

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

11th Joint Session of the Estonian-Latvian and Latvian-Estonian Intergovernmental Commission for Cross-Border Cooperation

Venue: *Ühishoone,
Suur-Ameerika 1, Tallinn, Estonia*

23rd September 2022

Beginning of the Joint Session: 13:30

End of the Joint Session: 16:00

Chairwoman: Mrs. Riina Solman,
Minister of Public Administration of Estonia

Co-Chairman: Mr. Artūrs Toms Plešs,
Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia

Annex 1: *Agenda*

Annex 2: *List of participants*

Opening of the Joint Session

The Chairwoman Mrs. Riina Solman, Minister of Public Administration of Estonia and the Co-Chairman Mr. Artūrs Toms Plešs, Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia opened the 11th Joint Session of the Estonian-Latvian and Latvian-Estonian Intergovernmental Commission (hereinafter 'IGC') emphasizing the continuous significance of the cooperation format over the years.

The Chairwoman, Mrs. Riina Solman, pointed out that although countries have established different forms of cooperation, the IGC remains essential. Furthermore, the meetings of the two governmental commissions have been the starting point for a long-lasting and close cross-border cooperation between several Estonian and Latvian member organisations – municipalities, state agencies and ministries – in several fields. The cooperation has also evolved into cooperation projects, whereas some of the topics originate from the 2019 Riga Joint Session. The Chairman emphasised how important it is that both existing and potential new contracts and agreements would be concluded as soon as possible. There is a need to make sure that the issues and concerns of the border area's residents are not left in the background, even in crisis situations. At the same time the new report on Estonian-Latvian cooperation, which devotes quite a considerable part to border municipalities, their proposals and problems, as well as cross-border cooperation has been completed.

The Co-Chairman, Mr. Artūrs Toms Plešs, stressed that the cooperation between Latvia and Estonia has always been active and close in various formats and at different levels, and is becoming increasingly important today. Both countries continue to have many links, ranging from the formal transnational level to less formal local cooperation. The Co-Chairman also pointed out that the IGC has an important place among the other cooperation formats between Estonia and Latvia, ensuring a permanent dialogue between the Latvian and Estonian public authorities and the municipalities of the border regions, serving as an effective mechanism for solving legal and administrative obstacles in the border regions.

It was acknowledged that the IGC has been an important platform for the border regions' local and regional governments', enabling them, as equal members, to address their development needs and obstacles in the field of cross-border cooperation directly, at government level.

Approval of the Agenda

Parties agreed on the proposed agenda (see Annex 1: *Agenda*), which was followed by a short introduction of the participants (see Annex 2: *List of participants*).

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES

Summary of the inter-session period 2020-2022 activities

The Chairwoman informed the participants that the 2022 Joint Session agenda first block contains 7 topics which date back to the 10th Joint Session of the IGC held in Riga in 2019. Topics were covered by short presentations describing the status and potential perspective by representatives of the respective ministries and/or municipalities.

1. Coordination of cross-border rescue operations' procedures and plans

Mr. Gatis Švika (Latvian Ministry of Interior) and Mr. Intars Zitāns (Latvian Fire and Rescue Service) presented the legal basis for cooperation between Estonia and Latvia. There are 3 main agreements that regulate cross-border cooperation – a) the Agreement on Mutual Assistance and Cooperation in the Field of Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Response in Baltic countries (2018), b) Cooperation Agreement between the State Fire and Rescue Service of the Republic of Latvia, the Estonian Rescue Board and the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania (2021), and c) Operational Agreement between State Fire and Rescue Service of the Republic of Latvia and the Estonian Rescue Board (2021).

Mr. Gatis Švika and Mr. Intars Zitāns proposed the following: to keep the coordination of cross-border rescue operations' procedures and plans in the 2023 IGC agenda, and to include the cooperation on mass movement of population and civil protection topic in the 2023 agenda and ask the relevant Estonian and Latvian authorities in the field to map the potential cooperation areas.

Mr. Tarvi Ojalo (Estonian Ministry of Interior) confirmed that parties have joint interest and shared cooperation fields.

