

LATVIA RATIFIES THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

STRASBOURG, 06.06.2005 - Latvia today ratified the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The Framework Convention will enter into force for Latvia on 1st October 2005.

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 6 June 2005 - Or. Engl.

The Republic of Latvia

- Recognizing the diversity of cultures, religions and languages in Europe, which constitutes one of the features of the common European identity and a particular value,
- Taking into account the experience of the Council of Europe member States and the wish to foster the preservation and development of national minority cultures and languages, while respecting the sovereignty and national-cultural identity of every State,
- Affirming the positive role of an integrated society, including the command of the State language, to the life of a democratic State,
- Taking into account the specific historical experience and traditions of Latvia,

declares that the notion "national minorities" which has not been defined in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, shall, in the meaning of the Framework Convention, apply to citizens of Latvia who differ from Latvians in terms of their culture, religion or language, who have traditionally lived in Latvia for generations and consider themselves to belong to the State and society of Latvia, who wish to preserve and develop their culture, religion or language. Persons who are not citizens of Latvia or another State but who permanently and legally reside in the Republic of Latvia, who do not belong to a national minority within the meaning of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as defined in this declaration, but who identify themselves with a national minority that meets the definition contained in this declaration, shall enjoy the rights prescribed in the Framework Convention, unless specific exceptions are prescribed by law.

Period covered: 1/10/2005 -

The preceding statement concerns Article(s) : -

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 6 June 2005 - Or. Engl.

The Republic of Latvia declares that it will apply the provisions of Article 10, paragraph 2, of the Framework Convention without prejudice to the *Satversme* (Constitution) of the Republic of Latvia and the legislative acts governing the use of

the State language that are currently into force.

Period covered: 1/10/2005 -

The preceding statement concerns Article(s) : 10

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 6 June 2005 - Or. Engl.

The Republic of Latvia declares that it will apply the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Framework Convention without prejudice to the *Satversme* (Constitution) of the Republic of Latvia and the legislative acts governing the use of the State language that are currently into force.

Period covered: 1/10/2005 -

The preceding statement concerns Article(s) : 11