

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Latvia, hereinafter referred to as the “Contracting Parties”,

- desiring to develop optimal principles, forms and methods of operational cooperation and preventive action,
- convinced that cooperation is essential in the effective fight against crime, in particular organised crime, as well as against terrorism,
- drawing on the experience of mutual cooperation so far,
- respecting the laws and international obligations in force in the territories of both Contracting Parties,
- in accordance with the principles of equality, fairness, reciprocity and mutual benefit,
- taking into account international obligations and desiring to further develop police and other law enforcement authorities’ cooperation of both States of the Contracting Parties provided for in the Schengen acquis, other European Union legislation, international agreements and domestic legislation,
- having regard to Council of European Union Recommendation (EU) 2022/915 of 9 June 2022 on operational law enforcement cooperation,

– having regard to Council Decision 2008/615/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime, and Council Decision 2008/616/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the implementation of Decision 2008/615/JHA on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime,

have agreed to:

Section I

General provisions

Article 1

Concepts

For the purposes of this Agreement, “competent authority” shall mean a public authority or any part (unit) thereof authorised, within the limits of its competence, to perform, directly or indirectly, functions relating to the detection, investigation and prevention of crime, including the safeguarding and prevention of threats to the public, and to process personal data relating thereto. The list of competent authorities participating in the implementation of this Agreement is established in Article 4 of this Agreement.

Article 2

Areas of cooperation

1. The Contracting Parties undertake to cooperate in preventing, detecting and combating criminal offences, as defined in the legislation in force in the territories of the States of both Contracting Parties and without prejudice to their international obligations.

2. The Contracting Parties, in cooperation through the competent authorities referred to in Article 4 of this Agreement, shall combat the following crimes:

- 2.1. crimes against human life, health and freedom;
- 2.2. terrorism and terrorism-related crime;
- 2.3. organised crime;
- 2.4. child sexual exploitation and child pornography;
- 2.5. illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;
- 2.6. illicit manufacture, trafficking and disposal of firearms, ammunition, explosives, chemical, biological, radioactive and other dangerous substances;
- 2.7. illegal border crossings and smuggling of people across the state border and other crimes related to state border violations and irregular migration;
- 2.8. trafficking in human beings;
- 2.9. smuggling;
- 2.10. illicit trade in excise goods;
- 2.11. forgery and distribution of personal documents;
- 2.12. crimes against the financial system, the economy and business order, as well as offences related to the legalisation of criminal assets;
- 2.13. offences of a corrupt nature and bribery of officials of the States of Contracting Parties in international business transactions;
- 2.14. crimes against property;
- 2.15. offences related to the infringement of intellectual and industrial property rights;
- 2.16. crimes against the environment;
- 2.17. cybercrime;
- 2.18. violations of international sanctions and activities aimed at circumventing them;
- 2.19. mass public violations;
- 2.20. crimes against democratic elections and referendums;
- 2.21. crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- 2.22. crimes against state.

3. The Contracting Parties shall also cooperate in cases of hybrid unlawful actions being carried out against one of the Contracting Parties by the third parties, when such actions affect the national security of the State of either Contracting Party.

4. Such cooperation shall include exchange of information regarding joint actions against any hostile and/or unlawful actions by the third parties (such as: organised illegal migration, smuggling or other economic crimes), which aim to threaten or destabilise national or public security in either of the States of the Contracting Parties.

5. The Contracting Parties undertake, inter alia, to cooperate in providing assistance in the event of major mass events, disturbances and emergencies with a view to implementing Council Decision 2008/615/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime, Council Decision 2008/616/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the implementation of Decision 2008/615/JHA on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime, Council Decision 2002/348/JHA of 25 April 2002 on security in connection with football matches with an international dimension, and Council Decision 2007/412/JHA of 12 June 2007 amending Council Decision 2002/348/JHA.

Article 3

Forms of cooperation

1. In accordance with the laws and international obligations in force in the territory of a State of a Contracting Party, the methods of cooperation between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall be as follows:

a. exchange of data, including personal data and special categories of personal data, and other information in the context of investigation, disclosure of the crimes referred to in Article 2(2) of this Agreement, as well as implementation of preventive measures against these crimes;

