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## esponsible Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Policy

### **Conventional Arms Control and Confidence Building**

In the area of conventional arms control Latvia is conscious of the fact that the issue of its CFE membership will come up, as soon as the ratification process of the adapted Treaty is completed. At that point Latvia will be prepared to enter consultations on conditions for membership, which will have to satisfy Latvia's national interests - requirements for development of National Armed Forces, as well as Alliance obligations.

Latvia supports confidence and security building through active use of the mechanisms contained the Vienna Document 1999 - information exchange, inspections and evaluation visits. In order to facilitate and promote transparency and regional security Latvia has repeatedly offered to the Russian Federation additional reciprocal quotas of inspections, in accordance with the Vienna Document.

Latvia has acceded to the Open Skies Treaty and expects to be fully engaged in this aerial observation regime after February 11, 2003 when the Treaty enters into force in Latvia.

### **Latvia's policy on land mines corresponds to international norms**

Latvia introduced a moratorium on the export and transit of anti-personnel mines already in 1995. The Parliament of Latvia passed the Law on arms, ammunition and explosives on June 6, 2002, which prohibits the export and transit of anti-personnel landmines.

Latvia has ratified the Amended Protocol II (Protocol II on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as Amended on May 3, 1996) to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Latvia has been deploying its Explosive Ordnances Disposal specialists of in NATO-led operations in Balkans (KFOR mission in 2002).

Latvia in cooperation with Norway has started a joint project for setting up an Explosive Ordnance School that is due to open in 2004.



Latvians participating in the Swedish Assistance and Protection Training Course, Revinge Rescue College, August 2002  
/Photo: Johan Jervald, the MIND-project, Swedish Defence Research Agency/