

CHARTER OF THE LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

(Adopted at the General Meeting of the Latvian Academy of Sciences on 22 November 1996. Ratified by the Saeima (Parliament of the Republic of Latvia) on 23 January 1997.)

GENERAL

The Latvian Academy of Sciences is a successor of several scientific associations which previously existed in Latvia. Its predecessors are the Kurzeme Society for Literature and Art, founded in 1815 in Jelgava and the Commission of Science, founded within the Rīga Latvian Society in 1869, which in 1932 was reorganised into the Science Committee with the status of a private academy of sciences. Since 1919, the government of the Republic of Latvia had repeatedly considered the foundation of an official Latvian Academy of Sciences. In 1927, the idea was supported by Rainis, who was then Minister of Education. In 1935, the intention to create the Latvian Academy of Sciences was expressed in public by the Prime Minister Kārlis Ulmanis, and on 14 January 1936, by the Cabinet's Act, the Institute of History of Latvia was founded as the first constituent part of this Academy.

In Latvia, the Academy of Sciences started its work on 14 February 1946, when academy members gathered for their first General Meeting. Scientists from the University of Latvia and the Latvian Academy of Agriculture formed the core of the Academy of Sciences. When adopting the Charter and the new Statute, by the decision of the General Meeting, adopted on 14 February 1992, the Latvian Academy of Sciences was reorganised into a classical academy which united elected members - prominent scientists and other scholars. In the restored Republic of Latvia, the Latvian Academy of Sciences facilitates the development of sciences, carries out scientific research. It takes care that all special knowledge that Latvia and the Latvian people have given and can give to the world science and culture - national culture, language, folklore, literature, social and economic experience, traditions - are realised, studied, perfected, maintained, and passed over to the future generations. It studies and preserves the historical traditions of Rīga and regions of Latvia, shows the place of the Baltic countries in the world. The Latvian Academy of Sciences has joined the international scientific community, collaborates with other academies of sciences and scientific organisations in Europe and the world.

Article 1

LEGAL BASIS OF THE LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

In the Republic of Latvia, there is one Latvian Academy of Sciences as a centre of national importance, formed by the state. The Latvian Academy of Sciences is an autonomous legal entity which consists of elected members of the Latvian Academy of Sciences and which is subsidised by the state. The Latvian Academy of Sciences functions in accordance with its Charter and Statute. The Charter is adopted by the General Meeting of the Latvian Academy of Sciences and endorsed by the Saeima (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia. The Saeima and the Cabinet of Ministers can assign certain tasks and authority to the Academy of Sciences in the field of science. The Latvian Academy of Sciences may associate with scientific research institutions, societies, foundations, scientific technical organisations, universities, and higher educational institutions. Their collaboration with the Latvian Academy of Sciences is based on mutual agreement. In order to fulfil the goals of the Academy, groups of scientists or institutions are formed, which may function within the Latvian Academy of Sciences. Members of the Latvian Academy of Sciences are elected prominent Latvian and foreign scientists, and honorary members - also universally recognised Latvian scholars of other spheres. The Latvian Academy of Sciences is a legal entity. It observes the laws of the Republic of Latvia and international legal acts.

Article 2

GOALS AND KEY DIRECTIONS OF THE LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Goals and key directions of the Latvian Academy of Sciences are:

to develop science, to facilitate and carry out studies in the sphere of basic and applied sciences, to promote the study and development of the history, culture, and language of the Latvian people and the state, as well as to support studies connected with the natural resources of Latvia, possibilities for their optimal utilisation and protection of environment; to prognosticate processes of Latvia's development, to report promptly to the government and the community about scientific forecasts on desirable and undesirable consequences of different economic, cultural, and social processes and projects.

Article 3.