- b. tracing and identifying unidentified adult persons and children, persons evading criminal investigations or judicial decisions on the execution of sentences for crimes committed, avoiding payment of alimony, searching for wanted persons and/or missing persons, identification of unidentified human remains;
- c. assistance in criminal intelligence activities;
- d. assistance, where possible, in case of the need for additional human and/or material resources in the event of a threat to the activities of the competent authorities for which the national resources of one State of the Contracting Party are insufficient;
- e. exchange of experience on the implementation of the legislation in force in the territories of the States of the Contracting Parties, on special measures and methods of preventing and combating crime and on the application of forensic examinations;
- f. exchange of work experience, including organisation and conduct of professional training, working practices, consultations, seminars and training courses, organisation of expert meetings, as well as the exchange of vocational and continuous training programmes and experts;
- g. exchange of analytical information on the causes, conditions and trends of crime, publications and research results, and the legislation in force in the territories of the States of the Contracting Parties;
- h. exchange of information, including personal data, for the purpose of identifying persons illegally staying or residing in the territory of a State of a Contracting Party;
- i. participation in joint investigation teams in accordance with the legislation in force in the territories of the States of the Contracting Parties;
- j. carrying out joint operations, including anti-terrorist operations;
- k. joint preparation of situation reports, threat assessments, action plans and preventive programmes;
- l. application of common measures at the border and in cross-border regions as well as common measures, including carrying out joint operations, to prevent attempts by legal and natural persons to circumvent international sanctions requirements;

m. the submission of joint applications for European Union funding for the implementation of various projects of the Contracting Parties whose objectives are consistent with the objectives of this Agreement, as well as implementation of such projects.

2. The Contracting Parties may also cooperate in other ways consistent with the objectives of this Agreement.

3. For the implementation of this Agreement, separate international inter-agency cooperation agreements may be concluded between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

Article 4

Competent authorities

This Agreement shall be implemented by the following competent authorities of the Contracting Parties:

1. In the Republic of Lithuania:

- 1.1. Special Investigation Service;
- 1.2. Financial Crime Investigation Service under the Ministry of the Interior;
- 1.3. Lithuanian Police;
- 1.4. State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior;
- 1.5. Public Security Service under the Ministry of the Interior;
- 1.6. Lithuanian Customs.

2. In the Republic of Latvia:

- 2.1. State Police;
- 2.2. State Border Guard;
- 2.3. Internal Security Bureau;
- 2.4. State Security Service within the scope of the assigned competence of investigation of criminal offences;
- 2.5. Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau;
- 2.6. Tax and Customs Police.

Article 5
Early warning

Where a threat is likely to arise, and in particular where the threat is likely to affect the other Contracting Party, the competent authority of the affected State of the Contracting Party shall send an early warning to the competent authority of the other Contracting Party, describing the situation and the likely evolution thereof, including, as far as possible, the nature and extent of assistance that may be required.

Article 6
Requests for cooperation

1. Competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall cooperate on the basis of requests. Such requests shall be made in a form of applications developed and communicated directly between the relevant competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

2. Request shall be submitted to the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party in accordance with their competence.

3. The request shall be made in writing and transmitted using available official means of communication and (or) international law enforcement cooperation channels. In cases of extreme urgency, the request may be transmitted orally or using any other suitable channel. Such a request must be confirmed and transmitted in writing without delay, but no later than within 3 working days.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall agree on the specific communication channels for the transmission of requests and the receipt of replies.

5. The transmitted request must indicate the name of the requesting authority, the subject matter of the request and its legal justification. When submitting a request for information, the justification must state the purpose of the requested information, the extent of the information requested and the intended use thereof.

6. If the request concerns the activities of officers or employees of the competent authority of one Contracting Party in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party, in that case the request should include in addition the number of officers or employees of the competent authorities of the Contracting Party involved in such actions, the time and duration of their action, a description of the actions envisaged (as far as the secrecy of the action allows), the list of special measures to be used and the person coordinating the action.

7. Where a request is transmitted for execution to a competent authority of the Contracting Party which, within the limits of its competence, is unable to execute such a request, that competent authority of the Contracting Party shall forward the request to the relevant competent authority of the Contracting Party and shall inform the competent authority of the requesting Contracting Party accordingly. The competent authority of the Contracting Party to which such a request is forwarded shall execute it and respond directly to the competent authority of the requesting Contracting Party.

8. If the request cannot be fulfilled in whole or in part under the conditions laid down therein, the competent authority of the requested Contracting Party shall immediately inform the competent authority of the requesting Contracting Party.

9. Requests should be executed without delay, with replies no later than:

a. within 8 hours of the receipt of the request, in urgent cases, provided that the information or data is stored in a database directly accessible to the competent authority of the Contracting Party. If it is not possible to provide the information within the specified time limit, the information shall be provided within 3 calendar days;

b. within 7 calendar days of receipt of the request, in non-urgent cases, provided that the information or data is stored in a database directly accessible to the competent authority of the Contracting Party;

c. within 14 calendar days of the receipt of the request, in other cases or immediately as control or criminal intelligence acts have been carried out, if the subject-matter of the request requires them to be carried out.

