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LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS PASTĀVĪGĀ PĀRSTĀVniecība ANO, EDSO UN CITĀS  
STARPTAUTISKĀJĀS ORGANIZĀCIJĀS VĪNĒ

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA TO THE UN, OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

No. EDSO-12232

*Verbal note*

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE and, in accordance with the FSC Decision 2/09, has the honor to submit *the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, valid as of April 25, 2018.*

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, May 14, 2018

To: **All Permanent Missions and  
Delegations to the OSCE,  
CPC of the OSCE**

**QUESTIONNAIRE  
ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT  
ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY**

**Section I: Inter-State elements**

**1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism**

1.1. To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, subregional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

Latvia is a state party to 16 universal international instruments related to the prevention of terrorism:

1. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, Tokyo, 14 September 1963,
2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, the Hague, 16 December 1970,
3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, Montreal, 23 September 1971,
4. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, New York, 14 December 1973,
5. Convention against the Taking of Hostages, New York, 17 December 1979,
6. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, New York/Vienna, 3 March 1980,
7. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, Montreal, 24 February 1988,
8. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, Rome, 10 March 1988,
9. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, Rome, 10 March 1988,
10. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, Montréal, 1 March 1991,
11. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, New York, 15 January 1997,
12. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, New York, 9 December 1999,
13. International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, New York, 13 April 2005,
14. Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted on 8 July 2005.
15. Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Maritime Navigation, London, 14 October 2005,
16. Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, London, 14 October 2005

Latvia is a state party also to the following regional legal instruments adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe:

1. Convention of Cybercrime, Budapest, 23 November 2001,
2. European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Strasbourg, 20 April 1959,
3. European Convention on the International Validity of Criminal Judgments, The Hague, 28 May 1970,
4. European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters, Strasbourg, 15 May 1972,
5. European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, Strasbourg, 27 January 1977,
6. Additional Protocol to the European Convention on the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Strasbourg, 17 March 1978,
7. Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, Strasbourg, 15 May 2003,
8. Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, Warsaw, 16 May 2005,
9. Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism, Warsaw, 16 May 2005,
10. Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, Riga, 22 October 2015.

Latvia has signed the following bilateral treaties on counter-terrorism measures:

1. Agreement between the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Poland on Cooperation in Combatting Crime, Riga, 14 July 1994,
2. Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Finland on Cooperation in Combatting Crime, Helsinki, 21 June 1996,
3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Finland on Cooperation in Crime Prevention, 27, June 1996,
4. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, Riga, 6 March 1997,
5. Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Fighting against International Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, International Terrorism and Organized Crime, Riga, 4 June 1997,
6. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Terrorism and other Serious Crimes, Jerusalem, 27 July 1998,
7. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and other Organized Crime, Riga, 24 May 1999,
8. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Cabinet of Minister of Ukraine on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organised Crime, Kiev, 24 February 2000,
9. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Czech Republic on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Organised Crime, Prague, 14 November 2000,

10. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime, Zagreb, 23 February 2001,
11. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium on Police Cooperation, Brussels, 16 October 2001,
12. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Georgia on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, Tbilisi, 26 October 2001,
13. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime, Terrorism and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Tashkent, 17 June 2002,
14. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Traffic in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organized Crime, Chisinau, 29 May 2003,
15. Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Kingdom of Spain on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Organised Crime, Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Other Crime, Madrid, 24 November 2003,
16. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Austrian Federal Government concerning Cooperation between Police Services, Riga, 20 January 2004,
17. Letter of Agreement on Law Enforcement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the United States of America, Riga, 27 September 2004,
18. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organized Crime, Riga 11 April 2005,
19. Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Swiss Confederation on Police Cooperation in Combating Crime, 23 May 2005,
20. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Other Serious Crimes, Riga, 13 September 2005,
21. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organised Crime, Baku, 3 October 2005,
22. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in Combating Organised Crime and Other Offences and on Joint Actions in Border Regions, Vilnius, 7 June 2006,
23. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Estonia on Cross-Border Cooperation in Combating Crime, Vilnius, 7 June 2006,
24. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Terrorism and Other Crime, Minsk, 17 May 2007,



25. Agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on the processing and transfer of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data by air carriers to the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Washington, 19 October 2006,
26. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Malta on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organized Crime, Brussels, 24 July 2008,
27. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the United States of America on Enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crime, Riga, 29 September 2008,
28. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Other Crimes, Yerevan, 10 December 2009,
29. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Tirana, 16 December 2009,
30. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms, Moscow, 20 December 2010,
31. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of Turkmenistan on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and other Crime, Ashgabat, 14 May 2013,
32. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism Organised Crime and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and other Crimes, Dushanbe, 10 June 2014.

1.2. What national legislation has been adopted in your State to implement the above-mentioned agreements and arrangements?