2. Health care and healthcare related public services in cross-border regions

Ms. Kersti Einar (Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs) highlighted 3 issues from the cooperation agreements – a) emergency medical care, b) cooperation in health emergencies and disasters, and c) cross-border use of Valga hospital services. A cooperation agreement on mutual assistance in the event of a health emergency and a cross-border ambulance cooperation agreement have been in preparation since 2019. An agreement on emergency medical assistance, or ambulance cooperation, involving cooperation between the competent authorities of the Parties and ambulance service providers, aiming to improve the availability of ambulance services in the border area, has been signed. Cooperation at the level of the partners has been ongoing since the signature of the previous agreement. A model agreement on cooperation in the field of mutual assistance in the event of emergencies has been drafted and aims at cooperation in the field of health in the prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies, whether emergency or threat thereof. Work is continuing on the conclusion of this cooperation agreement.

The agreement between Valga Hospital and the Latvian National Health Service on the provision of health care services was signed on 9 March 2022 and work has started. Based on this agreement, diagnostic procedures will be provided based on a referral from a general practitioner to Latvian residents who do not wish to travel to Valmiera. According to the information received from the head of the Valga hospital, the service has been used about 80 times and has been provided to about 60 people. In the framework of a cooperation agreement, we have provided the service 79 times. As in some cases one person receives two services in one visit, the number of beneficiaries is about 60. Thanks are due to the Valka City Government and the Valga Hospital for the functioning of the agreement. Now, the biggest challenge is to ensure data protection, the back-and-forth (family doctor-hospital-patient-family doctor) exchange of information and the logistics involved.

Mr. Vents Armand Krauklis (Vidzeme Planning Region, Valka County Council) stressed that from the point of view of the inhabitants of the twin city and the wider cross-border area, it would be very important to find ways to increase the number of services offered to Latvian residents in the Valga hospital by one or two new services each year, based on the existing agreement which was signed recently. At present, statistics show that this would not cause problems for the health care systems of either country.

Ms. Kersti Einar proposed the following: considering the importance of health and health-related public services in border regions, this issue could be included in the 2023 agenda, to obtain assurance on the implementation of prepared and concluded contracts and on the concerns that may arise.

3. Cooperation in providing passenger traffic service on Riga-Tartu railway line

Mr. Indrek Gailan (Estonian Ministry of Economics and Communications) gave an overview of the status of the topic and current situation. He highlighted that Estonia, at the suggestion and request of the Tartu City Government, has sought and found funds to support the development of international associations in Tartu for the 2024 Capital of Culture.

Mr. Dins Merirands (Latvian Ministry of Transport) stressed that at the 2019 IGC meeting, the parties agreed on the need to continue cooperation on the cross-border rail link at the level of the responsible ministries of both countries. The meeting discussed the synchronisation of train timetables on the rail link between Tartu and Riga, as well as a proposal to re-establish a direct Tartu-Riga rail link. Passenger trains between Latvia and Estonia have been operated with diesel trains since 26 April 2008. Currently, two pairs of diesel trains run daily on the Riga-Lugaži-Valga route, and four pairs of diesel trains run daily on the Valga-Tartu route. The train timetables of the cross-border Riga-Tartu line are synchronised as far as possible in the 2021/2022 timetable, which entered into force on 12 December 2021.

Mr. Vents Armand Krauklis (Vidzeme Planning Region, Valka County Council) suggested that students and pensioners could get a discount and that an agreement could be reached between countries. It would also be necessary to find a solution to the hitherto unsynchronised connecting times, as the 4-hour waiting time is still too long, 2 hours would be quite bearable. It does not consider tourists or local residents at all.

Mr. Indrek Gailan and Mr. Dins Merirands proposed the following: to keep the cooperation in providing passenger traffic service on Riga-Tartu railway line in the 2023 IGC agenda.

