



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

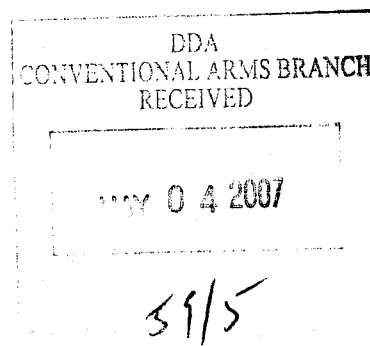
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Department of Disarmament Affairs and has the honour to provide the information on confidence building measures in the field of conventional arms in Latvia in 2006.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



Department of Disarmament Affairs
United Nations
NEW YORK



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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia presents its compliments to the Department of Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and, referring to the resolution 61/79 adopted by the General Assembly on 6 December 2006, has the honour to provide the information on confidence building measures in the field of conventional arms in Latvia in 2006.

One of the fundamental goals of the Security Policy for Latvia is a responsible arms control policy, compliance with international norms and regimes in weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons fields in order to increase military transparency and mutual confidence, as well as enhancing stability in Europe at the lowest possible level of armaments.

Latvia provides annual reports on conventional arms issues within the framework of UN, OSCE, EU.

In 2006 the Republic of Latvia continued to actively participate in the Confidence and Security Building Regimes within OSCE - the Vienna Document 1999 and the Open Skies Treaty.

In 2006 within the Vienna Document representatives from Latvia visited several aviation bases and military units in Sweden, Belarus, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Slovakia, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Hungary, Rumania, France, Belgium, and Bulgaria. In total, ten officers from units of the National Armed Forces of the Republic of Latvia were involved in such visits.

There has been a successful cooperation within the bilateral agreement with Belarus. In November 2006 an inspection from Belarus was conducted in Liepāja, Latvia; Latvian armed forces representatives visited Vitebsk, Belarus, as well.

In 2006 the Republic of Latvia continued to be actively engaged in acting within the Open Skies Treaty framework. In August it hosted inspection group from the Russian Federation. In cooperation with Germany and United States of America a quota flight over the territory of the Russian Federation was conducted. The second quota flight took place in Finland. On both flights Swedish Open Skies aircraft SAAB 100 was used.

Latvian armed forces personnel took an advantage to participate in two more Open Skies flights over Russian federation together with United States and United Kingdom inspection groups. There were several transit flights of Norwegian and British Open Skies inspections during the year 2006.

In order to prepare and train the personnel for Open Skies flights inspections, a joint training flight in United Kingdom was performed, in which 7 military officers from Latvia gained practical and theoretical experience in conducting inspections.

There has been exchange of views and information with Estonia and Lithuania armed forces officials with regard to arms control issues, including Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE), as well as to share experience on implementation of Open Skies Treaty.

Latvian civilian officials and military personnel have attended various arms control courses within NATO.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Riga, 27 April 2007

United Nations Office
New York

