo*"

Šakro Toliašvili

On behalf of the Latvian Family
Planning and Sexual Health
Association "*Papardes zieds*"

Inga Jankauska

On behalf of the Latvian Information
and Technology Association

Imants Freibergs

On behalf of the Latvian Youth
Council

Andris Grafs

On behalf of the Latvian Youth
Movement "*Tellus*"

Mārtiņš Kālis

On behalf of the Latvian Lawyers
Society

Aivars Borovkovs

On behalf of the Latvian Cynological
Federation

Vija Klučīniece

On behalf of the Latvian
Pawnbrokers Association

Alfrēds Čepānis

On behalf of the Latvian National
Commission "*West Russians*"

Dmitrijs Nikolajevs

On behalf of the Latvian
Association of the Deaf

Iveta Lāce-Miezīte

On behalf of the Latvian Non-
governmental Organization
Children's Rights Network

Inguna Ebela

On behalf of the Latvian
Federation of Pensioners

Aina Verze

On behalf of the Latvian Adult
Education Association

Ingrīda Mikiško

On behalf of the Latvian Red
Cross

Dita Mālniece

On behalf of the Latvian Traders
Association

Raits Strautiņš

On behalf of the Latvian
Transatlantic Organization

Ojārs Kalniņš

On behalf of the Latvian Green
Movement

Kārlis Gudermanis

On behalf of the Cooperation
Council of farmers Organizations

Armands Krauze

On behalf of the *LCIVSO SUSTENTO*

Rita Paeglīte

On behalf of the Madona Non-
Governmental Organizations
Support Centre

Lidija Spilberga

On behalf of the Small and Medium
Enterprises and Crafts Council

Andris Lasmanis

On behalf of the Establishment
"Talsi Women and Children Crisis
Centre"

Egita Sudakova

On behalf of the Establishment
Environmental Education Fund "Par
sakoptu Latviju"

Jānis Matulis

On behalf of the Riga Baltic
Germans Association

Jānis Danoss

On behalf of the Public Organization
"Minority Nationality Children and
Youth Programme "ZELTA
KAMOLIŅŠ""

Aleksandrs Brandavs

On behalf of the Public
Organization "Strategy"

Inga Jurka

On behalf of the Public Organization
"Latvian Gender Equality Union"

Kristīne Dupate

On behalf of the Public Fund
"Assistant"

Aija Ceriņa

On behalf of the Public Policy Centre
"*Providus*"

Vita Tērauda

On behalf of the Association of
Public Organizations "Alūksne
Non-Governmental organizations
Support Centre"

Krista Vecāne

On behalf of the Vidzeme Culture
and Arts Society

Solveiga Boicova