The following legislative acts are the main legislative background for implementation of the norms of the conventions and the legal instruments of the international organizations:

- The suppression of terrorism falls under Article 88, 88<sup>1</sup>, 88<sup>2</sup> and 88<sup>3</sup> of the Latvian Criminal Law establishing the penalty for terrorism, the financing of terrorism, the invitation to terrorism and terrorism threats, as well as recruitment and training for the commitment of acts of terror. Moreover, Articles 241 to 245 establish a penalty for offences committed to cyber safety.
- The Commercial Law regulates commercial activities as such while the Credit Institution Law determine the legal status of credit institutions, governs the activities, liability and supervision of such institutions, as well as determining the rights, duties and liability of such persons to whom the requirements of this Law apply. There are also related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.
- Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, adopted on 17 July 2008 which purpose is to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing and:
  - five related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers (e.g. No.138 “Regulations on States and International Organisations that have compiled lists of persons suspected of participating in terrorist activities or production, possession,

- transfer, use or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” issued on 8 March 2016; No.1092 “Procedure to be followed by State and Municipal Institutions in Providing Information to the Office of the Prevention of Laundering Proceeds Derived from Criminal Activity” issued on 22 December 2008; No.1071 „Regulations about list of indications of unusual transactions and order how report on unusual or suspicious transactions has to be provided” issued on 22 December 2008);
- nine Normative Regulations of the Finance and Capital Market Commission (e.g. Regulations No.154 “Normative Regulations on the Supervision of Risk of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing”, issued on 23 September 2016);
  - one Recommendation issued by the Bank of Latvia on October 30, 2017 No.158 “Requirements for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing through the Purchase and Sale of Foreign Currency in Cash”.
- Law on Operation of the Schengen Information System, adopted on 14 June 2007, which purpose is to ensure the use of the system for strengthening of public order and security in the Member States, and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers:
    - No.639 “Procedures for the Entering, Correction and Deletion of Alerts in the Schengen Information System, as well as Ensuring Accessibility of Supplementary Information between the SIRENE Latvia Bureau and Procedures for the Exchange of Supplementary Information of Institutions and Authorities” Regulations issued on 18 September 2007,
    - No.622 “Procedures for the Request and Issue of Information Regarding a Data Subject that is kept in the Schengen Information System and the SIRENE Information System” issued on 11 September 2007.
  - The Law on Radiation Safety and Nuclear Safety, adopted on 26 October 2000 and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers, e.g. Regulations issued by the Cabinet of Ministers on 4 November 2002, No.508 ”Requirements for Physical Protection of Sources of Ionising Radiation”. The purpose of this Law is to ensure the protection of people and the environment from the adverse effects of ionising radiation and to specify the duties and rights of State institutions, natural persons and legal persons in the field of radiation safety and nuclear safety. The Law prescribes the safety requirements for sources of ionising radiation and activities with these and proposes specific requirements for ionising radiation objects of national significance, and prescribes the division of duties among the State authorities in the field of radiation safety and nuclear safety.
  - Account Register Law, adopted on 23. November 2016 and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. The purpose of this Law is to establish and maintain the register (hereinafter - the Register) and ensure processing of data of a person's account with a view: to prevent the use of the Latvian and international financial system in criminal activities, including money laundering, terrorism financing, financing of production, possession, transportation, use and distribution of weapons of mass destruction, and to ensure international co-operation in this field; to protect State and public security, etc.
  - Law on the Handling of Weapons and Special Means (adopted on 28 October 2010) transposes Directive of the European Parliament and Council No 2008/51/EC, and Council Directive No 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. The purpose of the Law is to determine the rights and obligations of State authorities and private individuals in

relation to the handling of weapons, ammunition, special means and the parts thereof in Latvia as well as to specify the classification of such objects and the prohibitions and restrictions in respect of these objects in order to ensure the safety of persons and of the public.

- Law On the Security of Information Technologies, adopted on 28 October 2010 and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.
- Law on International Sanctions and National Sanctions of the Republic of Latvia adopted on 4 February 2016 and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. The purpose of this Law is to ensure peace, security and rule of law in accordance with the international obligations and national interests of Latvia, introducing international sanctions or imposing national sanctions.
- Regulations issued by the Cabinet of Ministers on 3 March 2015, No. 110 “Procedures for Reporting Regarding Explosive Precursors”.
- Instruction issued by the Cabinet of Ministers on 5 August 2008, No 12 “Instruction Regarding Actions of Responsible Institutions in the Event of Finding a Substance or Object of Unknown Origin if It is Suspected that It Contains Explosive, Radioactive, Dangerous Chemical or Biological Substances, as well as if Indications of Terrorist Attack is Detected”.

### 1.3. What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

The Security Police of Latvia (DP) is responsible for coordinating activities of State and local government institutions and other legal persons in the field of counterterrorism as well as analysis of implementation of State’s policy in this field.