10. In cases of joint operations, requests shall be answered within 3 calendar days and, in urgent cases, within 8 hours at the latest.

11. If the request cannot be fulfilled within the established term, the competent authority of the Contracting Party shall inform the competent authority of the requesting Contracting Party as soon as possible providing information on the length of the expected delay.

12. Requests under this Agreement shall not be used for obtaining or executing investigative measures where European Union law requires the use of a European Investigation Order or another instrument of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Section II

Common forms of cooperation

Article 7

Exchange of information

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall, upon request, on the basis of reciprocity:

- a. provide information, including personal data, that could help to prevent, detect and combat crime;
- b. provide information, including personal data, on illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, new psychoactive substances and drug precursors, as well as on the locations and ways in which they are produced and stored;
- c. exchange information on legal regulations and experience relevant to the subject matter of this Agreement;
- d. provide information, including personal data, on illicit trade in excise goods and counterfeit and pirated products, on their production and storage, their destination and other tax irregularities, including information on tax settlements and cash flows;
- e. provide information on documents authorising entry and stay in the territory of the States of the Contracting Parties, documents on vehicles and documents certifying the right to drive vehicles and exchange specimens of such documents, if necessary;

f. provide relevant information on the routes and scale of facilitated irregular migration and facilitated migration, as well as on trends in irregular migration;

g. provide information on activity, composition, methods and forms of operation of organised groups and criminal associations involved in organising illegal migration;

h. provide information on the manufacture and use of documents, which are falsified, forged or obtained by false pretenses;

i. provide information enabling the identification of objects, in particular weapons, ammunition and explosives, or information on their current owners or holders, as well as samples of explosives and other dangerous substances;

j. provide information enabling the identification of goods subject to international sanctions, persons transporting them or persons involved in their transport, the methods used to circumvent sanctions;

k. provide information facilitating the disclosure of cases of bribery of officials of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties in cross-border business transactions;

l. exchange information on planned and committed terrorist attacks, on the methods of activity of the perpetrators or persons suspected of committing them, as well as on terrorist groups and members of these groups, and on methods of financing terrorism;

m. exchange information, including personal data, on persons illegally staying or residing in the territory of the States of the Contracting Parties;

n. exchange information on travel routes, intentions, behavior of organised groups in the event of major mass events, disturbances and emergencies.

2. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may provide information on their own initiative.

3. Where one competent authority of a Contracting Party has provided inaccurate or incorrect information, the competent authority of a Contracting Party which has received or supplied the information shall be notified without delay, and such information shall be immediately rectified by the competent authority of the providing Contracting Party.

4. Where cooperation has resulted in the transmission of information, which is prohibited to transfer, the competent authority of a Contracting Party shall immediately inform the competent authority of the Contracting Party to which such information has been transmitted and the latter must immediately erase and/or destroy such information received.

5. Each competent authority of the Contracting Party shall maintain a record of information exchanges for the purpose of verification, accountability and data protection compliance.

6. The provisions of this Agreement shall be without prejudice to the provisions of European Union legislation and international bilateral and/or multilateral agreements under which the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties exchange information relating to the performance of tasks falling within their competence.

Article 8

Exchange of liaison officers

1. In order to facilitate the implementation of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties may second a liaison officer of the competent authority of one Contracting Party to carry out specific tasks in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party.

2. In such a case, liaison officers of the competent authority of one Contracting Party shall ensure:

- a. the smooth exchange of information in accordance with the provisions of Articles 2, 3 and 7 of this Agreement;
- b. execution of requests in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of this Agreement;
- c. cooperation in the implementation of readmission agreements;
- d. the performance of other cooperation tasks which are consistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall provide liaison officers with all necessary assistance in the performance of their tasks.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall take advantage of the common use of liaison officers as laid down in the Council Decision 2003/170/JHA of 27 February 2003 on the common use of liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States.

Section III
Specific forms of cooperation

Article 9
Joint investigation teams

1. Joint investigation teams may be set up according to national legislation by mutual agreement with a view to prevent unjustified delay of the process related to the need to carry out investigative activities for the detection and combating of criminal offenses committed by organised crime groups in several countries.

2. The objectives, duration and composition of the joint investigation teams shall be determined by separate agreements and pursuant to national legislation, harmonized with the European Union acquis in the respective fields.

Article 10
Protection of witnesses and persons

The competent authorities of a Contracting Party may, at the request of the competent authority of the other Contracting Party, provide assistance with regard to the protection of witnesses and persons protected under the legislation in force in the territory of the State of each Contracting Party.

