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The *Saeima*<sup>1</sup> has adopted and the President has proclaimed the following Law:

## **On the Status of Stateless Persons in the Republic of Latvia**

### **Section 1. Purpose of the Law**

The purpose of this Law is to determine the legal status of such persons in the Republic of Latvia as are not considered citizens (nationals) in accordance with the laws of any state (hereinafter – stateless persons).

### **Section 2. Subjects of the Law**

(1) The status of a stateless person may be acquired by a person whose status is not determined by the Law On the Status of Those Former U.S.S.R. Citizens Who do not Have the Citizenship of Latvia or That of any Other State and the Law On Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Republic of Latvia, and who:

1) has entered, upon presentation of a travel document recognised by the Republic of Latvia, into and lawfully resides in the territory of Latvia; or

2) lawfully resides in the territory of Latvia.

(2) A stateless person, who has been issued a stateless person personal identification document in another state, may acquire the status of a stateless person in Latvia only if he or she has obtained a permanent residence permit in Latvia.

(3) The status of a stateless person in Latvia cannot be acquired by a person regarding whom there are grounds for suspecting that he or she:

1) has committed a serious or especially serious crime; or

2) is guilty of committing such acts as are contrary to the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

### **Section 3. Stateless Person Personal Identification Document**

(1) A stateless person shall be issued a stateless person personal identification document that is simultaneously also a stateless person travel document.

(2) The form of the stateless person personal identification document and the procedures for issuing such document shall be determined by the Cabinet.

<sup>1</sup> The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia

#### **Section 4. Rights and Obligation of a Stateless Person**

(1) A stateless person in Latvia has all the human rights set out in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia.

(2) In addition to the rights mentioned in Paragraph one of this Section, a stateless person has the following rights:

- 1) to freely depart from Latvia and return to Latvia;
- 2) in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Law on the Entry into and Residence in the Republic of Latvia of Aliens and Stateless Persons, to receive their spouse, as well as their own minor children and minor children under the care of the spouse, who have arrived from a foreign state;
- 3) to maintain his or her native language, culture and traditions if they are not contrary to the law; and
- 4) in judicial proceedings, to receive the assistance of an interpreter; in communication with State institutions, to use the right to choose a language in compliance with regulatory enactments.

(3) While residing in the Republic of Latvia, a stateless person has an obligation to comply with the regulatory enactments of Latvia.

#### **Section 5. Loss of the Status of a Stateless Person**

(1) A person shall lose the status of a stateless person in Latvia, if:

- 1) he or she has obtained the citizenship (nationality) of Latvia or another state;
- 2) he or she has obtained a stateless person personal identification document in another state;
- 3) the permanent residence permit (Section 2) issued to him or her has been annulled in accordance with the Law On Entry into and Residence in the Republic of Latvia of Aliens and Stateless Persons; or
- 4) he or she has acquired the status of a stateless person by knowingly providing false information.

(2) A person has the right to appeal to a court the decision by which he or she has lost the status of a stateless person.

(3) A person who has lost the status of a stateless person shall surrender the stateless person personal identification document in accordance with the procedures determined by the Cabinet.

This Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 18 February 1999.

President

G. Ulmanis

Riga, 2 March 1999