DP is a State security institution, counterintelligence and internal security service, under a supervision of the Minister of Interior. DP is a subject of operational activities, and DP has the right to conduct pre-trial investigation regarding criminal offenses committed in the area of national security (espionage, terrorism, disclosure of state secrets etc.), or in national security institutions, or other criminal offences within it’s competence and in cases where the investigation has been ordered by the Prosecutor General.

DP is responsible for

- Counterterrorism;
- Counterintelligence;
- Protection of the constitutional order;
- Protection of the state secrets;
- Protection of the high officials (dignitary protection);
- Prevention of the crimes that threaten national security and rule (corruption, counterfeiting, distribution of radioactive, chemical and other arms, unauthorized distribution of explosive substances).

DP functions in the field of counterterrorism:

- Counterintelligence and operational activities to fight terrorism,
- Counterintelligence and operational activities to fight illegal distribution of explosive, nuclear, chemical weapons, radiological materials, dual-use goods, firearms
- Coordination of activities of state and local government institutions as well as other legal entities in the field of counterterrorism and the analysis of implementation the State policy in this field.

A special department of DP – the Counterterrorism Centre (CTC), ensures coordination functions in the field of counterterrorism.

The main functions of the CTC are:

- Monitoring of terrorism threats (information analysis and assessment on possible threats of terrorism);
- Planning and coordination of counterterrorism preventive and response measures;
- Planning and organization of counterterrorism training and exercises;
- Control of objects (critical infrastructure and soft targets) of terrorism risks;
- Coordination of terrorism threat level and National counterterrorism plan implementation;
- PNR: Passenger Name Record.

The goal of the National Armed Forces is to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Latvian State, and its population against aggression. One of the tasks of the National Armed Forces is to participate in the prevention of situations that constitute a threat to the State.

The Ministry of Defence prepares the analysis of military threats, develops the national defence concept and national defence plan, a plan for the development of the NAF and a plan for mobilisation of the NAF. The Ministry of Defence is involved in monitoring the international security environment and in elaborating the threat assessment as well as in taking part in the development of the national counter-terrorism system. The Ministry of Defence also ensures participation of the National Armed Forces (NAF) in international security/safety and defence measures as well as plans NAF participation in international operations (that can contribute also to counter-terrorism efforts). Article 6.<sup>1</sup> of the National Armed Forces Law defines, that while fulfilling its tasks the National Armed Forces shall provide support to:

- 1) the Security Police – in anti-terrorism measures, as well as measures for the prevention or combating of threats of terrorism;
- 2) the system of civil protection – in preventive and reactive measures, in measures for the elimination of consequences caused by emergency situations, as well as rescue and search operations;
- 3) the State Police – for ensuring public order and safety;
- 4) the State Border Guard – for ensuring the inviolability of the State border;
- 6) State security institutions - for performance of national security measures.

Article 17 of the National Armed Forces Law stipulates, that in the case of threat of terrorism, the Minister of Defence upon the request of the Minister of the Interior shall order the Commander of the National Armed Forces to provide support to the measures taken by Security Police for the prevention of the threat of terrorism or the combating thereof, determining the tasks to be performed, the time and the place. The leader of the measures referred is responsible for the orders given to the National Armed Force's units involved in the measures for the prevention of the threat of terrorism or the combating thereof.

*1.4 Provide any additional relevant information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, e.g., those pertaining inter alia to:*

- *Financing of terrorism;*
- *Border controls;*
- *Travel document security;*



- *Container and supply chain security;*
- *Security of radioactive sources;*
- *Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes;*
- *Legal co-operation including extradition;*
- *Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations.*

The respective state institutions are working in each of the above-mentioned fields to combat and prevent terrorism.

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## **2. Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory**

### **2.1 Provide information on stationing of your States armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law.**

Participation of military personnel or units (contingent) in international operations as well as joint military training of units is regulated by the Law on the Participation of the National Armed Forces of Latvia in the International Operations.

The Minister for Defence makes the decision on participation of units of the National Armed Forces in joint military training, whether in Latvia or abroad, after coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or the Ministry of Interior. Exceptions are in cases of joint military training in Latvia when the number of foreign military personnel exceeds 500 units. Cabinet of the Ministers makes the decision on National Armed Forces participating in joint military training in non-EU or non-NATO countries.

The Law on the Participation of the National Armed Forces of Latvia in the International Operations stipulates: The contingent of the Latvian National Armed Forces shall participate in international operations within the scope of a mandate approved by the United Nations or another international organisation, or in accordance with the international agreements binding to the Republic of Latvia and laws of the Republic of Latvia, as well as a decision of the *Saeima*, the Cabinet or - in the case specifically provided for in the law - the Minister for Defence on participation of the contingent of the Latvian National Armed Forces in international operations.

The contingent of the National Armed Forces participate in international operations within the mandate of the United Nations or another international organization, or in accordance with the international agreements binding to the Republic of Latvia. Participation in International operations in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Latvia is determined by a decision of the Saeima (Parliament), the Cabinet of Ministers or, in special cases, The Minister of Defence.