Article 11

Covert operations

1. In the context of cooperation in the areas referred to in Article 2 of this Agreement the competent authorities of one Contracting Party shall, at the request of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party, assist officers of the competent authorities of the requesting Contracting Party to conduct covert investigations in the territory of the State of the requested Contracting Party into offences coverable by the European Arrest Warrant. Such investigations may be conducted only provided that an authorisation has been obtained from the competent authority of the Contracting Party in the territory of the State whereof the investigation is to be conducted. Such authorisation may be subject to certain conditions being met. The officers of the competent authority of the Contracting Party conducting such investigations may operate under covert identity. Disclosure of the true identity of the officer of the competent authority of the Contracting Party is not required.

2. A request for authorisation to carry out a covert operation shall be transmitted by the competent authority of one Contracting Party to the competent authority of the other Contracting Party in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6 of this Agreement.

3. The covert operation is limited to the actions and time limits specified in the request. These actions shall be carried out in strict compliance with the terms of authorisation of the covert operation granted by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties. Such actions shall be led by the officer of the competent authority of the requested Contracting Party. The actions of officers of the competent authorities of the requesting Contracting Party with all the consequences thereof shall be attributed to the requested Contracting Party.

4. The officers of the competent authority of the requesting Contracting Party shall, at the request of the competent authority which has given its consent and after bilateral consultations have been held, assign or terminate officers of the competent authority of the Contracting Party in whose territory the covert operation is being conducted, unless such termination would endanger the life, health or safety of the officer (or members of his/her family) carrying out the covert operation.

5. The competent authorities of the Contracting Party in whose territory the covert officer or covert human intelligence source has acted shall be notified in writing without delay and at the latest within 3 calendar days of the completion of the action and the outcome thereof.

6. Where, due to extreme urgency, it is not possible to make a request as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the actions initiated by an officer of the competent authority of a Contracting Party, who has the status of a covert officer or covert human intelligence source under the legislation in force in the territory of his own State shall be authorised to continue in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party, provided that there is a serious risk that the identity of the covert officer or covert human intelligence source will be disclosed and these actions are limited to protecting the real identity of the covert officer. Continued action must be notified without delay to the competent authority of the other Contracting Party competent for actions carried out by the covert officer.

7. At the request of the competent authority of the requested Contracting Party, the actions must be terminated immediately and reported to the competent authority of the other Contracting Party, unless such termination would endanger the life, health or safety of the officer (or members of his/her family) carrying out the covert operation.

8. In accordance with the legislation in force in the territory of the States of the Contracting Parties, the identity of the covert officer or covert human intelligence source (and the members of his/her family) shall also be protected after the finalisation of the covert operation.

9. The competent authority of the requested Contracting Party should take all necessary actions to assist the competent authority of the requesting Contracting Party in carrying out covert operations and in protecting officers of competent authority of both Contracting Parties.

Article 12

Controlled delivery

1. Upon request, the competent authority of the requested Contracting Party may give its consent to the controlled delivery of items obtained from or intended to be carried out in criminal proceedings where it would otherwise be impossible or very difficult to identify the actors of the offence or to detect distribution routes. Consent and conditions shall be given in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force in the territory of the State of the requested Contracting Party. The competent authority of the requested Contracting Party may refuse to authorise controlled deliveries if this directly endangers human life and health or is likely to have other serious consequences.

2. The request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be submitted to the competent authority of the other Contracting Party in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6 of this Agreement.

3. The competent authority of the requested Contracting Party shall take control of controlled deliveries at a border crossing or another coordinated location. The competent authority of the requested Contracting Party shall ensure continuous control of the controlled delivery in such a form that it can be intercepted and detained at any time.

4. Where necessary, the competent authorities of Contracting Parties may coordinate the control of controlled deliveries by officers of the competent authorities of both Contracting Parties. In such a case, the officers of the competent authority of the requesting Contracting Party shall comply with the legislation in force in the territory of the State of the requested Contracting Party and with the requirements of the officers of competent authority of that Contracting Party.

5. At the request of the competent authorities of the requested Contracting Party, the actions relating to the controlled delivery must be terminated immediately. The results of controlled deliveries may be used only to the extent that the competent authority of the requested Contracting Party has given its consent.

6. Consent to a request for controlled delivery which starts or continues in a third country shall be given only if the request contains an attestation that the third country fulfils the conditions set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article.

Article 13

Cross-border surveillance

1. Cross-border surveillance shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Article 40 of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement of 14 June 1985 between the Governments of the States of the Benelux Economic Union, the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic on the gradual abolition of checks at their common borders, as amended, hereinafter referred to as "the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement", in so far as those provisions are not supplemented or extended by the provisions of this Agreement.

