

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
OF GEORGIA**

**ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

Basing on the principles of state sovereignty,

Acknowledging the necessity of environmentally sound and sustainable development,

Highly estimating friendly relations between the Republic of Latvia and Georgia,

Efficiently using and further developing the new opportunities given by the cooperation frameworks and instruments developed by the European Community,

Desiring to initiate and continue regular bilateral cooperation between the Parties in the sphere of sustainable development and particularly - in the sphere of environmental protection,

Considering that many problems of environmental protection may be solved by means of mutual understanding and cooperation,

Being convinced that cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection shall help to develop further relations between both states,

Desiring to contribute to the environmental protection of Europe and to the process "Environment for Europe",

Following the *Declaration on Environment and Development* of the United Nations Conference (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) and taking into account the *Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* (Aarhus, 1998), *United Nations Millennium Declaration* (2000)

and the *Declaration and Action Plan adopted in Johannesburg Summit Rio +10* (Johannesburg, 2002),

Have agreed as follows:

### **Article 1**

The Parties shall develop and extend mutual cooperation in the field of environmental protection in the interests of both states, as well as promote further development of economic, scientific and technical contacts, in order to solve global and regional ecological problems by joint efforts.

### **Article 2**

(1) Cooperation of the Parties in the field of environmental protection shall be carried out according to the present Agreement, in line with and using the international cooperation forms and instruments elaborated by the European Community, taking into account the other international agreements to which the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia are Parties, and national legislation of both states in the following directions:

- a. Strengthening of general environmental governance instruments including economical ones, capacity building in the sphere of implementation mechanisms of European Community legislation, project preparation for European Community programs for the neighboring countries;
- b. Protection of air, water and soil against pollution and introduction of limit values for emissions and best available techniques and practices;
- c. Integrated water resources management, especially - transboundary waters and the European Union "Water initiative";
- d. Prevention of hazards and risks, mitigation of their impact on the human society;
- e. Management of chemical substances including the persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals;
- f. Protection of biodiversity including reforestation, extension of wetlands and protected areas;
- g. Environmental monitoring;
- h. Improvement of conditions of life and environmental protection in cities and other populated areas;
- i. Collecting systems, storage, recycling, use and elimination of solid and liquid household waste and toxic industrial waste;
- j. Environmental education issues including access to information and decision making processes;
- k. Enforcement of environmental legislation and control;
- l. Training of specialists and civil servants on environmental protection issues and rational use of natural resources, approximation of national legislation from the mentioned fields to the European Union legislation;

(2) The list of basic directions of cooperation may be revised or supplemented by mutual agreement of the Parties.

### **Article 3**

(1) Cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection shall be carried out by mutual consent of the Parties in the following forms:

- a. Exchange of scientists, specialists and delegations for achieving educational, scientific and practical objectives;
- b. Establishment of joint working groups for the solution of specific problems;
- c. Arrangement of conferences, symposia, expert discussions with participation of representatives of the other Party to this Agreement;
- d. Implementation of joint programs and projects;
- e. Exchange of information in spheres of environmental and nature protection and rational use of natural resources, methods for waste generation minimization and treatment.

(2) The Parties may also agree on other forms of cooperation.

### **Article 4**

Proceeding from the aim of the present Agreement, the Parties shall promote establishment of direct contacts and development of cooperation between institutions, natural and legal persons of both states dealing with the problems of environmental protection.

### **Article 5**

(1) Main issues concerning implementation of the present Agreement and development of cooperation shall be discussed during meetings of the Ministers. Meetings of the Ministers shall be organized by agreement of the Parties on the initiative of either Party.

(2) In order to discuss current issues of cooperation, the Parties may arrange meetings of their representatives by agreement.

(3) Within a month after signing the present Agreement, the Parties shall communicate each other the names of responsible contact persons for coordination and implementation of the cooperation under this Agreement.

### **Article 6**

(1) The Parties shall finance implementation of the present Agreement on equal basis. Each Party shall cover expenses for participation of its representatives in all joint events;

however the receiving Party shall assure premises and necessary equipment to hold joint events. Information to be transferred to the other Party shall be provided free of charge.

(2) In specific cases the Parties may agree otherwise on financing the implementation of the present Agreement.

### **Article 7**

The Parties shall not be responsible for liabilities of natural and legal persons arising out of contracts and agreements concluded with reference to the present Agreement.

### **Article 8**

The present Agreement shall not prejudice the rights and obligations arising out of other effective Agreements concluded by the Parties.

### **Article 9**

Any disputes, which may appear between the Parties, related to the application and interpretation of the provisions of the present Agreement shall be solved in a friendly way, through consultations and negotiations.

### **Article 10**

Based on the mutual agreement of the Parties, Addendums and Amendments to the present Agreement, which are formed as separate Protocols, may be proposed and enter into force according to the requirements of the Article 11. Addendums and Amendments adopted shall be integral parts of this Agreement.

### **Article 11**

(1) The present Agreement enters into force from the moment of its signature and shall be valid for five years.

(2) The operation of the Agreement shall be automatically extended for the next five-year period, unless either Party expresses its wish to terminate Agreement by means of a written notice at least three months before the operation of the Agreement expires.

(3) Termination of the Agreement shall not affect the validity of contracts and protocols signed for the implementation of the present Agreement.

(4) Done at Tbilisi on 14.03. 2008, in two original copies, each in the Latvian, Georgian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation of the present agreement, the English text shall serve as reference.

For  
The Ministry of the Environment of  
the Republic of Latvia

For  
The Ministry of Environment Protection  
and Natural Resources of Georgia

---

Raimonds Vējonis  
Minister

---

Zaal Gamtsemlidze  
Minister