The contingent also can participate in international operations upon a request of such state in the territory of which an international operation is taking place.

Article 5 of the Law on the Participation of the National Armed Forces of Latvia in the International Operations provides, that upon a request of a foreign country for the need of first aid, the Minister of Defence may approve the participation of a specially trained contingent.

This decision allows National Armed Forces contingent to participate in international rescue operations and international humanitarian operations in member states of NATO or EU.

Latvian National Armed Forces continued their participation in international operations in 2017 in accordance with the appropriate decisions of the Parliament. Throughout the year Latvia was engaged in NATO training and assist mission Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan. Additionally, Latvia has contributed troops to the NATO Response Force.

Latvia participated in two EU military operations (EU Counter piracy operation ATALANTA and EUNAVFOR MED operation "Sophia" in the Mediterranean region) and EU Training Mission Mali (EUTM Mali).

Latvian National Armed Forces continued their participation in in the international coalition against terrorist organizations "Daesh" participating in Joint Forces military operation "Inherent Resolve" in Iraq, and participated in the UN-led Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali "MINUSMA". It is the first time that the Latvian soldiers are participating in UN operations.

Taking into account that the Republic of Latvia is a member of NATO and has acceded to NATO basic treaties (i.e., the NATO SOFA) the provisions of these international treaties are being implemented.

### **3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct**

#### 3.1 Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence and security-building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith.

Arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building measures are significant elements of Latvia's security policy. Latvia works closely with its partners bilaterally and multilaterally, including in OSCE and NATO. Latvia is a member of all of the main international treaties, conventions and initiatives on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and disarmament:

- the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,
- Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty,
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Biological and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,
- Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,
- Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.

Latvia is also the Subscribing State to the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. Latvia follows the principles of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, and also supports the Proliferation Security Initiative and Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Latvia's national legislation is adapted accordingly.

Latvia supports relevant non-proliferation and disarmament resolutions at the UN General Assembly First Committee.

Latvia has developed and implemented a strict and effective export control system to prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, and of sensitive dual use and strategic goods and technologies. The national regulations and

The Analysis of Danger to the State is a comprehensive assessment, which identifies the existing and potential specific danger or risk factors to national security. Analysis is prepared by the Constitution Protection Bureau in cooperation with the Security Police and the Military Intelligence and Security Service, co-ordinated by the Council of State Security. It is examined by the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Security Council.

The Concept of National Security is prepared based on the Analysis of Danger to the State. This document determines the basic strategic principles and priorities for the prevention of danger to the State. The Concept of National Security was approved by Saeima on 26 November 2015.

The defence policy documents are as follows:

The Military Threat Analysis is an assessment of the possibility of military aggression against Latvia that is prepared by the Ministry of Defence, examined by the National Security Council and is approved annually by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The State Defence Concept is a document drawn up based on the Military Threat Analysis which determines the basic strategic principles, priorities and measures of State military defence during peacetime, state of crisis and a state of war. Saeima adopted the State Defence Concept on 16 June 2016.

The defence planning documents are:

The National Security Plan is based on the strategy and principles determined by the National Security Concept, it includes specific measures for neutralisation and prevention of danger to the State and is drawn up and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers within a year after approval of the National Security Concept.

The State Defence Plan is prepared based on the Analysis of Military Threat and the principles determined in the State Defence Concept. It determines specific State defence measures, priorities and necessary resources, as well as the necessary readiness and activities of the National Armed Forces, institutions implementing State authority and administration, local governments, and natural and legal persons regard to State defence. The State Defence Plan is drawn up by the Ministry of Defence in co-operation with other ministries and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The National Armed Forces (NAF) Development Plan determines the prospective twelve-year development of NAF infrastructure, personnel, equipment, material, technical facilities and the estimated state resources required to fulfil the Plan. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the National Armed Forces Development Plan for 2016-2028 on November 29, 2016.

Based on the documents above, the NAF prepares medium and short-term defence planning documents – implementation plans for the principles set out by security and defence policy.

## 1.2 How does your State ensure that its military capabilities take into account the legitimate security concerns of other States as well as the need to contribute to international security and stability?

Latvia actively participates in a broad range of global and regional multilateral organizations aimed at strengthening international security, cooperation and rule of law including the United Nations, NATO, the EU and the OSCE.

Units or soldiers of the Latvian NAF in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the documents of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, shall participate in international operations upon a resolution, recommendation or request of such international organisations of which the Republic of Latvia is a Member State, or with which



the Republic of Latvia co-operates, as well as upon a request of the NATO or a EU Member State, or upon a request of such state in the territory of which an international operation is taking place. Each deployment of NAF is in accordance with the national laws and decisions made by Cabinet of Ministers and Saeima or in special cases – a decisions made by the Minister of Defence.