2. In addition to paragraph 1 of this Article, cross-border surveillance may be carried out for the purpose of preventing, detecting, or establishing whether a criminal offence punishable by deprivation of liberty of at least one year has been committed or is being prepared.

3. If, for particularly urgent reasons, it is not possible to apply in advance for authorisation for cross-border surveillance, officers of the competent authorities of the Contracting Party carrying out the surveillance shall be authorised to proceed with the surveillance in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party according to Article 40 (2) of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement in order to prevent or to establish whether concrete criminal offence has been committed or is being prepared, which may serve as a basis for issuance of the European Arrest Warrant.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may request surveillance on their territory by officers of competent authorities of another Contracting Party. In such a case, this request to the competent authority of the other Contracting Party shall at the same time constitute the consent of officers of competent authorities of the other Contracting Party to cross the border between States and to carry out cross-border surveillance.

5. Cross-border surveillance shall be carried out under the following conditions:

a. the request for consent to cross-border surveillance shall be made through the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties, appointed by the Contracting Parties;

b. the competent authorities of both Contracting Parties may decide to carry out joint cross-border surveillance. Officers of the competent authority of the Contracting Party carrying out cross-border surveillance in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party shall be under the authority of officers of the competent authority of the other Contracting Party;

c. copies of materials obtained during cross-border surveillance in the territory of the State of another Contracting Party should be transmitted to the competent authority of the Contracting Party in whose territory the cross-border surveillance took place upon request.

6. Officers of the competent authority of the Contracting Parties may, in accordance with the procedure laid down in this Article, continue the surveillance of a person in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party in person and/or by technical means which have been authorised by the competent authority of the Contracting Party in whose territory the surveillance is to be carried out.

Article 14

Masking measures

1. Officers of the competent authority of the Contracting Parties shall, when cooperating in the areas referred to in Articles 9 to 13 of this Agreement, have the right to use the registration and distinguishing signs, documents, document patterns, their specialities, state registration plates of vehicles, which do not allow the identification of officers and/or their affiliation to law enforcement authorities.

2. The competent authorities of the requested Contracting Party shall, in accordance with the legislation in force in the territory of its State, ensure access to the documents and measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article for officers of the competent authority of the requesting Contracting Party.

3. The competent authorities of the requested Contracting Party may lay down procedures for the use, retention and return of the documents and instruments referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, as well as for payment for the loss, damage or destruction of such documents.

Article 15

Special means

1. Officers of the competent authorities of the one Contracting Party may use the necessary special means in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party, provided that this is permitted by the legislation in force in the territory of the State of the Contracting Party in which the special means are to be used and only with the prior authorisation of the competent authority of the requested Contracting Party.

2. The competent authority of one Contracting Party shall communicate to the respective competent authority of the other Contracting Party the legislative requirements on special means that could be used within its territory.

3. Within the cooperation of this Agreement the special means are recognized to be objects or mechanisms and chemical substances intended for self-protection or ensuring of public order and security, but which are not firearms.

4. On the grounds of extreme urgency referred to in Article 11(6) or Article 13(3) of this Agreement, the use of special means must also be notified to the competent authority of respective Contracting Party.

Article 16

Hot pursuit

1. Hot pursuit shall be carried out in accordance with, but not limited to, Article 41 of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and the provisions of the Convention on Mutual Assistance and Cooperation between Customs Administrations, drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union.

2. Hot pursuit may also be carried out in order to prevent a person or to stop a person, who has committed or attempted to commit an offence, which may serve as a basis for issuance of the European Arrest Warrant.

3. The officers of the relevant competent authorities of the Contracting Party may continue hot pursuit into the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party without prior authorisation for:

a. a suspected person who has committed or attempted to commit an offence in the territory of the State of the requesting Contracting Party, which is punishable by a custodial sentence of at least one year in accordance with the national laws and regulations of the States of both Contracting Parties;

b. a person who has escaped from pre-trial detention or imprisonment and where a delay resulting from the procedure of prior notification of the competent authority of the requested Contracting Party would significantly impede the arrest of the offender, and it is estimated that the competent authority of the requested Contracting Party would not be able to take over the hot pursuit in due time;

c. a person who has refused to comply with a lawful order of an officer of a competent authority of a Contracting Party to stop his/her motor vehicle.

4. Before or immediately after crossing the border, the competent authority of the host Contracting Party shall be notified through the agreed communication channel. The hot pursuit shall cease at the request of that competent authority of the Contracting Party.

