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## he fight against international terrorism

**Latvia has responded to the new threats and challenges presented by international terrorism with determination. Full political support to the international anti-terrorism coalition, prevention of terrorists' use of Latvia's territory or banks, and a practical contribution to international anti-terrorist operations constitute main elements of Latvia's policy in this area.**

### **Preventive domestic and international measures have been taken in order to effectively face the threats of terrorism**

Immediately after the terrorist attacks on the September 11th 2001, Latvia consulted with the other two Baltic states and developed and outline of joint measures to be taken against international terrorism.

Latvia's Government urgently developed, and by mid-October approved, an Action Plan for Combating International Terrorism. The main thrust of the Action Plan is to deny terrorists any opportunity to use Latvia's territory, banking system, or any other asset.

As a result, a number of legislative and normative changes were made, criminalizing support for international terrorism and giving the law enforcement authorities additional powers in control over financial transactions.

Cooperation among the state security services was strengthened, and the controls over exports, imports and transit of strategically significant goods were enhanced.

Ministries of Defense and Interior have strengthened their anti-terrorist assets.

Latvia has since ratified all main international conventions in the area of combating terrorism.

Latvia actively supports the UN work in coordinating international efforts.

Latvia has associated itself with the respective declarations of the European Union and has supported NATO's resolve to assist the United States in the fight against terrorism.

Latvia took an active part in the regional anti-terrorism conference in Warsaw, organized by the President Kwasniewski of Poland.

Latvian children paying their tribute to the American people at the US Embassy in Riga shortly after 11 September, 2001  
/Photo: Uldis Briedis, AVS "Diena"/

