



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS VĒSTNIECĪBA POLIJAS REPUBLIKĀ
AMBASADA REPUBLIKI ŁOTEWSKIEJ W RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

Warszawa, 11 sierpnia 2015 roku
Nr. 2.5.-601

Sz.P. Lyudmyla Kozlovskā
Prezes Zarządu
Fundacja Otwarty Dialog
Al.J.Ch. Szucha 11a/21
00-580 Warszawa

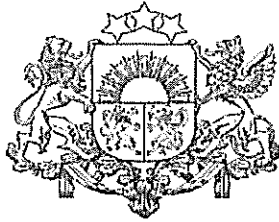
Szanowna Pani Prezes,

W załączniku przekazuję list od Pana Andrejs Pildegovičs, Sekretarza Stanu Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych Republiki Łotewskiej

Zał.: zgodnie z tekstem – 2 strony

Z poważaniem

Ilgvars Kļava
Ambasador



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS ĀRLIETU MINISTRIJA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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Rīga, 7 August 2015

**Open Dialog Foundation
11a Szucha Avenue, office 21
00-580 Warsaw
Poland**

Dear Ms Kozlovska,

Thank you for your letter of 22 June 2015 regarding the Latvian practice of implementing sanctions imposed by the European Union (EU) against Russia in response to the conflict in Ukraine.

According to the Law on Applying International Organizations' Sanctions in the Republic of Latvia, the sanctions imposed by the EU are enforced in Latvia through direct application of regulations or by the decisions of the EU.

The Law provides that sanctions may be imposed by applying any of the three types of measures: financial restrictions, economic restrictions and travel restrictions.

Financial restrictions apply to financial instruments and financial resources owned by the country subject to sanctions or to private persons or entities related to that country. When such restrictions are imposed, none of Latvia's financial and capital market participants may carry out any operations involving financial instruments or resources that are owned (either directly or indirectly) by countries or persons subject to such financial restrictions.

Economic restrictions prohibit entry into any transactions involving economic resources or assets which result in the change of ownership, possession or holding of such resources or assets with the aim of creating financial instruments or resources where a contracting party is a country subject to sanctions or person related to that country. According to the Latvian Contract Law, any such transaction would be considered void ab initio.

Travel restrictions prohibit entry into the Republic of Latvia of any person subject to the travel restrictions pursuant to a regulation or a decision of the EU.

A regulation or a decision of the EU is enforceable against the relevant persons by way of decisions of the competent authorities. The implementation and enforcement decisions of the competent authorities are appealable in accordance with the rules of administrative procedure.

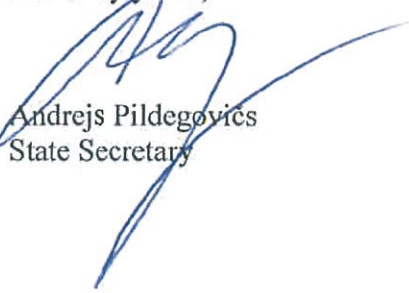
Private or legal persons violating the sanctions imposed by the EU are subject to criminal liability under the Latvian Criminal Law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has drafted an updated Law on Sanctions that is currently in the process of coordination among the involved institutions. The new version shall supplement the list of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the sanctions and clarify the implementation procedure of restrictions. It should also be noted that the draft Law is dealing with the possibility for the Government to impose national sanctions.

As regards specific cases of application, we can confirm that several millions of euros belonging to persons from Ukraine and Russia featuring on the sanction list have been frozen in the banks of Latvia. In addition, criminal proceedings have recently been launched against a company violating restrictions on the provision of tourism services in Crimea.

Recognizing that sanctions are a long-term instrument, we are well aware that an immediate change in Russia's policy towards Ukraine is unlikely. However, we believe that the EU sanctions are an effective tool in preventing any further escalation of the conflict by Russia. Therefore, a review of restrictive measures against Russia is only possible upon a complete and verified implementation of the Minsk agreement, including the reinstatement of Ukraine's control over its border with Russia.

Sincerely yours,



Andrejs Pildegovičs
State Secretary