

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LATVIA AND SLOVENIA

PREAMBLE

The Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter called "the Parties"),

Recalling their intention to participate actively in the process of economic integration in Europe and expressing their preparedness to co-operate in seeking ways and means to strengthen this process,

Recalling their firm commitment to the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the Charter of Paris for a new Europe, and in particular the principles contained in the final document of the CSCE Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe,

Reaffirming their commitment to the principles of a market economy, which constitutes the basis for their relations,

Reaffirming their commitment to a pluralistic democracy based on the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Desiring to create favourable conditions for the development and diversification of trade between them and for the promotion of commercial and economic cooperation in areas of common interest on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and international law,

Resolved to contribute to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system and to develop their relations in the field of trade in accordance with the basic principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO),

Considering that no provision of this Agreement may be interpreted as exempting the Parties to this Agreement from their obligations under other international agreements,

Declaring their readiness to examine, in the light of any relevant factor, the possibility of developing and deepening their economic relations in order to extend them to fields not covered by this Agreement,

Have decided, to conclude this Agreement:

Article 1 Objectives

1. The Parties shall, by progressively eliminating the obstacles to substantially all their trade, gradually establish a free trade area in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and in conformity with those of the GATT and WTO.

2. The objectives of this Agreement, which is based on trade relations between market economies, are:

- (i) to promote, through the expansion of mutual trade, the harmonious development of the economic relations between the Parties and thus to foster in the Parties the advance of economic activity, the improvement of living and employment conditions, increased productivity, financial stability and sustainable growth;
- (ii) to provide fair conditions of competition for trade between the Parties;
- (iii) to contribute in this way, by removal of barriers to trade, to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade.

Article 2

Scope

This Agreement shall apply:

- (a) to products falling within Chapters 25 to 97 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System originating in the Republic of Slovenia or the Republic of Latvia, excluding the products listed in Annex I;
- (b) to products specified in Protocol A, with due regard to the arrangements provided for in that Protocol.

Article 3

Trade in Agricultural Products

1. The Parties declare their intention to foster, insofar as their agricultural policies allow, the harmonious development of trade in agricultural and fisheries products.
2. The Parties shall grant each other concessions on trade in agricultural and fisheries products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System and the products listed in Annexes I, II and III as provided for in Protocol A.
3. The Parties shall apply their regulations in veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary matters in a non-discriminatory fashion and shall not introduce any new measures that have the effect of unduly obstructing trade.

Article 4

Rules of Origin and Cooperation in Customs Administration

1. Protocol B lays down the rules of origin and methods of administrative cooperation.
2. The Parties shall take appropriate measures, including regular reviews by the Joint Committee, established under Article 26 of this Agreement, and arrangements for administrative cooperation, to ensure that the provisions of Article 5 (Customs Duties on Imports), Article 6 (Charges Equivalent to Customs Duties on Imports), Article 7