## **2. Existing structures and processes**

### **2.1 What are the constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police?**

#### **(i) Military Forces**

Latvia has established democratic control over the NAF. The legal basis for democratic control is embedded in the Constitution and in legislative acts that determine the responsibility of armed forces.

Participation of the NAF in international operations is possible only in accordance with political decisions of the Parliament and/or Cabinet of Ministers, or in special cases by the Minister of Defence. The constitutional and legal framework provides transparency and clear division of power between the President, the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers including the Minister of Defence.

The civilian Minister of Defence symbolises and executes the democratic control over the NAF. The Minister of Defence is politically responsible to the Parliament. The Commander of the NAF is directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence.

The division of responsibilities is clarified in the National Security Law and in the National Armed Forces Law.

The civilian control of the activities of the NAF within the scope of their competence are performed by the Minister for Defence, the State Audit Office, the Cabinet of Ministers, the President and the Parliament. The internal control of the activities of the NAF are performed by the Commander of the NAF.

#### **(ii) Paramilitary Forces**

In the territory of the Republic of Latvia there are no forces defined as paramilitary forces.

#### **(iii) Internal Security Forces**

The National Security Law defines that the Constitution Protection Bureau, the Security Police and the Military Intelligence and Security Service are State security authorities and their competence is governed by special laws and regulations.

#### **(iv) Intelligence Services**

The national security system contains three separate intelligence services - the Constitution Protection Bureau, the Military Intelligence and Security Service and the Security Police.

The Military Intelligence and Security Service is a state security authority under the supervision of the Ministry of Defence. The Security Police is under the supervision of the



Ministry of Interior. The Constitution Protection Bureau is supervised by the Cabinet of Ministers and the supervision is carried out by the Ministry of Justice.

The National Security Council controls all these services. The National Security Commission of the Parliament perform parliamentary control of the activities and utilisation of budgetary resources of State security institutions.

#### **(v) Police**

The legal basis for police activities is provided by the Constitution, the Law "On Police", the Investigatory Operations Law, as well as other laws and regulations and international treaties regulating the protection of the national security and economic sovereignty.

According to Article 38 of the Law "On Police", the Cabinet of Ministers, the Minister of the Interior and local government institutions control the activities of the police within the scope of their competence.

#### 2.2 How is the fulfilment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for exercising these procedures?

Please refer to the information provided to question 2.1 in Section II.

#### 2.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?

##### **(i) Military Forces**

Article 6 of the National Armed Forces Law, regulates the tasks of the NAF.

The main tasks of the NAF are the following:

- to ensure the inviolability of the land, airspace, and territorial waters;
- to participate in international military operations according to the procedures specified in the law and international agreements; and
- to participate in the prevention of situations that constitute a threat to the State in accordance with the procedures laid down in laws and regulations.

The units (sub-units) of the NAF may become involved in the performance of other tasks not provided for in this Law, but only by an order of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Participation of military personnel in international operations is regulated by the Law "Participation of the Latvian National Armed Forces in International Operations", which stipulates

The contingent of the Latvian National Armed Forces shall participate in international operations within the scope of a mandate approved by the United Nations or another international organisation, or in accordance with the international agreements binding to the Republic of Latvia and laws of the Republic of Latvia, as well as a decision of the *Saeima*, the Cabinet or - in the case specifically provided for in the law - the Minister for Defence on participation of the contingent of the Latvian National Armed Forces in international operations.

Article 5 of the Law "Participation of the Latvian National Armed Forces in International Operations" provides that in case of a urgent request from a foreign country the Minister of Defence may decide on participation of individual specially trained contingent of the NAF in international rescue operations and international humanitarian operations in member states of the NATO or the EU

The Minister of Defence controls the execution of the above mentioned tasks and missions by the NAF. The Ministry of Defence has assisting structures to ensure the legality of actions of the NAF – the Inspector General in the Ministry of Defence and NAF. There is also the Military Police subordinated to the Commander of NAF.

**(ii) Paramilitary Forces**

Not applicable. No forces defined as paramilitary currently exist.

**(iii) Security Forces**

The National Security Law specifies that the Constitution Protection Bureau, the Military Intelligence and Security Service and the Security Police are State security institutions and their competence is determined by special laws.

**3. Procedures related to different forces personnel**

**3.1 What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?**

**(i) Military**

By December 2006, the last conscripts finished their military service, and on 1 January 2007, Latvia became the first country in the Baltic Sea region that has solely professional armed forces. NAF are formed by regular forces, the National Guard and reserve of the NAF. According to the State Defence Concept that was approved by the Parliament on 16 June 2016, NAF in peacetime maintains 17 500 soldiers prepared, including 6 500 professional service soldiers, 8000 National Guards and 3000 reserve soldiers.

**(ii) Paramilitary Forces**

Not applicable.

