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**Latvia
and
Lithuania**

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on mutual protection of classified information. Vilnius, 3 December 2014

Entry into force: *22 May 2015 by notification, in accordance with article 13*

Authentic texts: *English, Latvian and Lithuanian*

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**Lettonie
et
Lituanie**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République de Lettonie et le Gouvernement de la République de Lituanie relatif à la protection réciproque des informations classifiées. Vilnius, 3 décembre 2014

Entrée en vigueur : *22 mai 2015 par notification, conformément à l'article 13*

Textes authentiques : *anglais, letton et lituanien*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA
ON MUTUAL PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED
INFORMATION**

The Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

Wishing to further develop and strengthen their political, economic, technological and military co-operation,

Desiring to promote mutual trust and confidence,

Realizing that effective co-operation may require exchange of Classified Information between the Parties,

Desiring to establish a set of rules regulating the mutual protection of Classified Information exchanged or generated in the course of the cooperation between the Parties,

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1
Objective and Scope**

(1) The objective of this Agreement is to ensure protection of Classified Information that is exchanged or generated in the process of co-operation between the Parties.

(2) This Agreement shall be applicable to any activities, contracts or agreements involving Classified Information, that will be conducted or concluded between the Parties.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement:

(1) “**Classified Information**” shall mean information, regardless of the form, nature or method of transfer thereof, whether prepared or being prepared, which in the interest of national security and in accordance with the national laws and regulations of the Parties requires protection against breach of security and has been so designated by a classification marking.

(2) “**Classification Marking**” shall mean a mark on any Classified Information, which identifies the classification level and characterizes the level of restriction of access to Classified Information and the minimum level of its protection.

(3) “**Personnel Security Clearance**” shall mean a positive determination of the National Security Authority or the Competent Authority in the form of a document which confirms the loyalty and trustworthiness of an individual as well as other security aspects in accordance with the national laws and regulations and which grants access to Classified Information up to a certain classification level.

(4) “**Facility Security Clearance**” shall mean a positive determination of the National Security Authority or the Competent Authority in the form of a document which confirms that a Contractor is authorized to receive, store and handle Classified Information up to a certain classification level.

(5) “**Originating Party**” shall mean an Administrative Entity of the state of the Party which provides Classified Information.

(6) “**Receiving Party**” shall mean an Administrative Entity of the state of the Party or a Contractor to which Classified Information is transmitted.

(7) “**National Security Authority**” shall mean the Administrative Entity that in accordance with the national laws and regulations is responsible for the implementation and

supervision of this Agreement. Such authorities are listed in Article 5 of this Agreement.

(8) “**Competent Authority**” shall mean any Administrative Entity, which is responsible for the implementation of this Agreement in the fields concerned.

(9) “**Administrative Entity**” shall mean a state or municipal institution and enterprise founded by such institution, which deals with Classified Information and which in accordance with the national laws and regulations is authorized to classify and to declassify information.

(10) “**Contractor**” shall mean an individual or a legal entity possessing the legal capacity to conclude a Classified Contract under the provisions of this Agreement.

(11) “**Classified Contract**” shall mean an agreement or a project, the implementation of which requires access to or generation of Classified Information.

(12) “**Need-to-know Principle**” shall mean the necessity to have access to Classified Information in connection with official duties or for the performance of a specific official task.

(13) “**Third Party**” shall mean a state or international organization, which is not a Party to this Agreement.

(14) “**Breach of Security**” shall mean an act or an omission contrary to the national laws and regulations, which may lead to disclosure, loss, destruction, misappropriation or any other type of compromise of Classified Information.

Article 3

Classification Markings

(1) The Parties agree that the following Classification Markings are equivalent and correspond to the Classification Markings specified in the national laws and regulations of the respective Party:

For the Republic of Latvia	Equivalent in English	For the Republic of Lithuania
SEVIŠĶI SLEPENI	TOP SECRET	VISIŠKAI SLAPTAI
SLEPENI	SECRET	SLAPTAI
KONFIDENCIĀLI	CONFIDENTIAL	KONFIDENCIALIAI
DIENESTA VAJADŽĪBĀM	RESTRICTED	RIBOTO NAUDOJIMO

(2) The Receiving Party shall mark the received Classified Information with equivalent national Classification Marking. The Receiving Party shall not declassify received Classified Information or alter its classification level without the prior written consent of the Originating Party. The Originating Party shall inform in writing the Receiving Party of any changes in classification level of the exchanged Classified Information without delay.

(3) The Originating Party apart from the Classification Marking may use any additional markings. The National Security Authorities shall inform each other of any additional markings and their handling instructions.

Article 4

Principles of Protection of Classified Information

(1) In compliance with their national laws and regulations, the Parties shall implement all appropriate measures for the protection of Classified Information, which is generated or exchanged under this Agreement. The same level of protection shall be ensured for such Classified Information as it is provided for the national Classified Information, with the corresponding classification level.

(2) Access to Classified Information shall be granted only to individuals who are authorized in accordance with the national laws and regulations to have access to Classified Information of the equivalent classification level and applying the Need-to-know Principle.

(3) The National Security Authorities shall assist each other upon request and in accordance with the national laws and