4. Determination, prioritisation and coordination of the list of road sections for reconstruction in the border area

Mr. Dins Merirands (Latvian Ministry of Transport) gave an overview of the status of the topic and current challenges. The critically poor state of the road infrastructure along the Latvian-Estonian border is a major impediment to development, hampering passenger and freight transport. At the 10th Joint Session, it was decided to hold consultations of experts from both sides in a working group format to reach agreement on priority road sections in the border area that would have a higher added value for the development of the border area between the two countries. The Expert Working Group identified a list of road sections for priority construction.

As a result, six sections of national roads important for cross-border cooperation were included in the Estonia-Latvia Programme 2021-2027, and it was foreseen that the investments will be made in combination with additional co-financing from the Estonian state budget. As of June 2022, the European Commission has notified the Estonia-Latvia Programme 2021-2027 that road construction activities cannot be supported during the new period. Therefore, there is a need to instruct the road administrations of both sides to work on other sources of funding.

Mr Peeter Rahnel (Association of Viljandi County Municipalities) stressed the need to find new financial sources not only for cross-border roads but also for development of road network in the border regions in order border area would be covered with proper road networks. He also proposed to continue with the work that has been carried out between 2018-2021 in the Expert Working Group under the IGC which managed to identify and prioritise the relevant cross-border sections in the border regions.

Mr. Dins Merirands and Mr. Peeter Rahnel proposed the following: to keep the coordination of cross-border area joint road improvement and reconstruction in the 2023 IGC agenda.

5. Ferry line connection between Saaremaa and Ventspils

Mr. Dins Merirands (Latvian Ministry of Transport), Mr. Mika Männik (Municipality of Saaremaa) and Mr. Jānis Vītoliņš (Kurzeme Planning Region, Ventspils City Council) gave an overview of the status of the topic and current challenges. Mr. Jānis Vītoliņš pointed out that currently there is no suitable operator and a vessel for the ferry line. The travel time ought to be under 2 hours and be comfortable for the passengers. It is reasonable to analyse the experience of line connection between Latvia and Sweden. According to Mr. Mika Männik the purchase of a new vessel is out of the question due to very high costs at the moment and at the same time the state subsidy issue is still without a solution.

Mr. Dins Merirands, Mr. Mika Männik and Mr. Jānis Vītoliņš, proposed the following: to keep the ferry line connection between Saaremaa and Ventspils in IGC agenda and to return to it when a potential investor for the sustainable development and operation of the ferry link has been identified.

6. Creation of joint geodetic support for the entire Latvian-Estonian border

Ms. Karin Kollo (Estonian Land Board) gave an overview of the status of the topic and cross-border project. The issue of unification of the geodetic reference system near the Estonian-Latvian border was raised in 2019 by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency, a subordinate institution of the Latvian Ministry of Defence, pointing out that different geodetic coordinate systems, map projections and different elevation models are used in Estonia and Latvia.

From January 2021, the project *Unification of the geodetic reference system in the border area between Estonia and Latvia (GeoRefAct)* is being implemented in cooperation between the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency and the Estonian Land Board under the Estonia-Latvia Programme 2014-2020. The aim of the project is to develop common high-precision and unified geodetic reference systems (including coordinate, elevation and gravity systems) in the Estonian and Latvian border area, as well as the necessary geospatial data conversion models. The results of the project will be introduced in December 2022 during seminars in Valga and Ainaži.

Ms. Karin Kollo proposed the following: to keep the creation of joint geodetic support for the entire Latvian-Estonian border in 2023 IGC agenda.

7. Development of joint packaging deposit system between Estonia and Latvia

Mr. Mihkel Krusberg (Estonian Ministry of Environment) gave an overview of the status of the topic and cross-border project. In 2018, the Estonian side proposed to discuss the establishment of a common packaging deposit system between Estonia and Latvia as the situation with packaging deposit systems varies from country to country. In Estonia, the packaging deposit system has been operating successfully since 2005, however in Latvia the system became operational only in 2022. Thus, it would be convenient for the citizens of both countries if the deposit systems in both countries were unified, and packaging purchased in Latvia could be deposited in Estonia and vice versa.