**(iii) Security Forces**

The Law On State Security Institutions, the Law On Police, Law on the Career Course of Service of Officials with Special Service Ranks Working in Institutions of the System of the Ministry of the Interior and the Prisons Administration and other legal acts regulate the recruitment procedures for the police and other interior security institutions.

**3.2 What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?**

There is no compulsory military service in Latvia and no alternative service, accordingly. However, volunteers may apply to the National Guard, which is a component of the National Armed Forces, the objective of which is to involve the citizens of Latvia in the defence of the State territory and society and which participates in the planning and execution of the State defence tasks in accordance with the tasks determined in the Law. These include participating in international operations and rapid reaction forces, providing host nation support, participating in emergency, fire-fighting and rescue work and measures for elimination of the consequences of events that have caused emergency situations, as well as destroying explosive objects and performing blasting work and providing support to State and local government institutions in crime prevention, guaranteeing of public order and security.

**3.3 What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel as well as conscripts?**

Legal and administrative procedures protecting the rights of all military personnel are regulated by the Military Service Law, the National Guard of the Republic of Latvia Law, the National Armed Forces Law, and the Law on Service Pensions for Military Persons, as well

as various governmental regulations on provisions catering, insurance and compensation for military personnel.

#### **4. Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law**

##### **4.1 How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through military training programs and regulations?**

Latvia is a state party to all Geneva Conventions. Moreover, Latvia is a party to many other international legal instruments in the field of humanitarian law, such as the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its five Protocols. Latvia is also a state-party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

International rules, conventions and commitments governing armed conflict are incorporated in the national legal acts.

The National Defence Academy has a course on international defence-related legislation including International Humanitarian Law, Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects and other international rules, conventions and commitments governing armed conflicts.

Latvia adheres to the principles set out in the OSCE Code of Conduct.

##### **4.2 What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?**

Please refer to the information provided to question 4.1 in Section II.

Units to be deployed abroad are also briefed on international humanitarian law, war crimes, individual responsibility and command responsibility.

##### **4.3 How does your State ensure that armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?**

Please refer to the information provided to questions 2.1 and 2.3 in Section II.

##### **4.4 What has been done to provide for the individual service member's exercise of his or her civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country's armed forces are politically neutral?**

As stipulated in Section 15 of the Military Service Law, soldiers are prohibited from:

- 1) Engaging in political activities, joining trade unions, organizing strikes and participating in them;
- 2) Combining the performance of military service with another position or work not permitted by law;
- 3) Being a representative of another person in matters related to a unit (institution) in which he or she holds a position; and
- 4) Taking part, personally or through the intermediation of another person, in transactions, upon the entering into or the fulfilment of which soldiers may unlawfully utilize their service position or come into a conflict of interest.

A soldier has no right to refuse to perform military service on religious grounds, and to use his or her service position to impose his or her religious conviction on others.



At the same time a soldier is under the protection of the State. His or her life, freedom, honour and dignity are protected by law. A soldier has the right to be a member of such associations and foundations, which do not have a political nature, as well as to establish associations and foundations for soldiers and participate in other non-political activities if such activities do not interfere with the performance of service duties. Soldiers have the right to nominate a representative in each unit from amongst their number to protect the interests of soldiers and to solve practical issues in relationships with the unit commander (superior officer) and higher officials. Soldier's rights to vote are set in The Saeima Election Law, The City Council and Municipality Council Election Law, Law on Elections to the European Parliament, Law on National Referendums, Initiation of Laws and European Citizens' Initiative.

#### 4.5 How does your State ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?

According to the place of international law in the Latvian legal system, the Latvian international obligations prevail the national law in case of any collision of legal norms. International law and the international obligations that the Republic of Latvia has undertaken are considered when drafting defence policy and doctrines (i.e. international humanitarian law, arms control treaties, human rights conventions, the UN Charter and customary international law).

### **Section III: Public access and contact information**

#### **1. Public access**

##### 1.1. How is the public informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct?

The Ministry of Defence of Latvia and National Armed Forces do not provide any specific information on the Code of Conduct. General information on cooperation with the OSCE as well as link to the organization's website is published on the official website of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia [www.mod.gov.lv](http://www.mod.gov.lv).

##### 1.2. What additional information related to the Code of Conduct, e.g., replies to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, is made publicly available in your State?

See previous point (1.1) directly above.

##### 1.3. How does your State ensure public access to information related to your State's armed forces?

Public access to information on the National Armed Forces is organised according to Freedom of Information Law and the Law on the Press and Other Mass Media.

