LATVIA

Latvia (Latvian: Latvija) officially the Republic of Latvia is a member of the European Union since 1 May 2004. It is a country in the Baltic region of Northern Europe, one of the three Baltic states. It is bordered by Estonia to the north, Lithuania to the south, Russia to the east, and Belarus to the southeast, as well as a maritime border to the west alongside Sweden.

CAPITAL

Rīga

POPULATION

2.27 million

AREA

64,589 km2

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Customs Criminal Board (VID Muitas kriminālpārvalde)

The Customs Criminal Board is a unit of the State Revenue Service. Its main functions are customs-related intelligence gathering and investigation to protect public interests at national and EU level. The Customs Criminal Board conducts criminal and administrative investigations of smuggling cases, also at the request of other law enforcement agencies, performs customs control activities on the internal and external frontiers of the European Union to disclose and prevent customs offences, and manages information important for customs enforcement. To ensure the effective exchange of risk information at national and international level, the National Contact Point (NCP) a special unit within the CCB operates 24 hours a day, 7

CONTACT DETAILS

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days a week. The NCPs main functions are collecting, evaluating and systematising and disseminating risk information and participating in Joint Customs Operations.

Financial Police Department (VID Finan u policijas pārvalde)

The Financial Police Department came into being in April 1994 as a unit of the State Revenue Service. It is a law enforcement authority with authorisation to investigate criminal offences in the area of state revenue and in the activities of the officials and employees of the state revenue service. If necessary, it can also provide security services to other officials and employees of the state revenue service performing their duties. The Finance Police Department has a well organised structure with strong intelligence and investigation capacities aimed at detecting and preventing criminal offences in the area of state revenue. According to the strategy of the State Revenue Service for 2005-2009, the main priorities in the fight against crime in the field of state revenue are tax-fraud, money laundering and organised crime.

State Border Guard (Valsts robe sardze)

The State Border Guard was founded in 1919, and revived in 1991 when the Latvian Minister of Defence signed an order for the formation of seven border guard battalions and an individual border control point for the city of Riga. In 1997, supervision of the State Border Guard was transferred to the Minister of the Interior. The Guard comprises a headquarters and nine territorial departments. Border Guards are trained at the State Border Guard College. The Border Guard’s main tasks are to protect and keep watch over the state border and ensure that foreigners observe the conditions for residence within the state. It fulfils these tasks in collaboration with other Latvian institutions.
Border control is executed in accordance with Latvian law and international agreements. State Border Guards participate in international missions and operations based on resolutions, recommendations or requests by international organisations, associations or communities, with which the Republic of Latvia has concluded international agreements.

State Police (Valsts policija)

The Latvian State Police is a state institution to protect the state and society from criminal and other illegal threats to life, health, rights and freedoms, property and interests. The State Police consists of a central administrative body and 27 subordinated regional police units. The State Police is currently a member of several international organisations. This means that certain responsibilities and obligations have been delegated to its staff, not only in the performance of daily operations but also while representing the State Police at international events. The main priority of the Latvian State Police is to improve the professional skills among its employees and to study modern technologies. Its most important objective is to establish a high degree of public trust in the police. Public support will enable the State Police to reach its primary goals: to establish order in the country and to prevent criminal activities.

Security Police (Droības policija) The Security Police is a state security institution falling under the Minister of the Interior. It was officially founded in December 1994. State security institutions perform tasks for national security, including intelligence, counterintelligence and investigations.

The activities of the Security Police include:

- fighting organised and economic crime,
- terrorism, subversive activities, sabotage,
gang crimes, corruption, the counterfeit of money and the illegal distribution of narcotics and other strong chemicals or radioactive substances, firearms and other types of weapons and explosives;

» protecting the subdivisions of the Ministry of the Interior;

» protecting state secrets within its jurisdiction, as specified by the Cabinet of Ministers;

» making inquiries related to crimes in the sphere of its jurisdiction and in other cases at the request of the Prosecutor General;

» coordinating state institutions, local authorities and the private sector in the field of counterterrorism.

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