RIGHTS OF THE LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Latvian Academy of Sciences has the rights:

to collaborate with institutions of higher education and scientific research organisational system, to delegate its representatives for work in these institutions;

to receive information in the Saeima commissions, ministries, and other governmental institutions on preparation and modification of laws and regulations, which are related to science and higher education, as well as to express its opinion about these documents;

to undertake initiative in the development of new scientific trends and scientific institutions which are connected with them;

to award a degree of the Dr.h.c. (Doctor honoris causa) of the Latvian Academy of Sciences to Latvian and foreign scientists; ⌚ to propose and adopt modifications in its Charter, to submit them for endorsement to the Saeima;

to preserve in its archives, depositories, and libraries manuscripts and documents belonging to prominent people in science, literature, art, and other spheres of culture, as well as other materials important for science and history.

Article 4

OBLIGATIONS OF THE LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Latvian Academy of Sciences has the obligation:

to take an active part in the development of science policy of Latvia and to promptly advise the Saeima and government in matters of science;

to participate in scientific expertise of different governmental programmes, in stating the research level of studies, projects, programmes, and scientific institutions;

to recognise excellence in science of Latvia (to award prizes for outstanding contribution in science of Latvia);

to promote principles of self-government and democracy of science and scientists of Latvia, to protect these principles in governmental structures and the mass media;

to care about involving of researchers of new generations into science and the social protection of the retired scientists, including the state emeritus ones;

to protect, preserve, and perfect principles and traditions of scientific research ethics, discussion, to study problems of history of Latvian science;

to care about publishing scientific literature, the scientific level of terminology and encyclopaedias in Latvia;

to organise scientific congresses, conferences, open meetings of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, discussions, and competitions and to popularise achievements in science;

to scientifically supervise the depositories of Latvian science and the national cultural heritage - Academic Library of Latvia, Misiņš Library, and the Depository of Latvian Folklore;

to develop and encourage international contacts of Latvian scientists, to collaborate with other academies of sciences, scientific unions and associations, to maintain international scientific relations and to represent science of Latvia in international scientific organisations. Annually the Latvian Academy of Sciences publishes a report on its activities.

Article 5

COMPOSITION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Composition of the Latvian Academy of Sciences is the following: full members (academicians), honorary members, foreign members, corresponding members. Their number, procedure of nominating and discussing candidates in the scientific community, as well as order of election is determined by the Statute of the Latvian Academy of Sciences.

The highest decision-making body of the Latvian Academy of Sciences is the General Meeting, in which elected full, honorary, foreign, and corresponding members take part. Matters pertaining to the Charter and the Statute and admittance of new members are decided by full members. In order to facilitate solving of interdisciplinary problems and contacts among representatives of allied sciences, members of the Academy form divisions of sciences of the Latvian Academy of Sciences.

In between general meetings, the work of the Latvian Academy of Sciences is headed by the President, who is elected by its members, and the Senate. The General Meeting of the Latvian Academy of Sciences elects the Supervisory Council.

With the purpose to organise different spheres of work of the Latvian Academy of Sciences and to take prompt decisions, the Presidium, Board, and other organisational structures are formed. Composition and duties of these structures are determined by the Statute of the Latvian Academy of Sciences.

Article 6

ECONOMIC BASIS OF THE LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The necessary financing for work of the Latvian Academy of Sciences is subsidised from the state budget. The Latvian Academy of Sciences submits a motivated application for the following year's financing together with the annual report, according to a procedure, determined by the government. The special budget of the Latvian Academy of Sciences is formed of resources which are obtained from:

- contractual works and entrepreneurial activity;
- managing of the property;
- donations and presents;
- other sources.

Under possession or property of the Latvian Academy of Sciences may be real estate or movables - land, buildings, and other property, which has been given over to it by the state institutions, or which it has obtained as a result of its activities or on other legal basis, as well as intellectual property, currency, and securities in Latvia and abroad. Under the supervision of the Latvian Academy of Sciences are institutions and organisations, which are necessary for its work, as well as institutions and organisations which facilitate the functioning of science. Administration of property, belonging to the Latvian Academy of

Sciences, and objects, which are under its possession and supervision, is determined by the Statute of the Latvian Academy of Sciences.

Article 7

STATUTE OF THE LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The General Meeting of members of the Latvian Academy of Sciences independently adopts and/or modifies its Statute which may not be in contradiction with the provisions of the present Charter.