Among the main activities of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia and National Armed Forces in order to ensure public access to information are:

- News portal of defence sector <http://www.sargs.lv/> (available in Latvian only);

- Social media activities:

[http://twitter.com/Latvijas\\_armija](http://twitter.com/Latvijas_armija)> National Armed Forces

<http://twitter.com/Aizsardzibasmin>> Ministry of Defence

<http://www.draugiem.lv/latvijas-armija>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Latvijasarmija>

<http://www.facebook.com/Aizsardzibasministrija>

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/latvijas\\_armija](http://www.flickr.com/photos/latvijas_armija)

<http://www.youtube.com/LatvijasArmija>



[http://www.instagram.com/latvijas\\_armija](http://www.instagram.com/latvijas_armija)

## **2. Contact information**

2.1 Provide information on the national point of contact for the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Mr. Edvards Seliška  
Head of the Multilateral Relations and International Organizations Section  
Defence Policy Department  
Ministry of Defence of Latvia  
e-mail: edvards.seliska@mod.gov.lv

## **Implementation of UNSCR 1325 “Women, Peace and Security” in the Latvian National Armed Forces**

### **3. Procedures related to different forces personnel**

**3.1 What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?**

In peacetime, the personnel of the Latvian National Armed Forces shall be formed by professional service soldiers, the National Guards, civilian employees and reserve soldiers inducted for training.

As of January 2007 Latvia has a volunteer military service system. Professional service soldiers fulfil service in accordance with a contract. A uniform course of military service is determined by Military Service Law (MSL). Civilian employees perform a specific job (work) on the basis of an employment contract in units (sub-units) in civil positions of staff in accordance with regulatory enactments regulating employment legal relationships.

In accordance with the MSL, the soldier is a Latvian citizen who performs active service and has been awarded a military rank. Therefore MSL sets out the principle of equality without seeking to differentiate soldiers according to their gender. MSL also requires those regulatory provisions of the employment relationship, which intend the prohibition against unequal treatment to be applied to soldiers, including the prohibition to discriminate persons due to their gender. Moreover, according to MSL, those Latvian citizens - women who have attained the age of 18 years can also join the reserve service, if they meet with the requirements and indicate their willingness or have completed special military training course or training in the National Guard.

Latvia has no paramilitary forces.

**3.2 What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?**

In the Republic of Latvia there is no compulsory military service, so there is no alternative military service.

**3.3 What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel as well as conscripts?**

The principles of gender equality are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia which requires all persons within Latvia to be equal before the law and the courts and human rights shall be implemented without any discrimination.

The same principles also provides the Labour Law – everyone has an equal right to work, to fair, safe and healthy working conditions, as well as to fair work remuneration. This right shall be ensured without any direct or indirect discrimination – irrespective of a person's race, skin colour, gender, age, disability, religious, political or other conviction, ethnic or social origin, property or marital status, sexual orientation or other circumstances.

MSL provides that regulatory enactments regulating employment legal relationships shall not apply to a soldier, except for provisions governing the prohibition of differential.

A soldier in NAF is under the protection of the State. His or her life, freedom, honour and dignity are protected by law. A soldier has the right to be a member of such public organizations, which do not have a political nature, as well as to establish public organizations' for soldiers and participate in other non-political activities if such activities do not interfere with the performance of service duties.

Soldiers have the right to nominate a representative in each unit from amongst their number to protect the interests of soldiers and to solve practical issues in relationships with the unit commander (superior officer) and higher officials. The representative of soldiers shall exercise his or her powers in accordance with the procedures determined by the Minister for Defence.

A soldier has the right to appeal the decisions of officials taken in respect of him or her to a court if such decisions restrict his or her rights or infringe upon his or her honour and dignity without grounds and if he or she has utilised all means to dispute the decision in accordance with subordination procedures to higher officials, including the Minister for Defence. Procedures for submission and examination of service complaints shall be prescribed by the Military Interior Service Regulations.

Soldiers are prohibited from combining the performance of military service with another position or work not permitted by law, being a representative of another person in matters related to a unit (institution) in which he or she holds a position and taking part, personally or through the intermediation of another person, in transactions, upon the entering into or the fulfilment of which soldiers may unlawfully utilise their service position or come into a conflict of interest.

A soldier has no right to refuse to perform military service on religious grounds, and to utilise his or her service position to impose his or her religious conviction on others. A soldier's private property and its administration shall not be an obstacle or impediment to the performance of military service or to the transfer of the soldier from one unit to another.

Professional service soldier's remuneration, as remuneration for officials (employees) of State and local government authorities, are governed by the Law on Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Self-government Authorities. The amount of monthly salary for soldiers shall be determined in accordance with the service rank and term of service.

A soldier shall receive special additional payments, regulated by the Cabinet of Ministers, for participation in international operations, for the service tasks associated with an increased risk to health (life), for specific (hard) conditions of service.

#### **4. Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law**

**4.1 How does your State ensure that international humanitarian law and law of war are made widely available, e.g., through military training programs and regulations?**

IHL aspects are included in all career-training programs in the National Defence Academy as well as in training programs for soldiers before the deployment to NATO operations.

**4.2 What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?**

According to MSL each soldier shall be personally liable for the observance of military discipline. Violations committed by a soldier shall be examined in accordance with the procedures set out in law, Soldier Military Discipline Regulations and other regulatory enactments.