In order to raise awareness on packaging deposit and to evaluate a strategic approach to harmonise the packaging deposit systems in Estonia and Latvia, the project *Raising awareness on packaging deposit and a strategic approach to harmonise the packaging deposit systems in Estonia and Latvia (PACKGDEPO)* is currently being implemented under the Estonia-Latvia Programme 2014-2020. He informed that HELCOM was interested about the results of the project.

Mr. Mihkel Krusberg proposed the following: as there are no pending issues, there is no need to include the development of joint packaging deposit system in the 2023 IGC agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROPOSALS

8. Use of green public procurement

Mr. Mihkel Krusberg (Estonian Ministry of Environment) gave an overview of the new proposal. He introduced a potential project for the use of cross-border green public procurement (GPP) and the current situation in Estonia. Mr. Krusberg stressed that public procurement is powerful driver of the demand for sustainable products (14% of EU GDP) and GPP is important part of EU green policies as sustainable products should be the norm, not the exception. He also suggested that such a potential project could focus to improve GPP uptake by setting mandatory criteria in certain categories in Estonia and Latvia.

Mr. Māris Klismets (Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development), gave an overview of the green public procurement situation, legal framework for the implementation of GPP, general principles, main activities in 2022 and results in Latvia.

Mr. Mihkel Krusberg proposed the following: to include the use of green public procurement in the 2023 agenda and to encourage the relevant Estonian and Latvian authorities to explore the possibility of launching some cooperation project(s) to pilot the introduction of green public procurement practise between the countries.

9. The issue of the possibility for a resident of Ukraine to be employed in medical treatment institutions in the Latvian/Estonian border area in the profession or speciality of a medical practitioner

Ms. Kristīne Kļaviņa (Latvian Ministry of Health) gave an overview of the new proposal. She pointed out that in order to help the war-affected population of Ukraine, it would be necessary to ensure the possibility for a Ukrainian citizen to be employed in medical institutions on the border between Latvia and Estonia in a medical profession or speciality if such a right has been granted in one of the countries (recognition of a medical profession or speciality in both countries is not required). The issue is the deadlines for the recognition of medical qualifications. The problem is that currently the recognition of qualification lasts only for 1 year. Therefore, a procedure is under way in Latvia to allow this even after the time limit has expired.

Mr. Vents Armand Krauklis (Vidzeme Planning Region, Valka County Council) stressed that it is a very important topic as highly qualified doctors arrived to Valka. The harmonisation between countries is essential. The Chairman highlighted the importance of Valga Hospital where such medical personal could be used, especially when there is a translator available on the Valka side. At the same time, the Chairwoman pointed out that there is a need to pay more attention to such cases but also reminded that this issue should be further addressed to the relevant Estonian and Latvian institutions to find ways how to cooperate and solve the situation. The proposal was not to include the topic in the 2023 IGC agenda.

10. United and coordinated activities of Latvia and Estonia to promote the recognition of the Baltic States as a safe tourist destination in the face of increasing geopolitical tensions

Mr. Raimonds Lapiņš (Latvian Ministry of Economic Affairs) gave an overview of the new proposal. He raised a question of how to objectively present Europe, including the Baltic States, as a safe tourism destination is becoming more and more topical; it is relevant to promote joint and coordinated activities to promote the Baltic States as a safe tourism destination in the context of increasing geopolitical tensions.

It is crucial to provide objective information on the security situation in Europe through tourism marketing activities, media and tourism industry visits, interviews and publications, etc., in an attempt to allay tourists' concerns about the security situation in Europe and to encourage tourists to visit the European region, including Latvia and Estonia. At the same time, it is important to take a common initiative and join forces to promote peace and tourism worldwide, and to work together in the years to come to fully exploit the potential of the tourism industry, which is a key driver of peace, economic growth and prosperity.

Mr. Raimonds Lapiņš proposed the following: to include the topic of united and coordinated activities of Latvia and Estonia to promote the recognition of the Baltic States as a safe tourist destination in the face of increasing geopolitical tensions in the 2023 agenda, and to ask the relevant authorities in the field to establish a suitable cooperation format, including governmental authorities, businesses and other stakeholders, to address this issue.