5. Hot pursuit shall be carried out under the following conditions:

a. officers of the competent authorities of the Contracting Party in whose territory the pursuit is ongoing may carry out joint actions of pursuit. In such a case, hot pursuit shall be coordinated by officers of the competent authorities of the Contracting Party in whose territory the pursuit continues. Officers of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party shall be bound by instructions from officers responsible for coordination;

b. hot pursuit is carried out without limitation of space or time, including crossing land, air, maritime borders;

c. officers of the competent authorities of the Contracting Party conducting hot pursuit in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party shall have the right to stop vehicles, to carry out a search of a person, to check documents, vehicles and objects, to use physical force and other coercive measures at their disposal in the state of extreme necessity with a view to detaining and safely handing over the opposing person to officers of the competent authorities of the Contracting Party in whose territory the person was apprehended. Respective competent authority of the Contracting Party shall inform competent authority of the other Contracting Party regarding the use of physical force and other coercive measures under this paragraph;

d. upon detention, the person pursued shall be surrendered without delay to the officers of the competent authorities of the Contracting Party in whose territory the pursuit continued.

6. After the hot pursuit, a full written report shall be submitted to the competent authority of the host Contracting Party without delay, detailing the circumstances, time, place, and measures taken.

Section IV
Cooperation in the cross-border regions

Article 17
Joint operations

1. The competent authorities of a Contracting Party may, within the limits of their competence, appoint officers under their authority to perform their duties jointly with the officers of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party in the territory of that State, in accordance with the legislation in force in the territory of the State of that Contracting Party, where actions will be performed.

2. Officers and/or equipment of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may be used for joint operations:

- a. during major political, sporting or cultural events;
- b. during conferences, exchange of experience, trainings, including international scenario-based trainings, forums or other major international events;
- c. during official visits of heads of foreign states or other guests;
- d. during emergencies or crisis situations;
- e. in joint patrols;
- f. while ensuring public order and road safety;
- g. while preventing criminal offences;
- h. in the establishment of common management and coordination or cooperation centres;
- i. while internal border controls are temporarily reintroduced.

3. Once the decision to participate in a joint operation has been taken, the competent authority of the Contracting Party shall complete and coordinate the documents concerning the use of the participating officers and equipment in the territory of the State of other Contracting Party, and shall coordinate practical and organisational matters concerning the provision of officers and equipment to the joint operation.

4. The secondment of officers of the competent authorities of a Contracting Party and the process of providing equipment for a joint operation shall be carried out in accordance with the legislation in force in the territory of the State of the sending Contracting Party.

Article 18

Joint patrol

1. Officers of the competent authorities of a Contracting Party for a limited period of time and for the performance of specific tasks within the scope of this Agreement may take part in joint patrols in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party.

2. The joint patrol shall consist of at least one official from the competent authority of each Contracting Party. Joint patrol officers shall be under the authority of an officer of the competent authority of the Contracting Party in whose territory the patrol takes place.

Article 19

Cooperation Centers and Contact Points

1. A Cooperation Centre or a Contact Point of competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may be established in the territory of a State of one Contracting Party, which may, inter alia, be mobile (equipped in an official vehicle). The staff of the Cooperation Centre or the Contact Point shall be the officers or employees of these institutions performing functions assigned to them.

2. Officers and employees of the Cooperation Centre or Contact Point shall not have the right to carry out independent intelligence activities.

3. The Cooperation Centre or the Contact Point shall operate in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and in accordance with a separate agreement between the competent authorities of Contracting Parties, which shall specify, inter alia, the scope, manner and arrangements for reimbursement of operating costs.

Article 20

Temporary reintroduction of joint border control at internal borders

1. In the event of the temporary reintroduction of joint border control at internal borders by both Contracting Parties as referred to in Articles 25 to 30 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), the following provisions shall apply:

a. joint border check-point may be established (used) in the territory of the State of another Contracting Party, according to the agreement achieved by the State Border guard authorities of both Contracting Parties on the establishment of the joint border check-point. The State Border guard authority of the Contracting Party when giving its consent to carry out joint border checks on its territory and after the respective decision on the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the internal border in accordance with national legislation is made, specify the conditions to be complied with for the establishment and performance of joint border checks in the territory of that State;

b. joint border checks must be terminated at the request of the competent authority of the Contracting Party in whose territory of the State they are carried out also taking into account the date set out in the decision on the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the internal border.

2. Joint border check-points should be located as close as possible to the common state border. Joint border check-points may also be installed on cross-border rail traffic routes.

3. The State Border guard authorities of the Contracting Parties should draw up lists of places on their territory which are suitable for the establishment of joint border check-points, as well as for cross-border rail traffic, indicating the territory of the State of the Contracting Party in which they are located. The State Border guard authorities of the Contracting Parties shall exchange these lists and shall immediately inform each other of any changes to those lists.

