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ostering stability through sharing of the reform experience

Sharing democratic reform experience

Having successfully transformed its own country into a free market democracy, Latvia aims at passing on the reform experience to the post-communist countries that desire to implement similar transformation.

Latvia has consulted Croatia and FYROM on the aspects of EU accession. Latvian experts have consulted Ukraine on the strengthening of state administration and the civil service, on the coordination of EU integration work within the Government, as well as on application of EU procedures in statistics and other areas. Latvia's experts cooperate with the Government of Moldova on the issue of language teaching, passing on the experience acquired through the National Program for the Latvian Language Training. Latvia has also consulted Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on running of the state administration.

These programs are expected to continue and broaden in the coming years, as Latvia assumes the role of donor in terms of international development assistance, as recently recognized by the United Nations.

Assisting security and defense reforms

In defense-related cooperation, Latvia has a close cooperation with Georgia, a country that is attempting to develop plans aimed at preparing the country for the MAP process and, in future, NATO membership, as expressed by President Shevardnadze at the Prague NATO summit in November 2002.

In May 2002 Latvia concluded a defense cooperation agreement with Georgia. In coordination with Estonia and Lithuania, Latvia advises Georgia on its national NATO preparedness program and democratic control over the military. Cooperation takes place through official visits, consultations, seminars, as well as through the International Security Advisory Board led by Gen. Garry Johnson, where a Latvian representative also takes part.

Exchanges and consultations cover development of the National Security Concept of Georgia, procurement issues, including analysis and evaluation of offers, training and education, including at the Naval Diving Center in Liepāja. A joint seminar was organized on January 2003 in Tbilisi to examine the basic principles of the Georgian National Security concept.

Ms Burjanadze, the Chairwoman of the Parliament of Georgia, expresses the wish to see Latvia as a defender of Georgia's interests in EU and NATO-related matters
/Photo: Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/