11. Uniform introduction of epidemiological requirements and entry conditions in case of occurrence of COVID-19 epidemiological situation

Mr. Raimonds Lapiņš (Latvian Ministry of Economic Affairs) gave an overview of the new proposal. He highlighted the importance of maintaining cooperation and information exchange between the two countries in the fields of health and tourism, thus taking advantage of the change in the travel paradigm after the pandemic to promote our region. At the same time, given that the Baltic States are perceived

as a single tourist destination both at European level and especially in distant markets, it is essential to reach agreement between the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian stakeholders responsible for decision-making on pandemic containment on the move towards common epidemiological requirements and entry conditions within the Baltic States.

Mr. Raimonds Lapiņš proposed the following: to include the topic of uniform introduction of epidemiological requirements and entry conditions in case of occurrence of COVID-19 epidemiological situation in the 2023 agenda, and to ask the relevant authorities in the field to establish a suitable cooperation format, including governmental authorities, businesses and other stakeholders, to address this issue.

Ms. Kristīne Našeniece (Latvian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Estonia) highlighted the new Estonia-Latvia cooperation Report which was recently presented in Valga. She pointed out that there should be more attention to the joint language courses and called the IGC out to organize online task forces meetings.

CURRENT STATE OF THE ESTONIA-LATVIA PROGRAMME

• Presentation about the new Interreg VI-A Estonia-Latvia programme 2021-2027

Ms. Helena Järviste (Joint Secretariat of the Estonia-Latvia Programme), gave an overview of the new period cross-border cooperation programme and the priority 1, which aims to establish more cooperating cross-border regions and development of joint services, strengthening the local cross-border cooperation structures and governance and supporting the cross-border contacts and activities between the communities (people-to-people).

Mr. Vents Armand Krauklis (Vidzeme Planning Region, Valka County Council) confirmed the importance of cross-border cooperation and observed good results of the projects. At the same time, he noted that regional investments into infrastructure are essential, but the new programme does not provide sufficient possibilities for that. Mr. Krauklis called on the national authorities to re-allocate funds of suspended Interreg NEXT programmes to the Estonia-Latvia programme.

Mr. Krauklis also made a proposal to intensify the work of the IGC in order to progress with achievement of results and to meet at least twice a year using online meeting possibilities. The security situation, economic and social conditions were different at the time of IGC establishment. Mr. Krauklis also mentioned that Valka and Valga are also ready to host the next Joint Session of the IGC and to take on a greater role and responsibility within the IGC format.

The Chairwoman noticed that the next meeting of the IGC could be held in Valga/Valka.

Mrs. Kristīne Našeniece (Latvian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Estonia) supported the proposal of intensification of IGC work and use of online channels for organisation of additional meetings. She also stressed the importance of learning of Estonian and Latvian languages in border areas.

The Chairwoman encouraged the members of the IGC to keep the pace in working on IGC topics.

CLOSURE OF THE 2022 JOINT SESSION

• Decisions in regard the 2023 agenda

The Chairman, Mrs. Riina Solman and the Co-Chairman Mr. Artūrs Toms Plešs, thanked all participants of the 11th Joint Session IGC for their input and exchanged views on the conclusions and outcomes of the Joint Session.

Considering the positions of the participants, as well as the current security situation and the forthcoming period of the Interreg Estonia-Latvia Programme 2021-2027, the following was decided in regard the 2023 agenda of the Joint Session:

1. To keep the coordination of cross-border rescue operations' procedures and plans in the 2023 IGC agenda.
 - a) To include the cooperation on mass movement of population and civil protection topic in the 2023 agenda and ask the relevant Estonian and Latvian authorities in the field to map the potential cooperation areas.
2. To keep the health care and healthcare related public services in cross-border regions in the 2023 IGC agenda.
3. To keep the cooperation in providing passenger traffic service on Riga-Tartu railway line in the 2023. IGC agenda.
4. To keep the coordination of cross-border border area joint road improvement and reconstruction in the 2023 IGC agenda.
5. To keep the ferry line connection between Saaremaa and Ventspils in IGC agenda, but to return to the issue when a potential investor for the sustainable development and operation of the ferry link has been identified.
6. To keep the creation of joint geodetic support for the entire Latvian-Estonian border in 2023 IGC agenda.
7. Not to include the development of joint packaging deposit system in the 2023 IGC agenda.
8. To include the use of green public procurement in the 2023 agenda.
 - a) To encourages the relevant Estonian and Latvian authorities to explore the possibility of launching some cooperation project(s) to pilot the introduction of green public procurement practise between the countries.
9. Not to include issue of the possibility for a resident of Ukraine to be employed in medical treatment institutions in the Latvian/Estonian border area in the profession or speciality of a medical practitioner in the 2023 agenda.
 - a) To ask relevant Estonian and Latvian institutions to set up a separate working group and keep the IGC informed of specific problems or issues that cannot be resolved at working group level.
10. To include the topic of united and coordinated activities of Latvia and Estonia to promote the recognition of the Baltic States as a safe tourist destination in the face of increasing geopolitical tensions in the 2023 agenda.

- b) To ask the relevant authorities in the field to establish a suitable cooperation format, including governmental authorities, businesses and other stakeholders, to address this issue.
11. To include the topic of uniform introduction of epidemiological requirements and entry conditions in case of occurrence of COVID-19 epidemiological situation in the 2023 agenda.
- a) To ask the relevant authorities in the field to establish a suitable cooperation format, including governmental authorities, businesses and other stakeholders, to address this issue.

The Co-Chairman Mr. Artūrs Toms Plešs announced out that the 12th Joint Session of the IGC shall be held in Latvia. Chairman Mrs. Riina Solman closed the IGC session.

The minutes have been prepared in two copies.

Riina Solman
Minister of Public Administration
of the Republic of Estonia

(signed digitally)

Artūrs Toms Plešs
Minister for Environmental Protection and
Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

(signed digitally)

Hannes Nagel
Minutes-secretary

2022 JOINT SESSION OF THE ESTONIAN-LATVIAN AND LATVIAN-ESTONIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Date: September 23, 2022

Time: 11:30 – 16:00

Venue: Ühishoone, Conference Hall “Tamm”, Suur-Ameerika str. 1, Tallinn, Estonia

AGENDA

11:30-13:25 13:25-13:30	Arrival, registration, networking coffee & lunch • Joint Picture	 <i>RIK-Public</i>
Time	Agenda topic	Speaker
13:30-13:40	<u>Opening of the 2022 Joint Session</u> • Opening speeches by the Chairman & Co-Chairman of the Joint Session • Approval of the Agenda	Riina Solman Estonian Minister of Public Administration Artūrs Toms Plešs Latvian Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
13:40-14:40	<u>Summary of the inter-session period 2020-2022</u> General overview of the activities: 1. Coordination of cross-border rescue operations' procedures and plans 2. Health care and healthcare related public services in cross-border regions: • Emergency medical assistance; • Cross-border use of Valka Hospital services; • Cooperation in health emergencies and disasters. 3. Cooperation in providing passenger traffic service on Riga-Tartu railway line 4. Determination, prioritisation and coordination of the list of road sections for reconstruction in the border area 5. Ferry line connection between Saaremaa and Ventspils 6. Creation of joint geodetic support for the entire Latvian-Estonian border 7. Development of joint packaging deposit system	Gatis Švika Latvian Ministry of Interior Intars Zitāns Fire and Rescue Service of the Republic of Latvia Kersti Esnar Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs Indrek Gailan Estonian Ministry of Economics and Communications Dins Merirands Latvian Ministry of Transport Jānis Vītolīņš Kurzeme Planning Region, Ventspils City Council Karin Kollo Estonian Land Board Mihkel Krusberg