4. The State Border guard authorities of the Contracting Parties shall conclude mutual agreement to determine the arrangements for the organisation of measures for the temporary reintroduction of joint border control at the internal border. The agreement shall determine the measures for the temporary reintroduction of joint border control, its implementation and scope, including:

- a. the distribution of the territories of responsibility (border sections) of the state border;
- b. roads and places for the establishment of temporary joint border check-points;
- c. roads to be closed and the method of their closure;
- d. the content of the technologies for checking the temporary joint border check-points;
- e. ensuring the development and updating of the technologies for checking the temporary joint border check-points, which should be made by authorised border representatives of the State Border guard authorities of the Contracting Parties;
- f. planning and provision of technical infrastructure;
- g. actions to be made in the event of a decision on the temporary reintroduction of joint border control at internal borders and other relevant issues.

5. The State Border guard authorities of the Contracting Parties may also conclude agreements to determine the actions for the organization, implementation and the scope of measures for the temporary reintroduction of joint border control on cross-border railway traffic routes.

6. The costs related to joint border checks and temporary joint border check-points shall be borne by the Contracting Party on whose territory of the State the temporary reintroduction of joint border control is implemented, unless otherwise agreed. The Contracting Party on whose State territory border controls are carried out shall be responsible for the proper marking, security and public order within the border crossing points.

7. The laws of one Contracting Party relating to the performance of joint border checks, in accordance with this Agreement, shall be applied in the territory of the State of other Contracting Party where temporary joint border check-points are established in the same manner as in the territory of the State of that Contracting Party. Violation of these laws shall entail the same liability as for similar violations in the territory of the State of that Contracting Party.

Section V

Implementation of the Agreement and final provisions

Article 21

Relationship with other international agreements

This Agreement does not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties arising from other international agreements to which the Contracting Parties and their States are parties.

Article 22

Communication of contact details

1. Upon entry into force of this Agreement, the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall within one month communicate to each other, through diplomatic channels, their contact details.

2. The Contracting Parties or their competent authorities shall immediately notify each other in writing of any changes in the information referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article or the changes in the list of competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

Article 23
Costs and reimbursement of damages

1. Unless this Agreement provides otherwise, each Contracting Party shall bear its own costs incurred in implementing this Agreement.

2. The Contracting Parties shall waive all claims for reimbursement of damages related to the loss or damage of the property caused by officers or employees of the competent authorities of another Contracting Party in carrying out tasks related to the implementation of this Agreement.

3. The Contracting Parties shall waive any claim for compensation in cases of damage caused to the health of officers or employees of their competent authorities or their death during performance of their duties in connection with the implementation of this Agreement. This provision shall be without prejudice to the right of officers or employees of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties, as well as persons entitled to compensation, to receive compensation under the legislation in force in the territory of the States of the Contracting Parties.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article shall not apply where the damage is caused intentionally or by gross negligence.

5. In the event of damage caused to a third party by officers or employees of a competent authority of one Contracting Party in the performance of tasks related to the implementation of this Agreement in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party, the Contracting Party, whose officers inflicted the damage, shall be obliged to compensate the injured party in full or the person entitled to compensation for the damage caused. This provision shall not apply if the officers or employees of the competent authorities of the Contracting Party who caused the damage have taken direct instructions under the direction of officers or employees of the competent authority of the other Contracting Party, unless they have caused such damage intentionally or by gross negligence.

6. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall cooperate closely to facilitate actions relating to claims for damages.

Article 24

Rights and obligations of officers and employees

1. Officers or employees of the competent authorities of a Contracting Party shall have the same rights and obligations in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party as officers or employees of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party, unless this Agreement or any additional agreement implementing this Agreement state otherwise.

2. The Contracting Parties shall provide officers or employees of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party carrying out acts in their own territory with the same protection and assistance during their service as their own officers or employees.

3. Officers and employees of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall be subject to official, administrative, criminal and civil liability in accordance with the legislation in force in the territory of the State of the Contracting Party in whose territory the offence was committed.

Article 25

Powers of officers in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party

1. Officers of the competent authorities of a Contracting Party carrying out acts in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party shall be bound by the legislation in force in the territory of the State of that other Contracting Party. They shall not have management authority unless otherwise provided in this Agreement.

2. For the purpose of implementing this Agreement, officers of the competent authorities of one Contracting Party shall be entitled, in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party:

- a. to operate in service uniforms and service vehicles (with special marking, lights and sound), except those operating within the scope of Article 14 of this Agreement;
- b. to possess and carry their equipment, service firearms and ammunition, and to use them only in cases of legitimate self-defence or extreme necessity;
- c. to possess and use special means;

- d. to have and use service animals necessary for the service;
- e. to possess and use their own means of communication and material-technical equipment.