**4.3 How does your State ensure that armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?**

Please refer to the information provided to questions 2.1 and 2.3 in Section II.

**4.4 What has been done to provide for the individual service member's exercise of his or her civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country's armed forces are politically neutral?**

Soldier's rights and obligations are set in MSL. According to MSL soldiers are prohibited from engaging in political activities, joining trade unions, organizing strikes and participating in them.

**INDICATIVE LIST OF ISSUES PERTAINING TO  
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY TO BE PROVIDED IN THE  
QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE OSCE CODE OF CONDUCT**

**I. Prevention**

*1. Measures to increase armed forces personnel understanding of the special needs and contributions of women in conflict.*

Gender equality aspects are covered by the international laws of war which are included in the NAF training program for soldiers before the deployment to NATO operations. In addition to that, special training program "HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STD) prevention course for section commanders" has been taught in the basic training course.

*2. Measures to address the violation of the rights of women and girls, in line with international standards.*

*– Number and percentage of military manuals, guidelines, national security policy frameworks, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures/protocols of national security forces that include measures to protect women's and girls' human rights.*

Members of the armed forces receive both regular training and even more specifically pre-deployment training in international law and humanitarian law, issues of violation of rights of women and girls being one the training subjects. The principles of the international law related to the protection of women and girls' rights are integrated in all levels of national law, including the laws, policies and procedures regulating military service.

In addition NAF and MoD staff regularly participates in the US Defense Institute of International Legal Studies seminars on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.



– Number and percentage of directives for peacekeepers issued by head of military components and standard operating procedures that include measures to protect women's and girl's human rights.

Please see answer above.

## II. Participation

1. Measures to increase the number of women in general and in decision-making positions in the armed forces and the ministry of defence.

– Number and percentage of women applying to be part of the military forces.

The number of women in the units of the NAF in 2017 reached 828.

– Establishment of policies to attract female candidates (Targeted campaigns, review of accession tests, etc.).

Due to the large proportion of women in LNAF (see the previous paragraph), specific policies to attract female candidates join the LNAF are not created.

– Establishment, promotion, maintenance and use of specialized rosters of female profiles in the military fields.

Specialized rosters of female profiles in the military fields are not established.

– Number and percentage of women in the military forces disaggregated by rank.

Rank	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
OF-4	2	3.2	1	1.5	3	3.6	3	3.3
OF-3	28	16.7	30	14.3	35	19.0	35	15.6
OF-2	68	21.3	75	19.0	69	21.9	73	20.1
OF-1	46	27.5	45	21.6	43	31.6	43	22.2
OF-0	14	18.4	11	13.9	19	25.6	21	21.2
OR-7	25	28.4	30	25.4	31	31.9	29	21.9
OR-6	90	34.6	96	26.1	100	34.3	98	23.6
OR-5	156	34.3	156	25.0	152	30.5	152	21.7
OR-4	134	23.1	134	17.3	149	20.4	143	15.2
OR-3	121	12.3	127	11.7	128	13.2	139	12.1
OR-2	65	10.8	61	8.0	88	9.9	92	8.5

– Number and percentage of discrimination and sexual harassment complaints that are referred, investigated and acted upon.

Complaints of the discrimination and sexual harassment have not been received.

– Development of regular analysis of retention and promotion practices for men and women in the forces.

Information on personnel development is not analysed by gender.

2. Measures to increase the number of women in peacekeeping forces.

– Number and percentage of women in peacekeeping forces disaggregated by rank.

In 2017 there were 5 women deployed in NATO operations, which equals to 9,6 % of total number of Latvian soldiers serving in NATO operations.

Rank	Number
------	--------



OF-5	3
OR-4	1
OR-3	1

– *Number and percentage of international missions where gender advisors were appointed.*

Gender advisors have not been appointed to international missions.

– *Number and percentage of participating State’s international missions that address specific issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports.*

No information.

### **III. Protection**

*1. Increased access to justice for women whose rights are violated.*

– *Number and percentage of reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by uniformed peacekeepers that are referred, investigated and acted upon.*

Information of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by Latvian uniformed peacekeepers has not been received.

### **IV. Other information**

– *Information on the development, implementation and evaluation of a National Action Plan to implement UNSCR 1325.*

The principles of UNSCR 1325 are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia which requires all persons within Latvia to be equal before the law and the courts and human rights shall be implemented without any discrimination. This also refers to gender equality. The Constitution of the Republic of Latvia provides equal rights for both – men and women – to participate in the activities covered by this Resolution.

The principles of UNSCR 1325 are incorporated in regulatory provisions, and gender equality at the Ministry of Defence and its subordinated institutions including the NAF is fully respected.

– *Information on best practices and lessons learned.*

Specific studies about gender role in NATO operations have not been conducted.

– *Any other relevant information.*