	between Estonia and Latvia	Estonian Ministry of Environment
14:40-15:30	<p><u>Introduction of the new proposals</u> General overview of the proposals:</p> <p>8. Use of green public procurement</p> <p>9. The issue of the possibility for a resident of Ukraine to be employed in medical treatment institutions in the Latvian/Estonian border area in the profession or speciality of a medical practitioner</p> <p>10. United and coordinated activities of Latvia and Estonia to promote the recognition of the Baltic States as a safe tourist destination in the face of increasing geopolitical tensions</p> <p>11. Uniform introduction of epidemiological requirements and entry conditions in case of occurrence of COVID-19 epidemiological situation</p>	<p>Mihkel Krusberg Estonian Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Kristīne Kļaviņa Latvian Ministry of Health</p> <p>Raimonds Lapiņš Latvian Ministry of Economic Affairs</p> <p>Raimonds Lapiņš Latvian Ministry of Economic Affairs</p>
15:30-15:45	<u>Current state of the Interreg VI-A Estonia-Latvia programme 2021-2027</u>	Helena Järviste Joint Secretariat of the Interreg Estonia-Latvia programme
15:45-16:00	<p><u>Conclusions, decisions and closure of the 2022 Joint Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions in regard the 2023 agenda • Farewell speeches by the Chairman & Co-Chairman • <i>Farewell</i> 	<p>Riina Solman Estonian Minister of Public Administration</p> <p>Artūrs Toms Plešs Latvian Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development</p>

List of participants

nr	Full name	Organization	Signature
1	Artūrs Toms Plešs	<i>Latvian Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development</i>	
2	Andreta Līvena	<i>Latvian National Health Service</i>	
3	Anna Škabireva	<i>Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development</i>	
4	Dins Merirands	<i>Latvian Ministry of Transport</i>	
5	Dita Heiberģa	<i>Latvian State Emergency Medical Service</i>	
6	Edgars Avotiņš	<i>Smiltene County Council</i>	
7	Elīna Tanne	<i>Embassy of Latvia in Estonia</i>	
8	Gatis Švika	<i>Ministry of Interior</i>	
9	Intars Zītāns	<i>Fire and Rescue Service of the Republic of Latvia</i>	
10	Iruma Kravale	<i>Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development</i>	
11	Jānis Vītoliņš	<i>Kurzeme Planning Region, Venspils City Council</i>	
12	Kristīne Kļaviņa	<i>Latvian Ministry of Health</i>	
13	Kristīne Našeniece	<i>Latvian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Estonia</i>	
14	Māris Klismets	<i>Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development</i>	
15	Mārtiņš Ulāns	<i>Smiltene County Council</i>	
16	Raimonds Lapiņš	<i>Latvian Ministry of Economics</i>	
17	Rūdolfs Āzens	<i>Fire and Rescue Service of the Republic of Latvia</i>	
18	Sandis Cakuls	<i>Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development</i>	
19	Sigita Alhimoviča	<i>Latvian National Health Service</i>	
20	Vents Armands Krauklis	<i>Vidzeme Planning Region, Valka County Council</i>	
21	Vita Lauva	<i>Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>	
22	Vita Prokopoviča	<i>Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development</i>	
23	Riina Solman	<i>Estonian Minister of Public Administration</i>	
24	Anna-Liisa Merilind	<i>Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>	
25	Eerik Marmei	<i>Estonian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Latvia</i>	
26	Evelin Krõlov	<i>Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>	
27	Hannes Nagel	<i>Estonian Ministry of Finance</i>	
28	Helena Järviste	<i>Joint Secretariat of the Estonia-Latvia Programme 2021-2027</i>	
20	Indrek Gailan	<i>Estonian Ministry of Economics and Communications</i>	
30	Karin Kollo	<i>Estonian Land Board</i>	
31	Kersti Esnar	<i>Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs</i>	
32	Toomas Abel	<i>Municipality of Häädemeeste</i>	
33	Maarja Mägi	<i>Municipality of Valga</i>	
34	Margarita Golovko	<i>Estonian Ministry of Finance</i>	
35	Mihkel Krusberg	<i>Estonian Ministry of Environment</i>	
36	Mika Männik	<i>Municipality of Saaremaa</i>	
37	Peeter Rahnel	<i>Association of Viljandi County Municipalities</i>	
38	Tarvi Ojalo	<i>Estonian Ministry of the Interior</i>	
39	Andrus Pirso	<i>Estonian Ministry of Environment</i>	