3. Officers of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties, when acting in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party, shall carry with them an official certificate (service card), provided that this is not contrary to the provisions of Article 14 of this Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall, where necessary or at the request of the competent authority of the other Contracting Party, notify each other of the types of service firearms and ammunition and special means used for operations in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party.

Article 26

Temporary crossing of the state border

If necessary, because of the road infrastructure or in other urgent cases, officers of the competent authorities of one Contracting Party may enter the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party in the course of their service and shall immediately return to the territory of their own State by the shortest possible route.

Article 27

Actions in international transport

1. Officers of the competent authorities of a Contracting Party may, when carrying out operations on cross-border rail traffic routes in their territory, enter the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party with the necessary means as referred to in Article 25(2) and (3) of this Agreement, board or disembark these trains having completed the actions in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party, and return immediately to the territory of their own State.

2. If actions initiated in the territory of their own State, in particular screening of persons or objects, cannot be completed before the first scheduled railway station in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party, they may continue in the territory of a State of the other Contracting Party beyond the first scheduled stop only with the agreement of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party.

3. Officers of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall give prior notification of the planned crossing of the border through a Cooperation Centre or Contact Point.

4. In the course of the actions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the persons detained or the items seized shall be handed over to officers of the other competent authority of one Contracting Party at a railway station nearest to the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party on the route.

Article 28

The sovereignty clause

A Contracting Party which decides that the implementation of a request or the performance of an action under this Agreement would prejudice its national security or State interests, would jeopardise the ongoing investigation or intelligence operation related to the crime or the security of persons, or would be manifestly disproportionate or insignificant in relation to the purposes for which the request was made, may refuse, in whole or in part, the execution of such a request or impose additional requirements for the execution of such request.

Article 29

Protection of classified information

1. Classified information may be exchanged directly between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties for the purpose of implementing this Agreement.

2. The protection of classified information of the Contracting Parties shall be governed by the provisions of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Mutual Recognition of Classified Information, signed in Vilnius on 3 December, 2014.

Article 30

Protection of personal data

The Contracting Parties shall, when implementing this Agreement, comply with the laws in force in their territories concerning the protection of personal data. The Contracting Parties also undertake to comply with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA.

Article 31

Evaluation of the implementation of the Agreement

Representatives of the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall assess the implementation of this Agreement once in 5 (five) years and decide on the need to amend or supplement the provisions of the Agreement.

Article 32
Language of cooperation

The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall use English for the purpose of implementing this Agreement. Where the competent authorities of a Contracting Party send information or documents in their official language, such material should also be accompanied by a translation into the official language of the other Contracting Party or into the English language.

Article 33
Dispute resolution

1. Disputes concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled by direct consultations and negotiations between the Contracting Parties or their competent authorities and shall be recorded in a protocol.

2. If no agreement is reached in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, the dispute shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

Article 34
Relationship with existing agreements

1. On the date of entry into force of this Agreement, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Cooperation in Combating Organised Crime and other Offences and on Joint Actions in Border Regions, signed in Vilnius on 7 June 2006, shall be considered terminated.

2. All international inter-agency agreements signed on the basis of the agreement referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall remain in force as long as they do not contradict the provisions of this Agreement and shall be reviewed within 2 (two) years from the date of entry into force of this Agreement, unless otherwise agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

Article 35

Entry into force, amendments and supplements

1. This Agreement shall be concluded for an indefinite period and shall enter into force 3 (three) months after the date of the receipt of the last notification by the Contracting Party referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

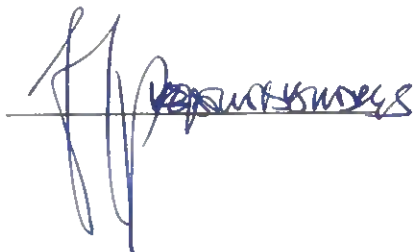
2. The Contracting Parties shall notify each other through diplomatic channels upon the completion of their national procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement.

3. The Contracting Parties may amend or supplement this Agreement by mutual written consent in the form of additional protocols, which shall enter into force in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article and shall constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

4. Each Contracting Party may terminate this Agreement by means of a notification through diplomatic channels. In such a case, this Agreement shall expire 3 (three) months after the date on which the other Contracting Party receives the notification of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

Signed in Vilnius on 15 July 2026 in duplicate in the Lithuanian, Latvian and English languages. All texts are authentic. In the event of disagreement as to the interpretation of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA**



**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LATVIA**

