


**QUESTIONNAIRE to be used for biennial reporting  
on the application of the IUU Regulation**

**Reporting period 2018-2019 (deadline for submission 30 April 2020)**

<b>Member State:</b>	<i>Latvia</i>
<b>Organisation:</b>	<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>30.04.2020</i>
<b>Name, position and contact details of responsible official:</b>	

<b>May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to other Member States?</b>	
<b>Yes:</b>	<i>x</i>
<b>Yes except for questions (list):</b>	<i>no restrictions</i>
<b>No:</b>	

**Please check if your notified authorities under the IUU Regulation correspond with the latest version of the Official Journal:**

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52019XC0215\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52019XC0215(01))

**Article 15.2 (exportation of catches):** *Ministry of Agriculture; Fisheries Department*

**Article 17.8 (verification of catch certificates):**

*State Environmental Service; Fisheries Control Department (for the check and verification procedures of the catch certificates);*

*National Customs Board; State Revenue Service (for the customs control).*

**Article 21.3 (re-exportation):** *State Environmental Service; Fisheries Control Department*

**Please state your notified authorities under the IUU Regulation in accordance with:**

**Article 39.4 (nationals):** *State Environmental Service; Fisheries Control Department*

## Section 1. Information on legal framework<sup>1</sup>

Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2016-2017, has your country adopted/modified national law or any administrative guides for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation)?

Yes  No

*If yes, please detail and provide copies or provide link to the official national database*

*Ministry of Agriculture (hereafter - MoA) would like to note that digital fisheries products traceability system in Latvia is established from 1 June 2018. The fisheries products traceability module was integrated into the MoA information system "Latvian Fisheries Integrated Control and Information System" (hereafter - LFICIS). Due to mentioned fact, catch certificates for fisheries products export should also be submitted through the system. The legal framework for the system laid down in the regulation No 94 "Regulations Regarding the Control of Fish Landing and Inspection of Fish Marketing and Transport Facilities, Warehouses and Processing Premises" (entered into force in 23 February 2018).*

<https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/297288-regulations-regarding-the-control-of-fish-landing-and-inspection-of-fish-marketing-and-transport-facilities-warehouses-and-processing-premises>

*In this context MoA published user`s manual on how to complete and submit a catch certificate for products export using MoA information system LFICIS in the public part of the official website:*

[https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS\\_Static\\_Page\\_Doc/00/00/01/40/74/LZIKIS.HELP\\_PUB\\_Portal.Traceability.pdf](https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/01/40/74/LZIKIS.HELP_PUB_Portal.Traceability.pdf)

*Also, regular updates to the MoA`s website section on preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing were made:*

<https://www.zm.gov.lv/zivsaimnieciba/statiskas-lapas/nnn-zvejas-apkarosana-un-izskausana?nid=2603#jump>

*Due to improvement of the national regulations mentioned above the interdepartmental agreement "On Cooperation and Information Circulation in Control of Catch Certificates and Re-Export Certificates for Fishery Products" between the MoA, State Environmental Service (hereafter- SES) and State Revenue Service (hereafter- SRS) was amended on October 15, 2018. Appropriately SRS National Customs Board evaluated the guidance on changes in the IUU fishing control (based on Latvian law and SRS National Customs Boards internal regulation, this is a limited information, thereby information further distribution is prohibited).*

## Section 2. Information on administrative organisation<sup>2</sup>

2.1. Are there any changes as regards your administrative organisation since the last reporting exercise?

Yes  No

2.2. *If yes, please fill in the following questions.* Does your country have different authorities/services to deal with the implementation of the IUU Regulation?

<sup>1</sup> This section 1 is to be filled-in by all Member States i.e. coastal and landlocked Member State.

<sup>2</sup> This section 2 is to be filled-in by all Member States i.e. coastal and landlocked Member State.

Yes

No

2.3. If different authorities/services are involved, please distinguish between:

- the control of direct landings of third country fishing vessels;
  - validation of catch certificates upon exports;
  - verification of catch certificates for imports under direct landing;
  - verification of catch certificates for imports arriving by other means than fishing vessels (e.g. by containers, trucks);
  - validation and verifications of re-exports.
- a) vertical co-operation (between local/regional authorities and head-quarter);

*Please explain and describe this cooperation:*

*MoA is the authority in charge for the validation of the catch certificates for the Latvian fishing vessels for fisheries products export. During the validation process each catch certificate is examined for a variety of criteria - does the potential exporter or respective fishing company hold the valid licence and quota for relevant species, % of its exhaustion, logbooks etc. In case where there are no problems, the catch certificate is validated.*

*Regarding catch certificates issued by the third countries - SES Fisheries Control Department (Central office) is the authority responsible for the validation of the catch certificates to allow the import into or re-export of the fisheries product via Latvia. The catch certificate is verified by obtaining necessary information - is the catch obtained by the vessel included in the IUU vessels list, crosschecked with the information submitted within the mutual assistance system, etc.*

*Internal cooperation between the Central office and sub-quarters of SES is needed only where physical checks for fishing vessels flying the flag of third countries is required. According to the Council Regulation 1005/2008 Article 6, third country vessels inform the competent authority - SES on intend to land the products in relevant designated port of Latvia (designated in National Rules of the Cabinet of 02.05.2007 No 296 "Regulations regarding Commercial Fishing in Territorial Waters and Economic Zone Waters"). This information is received in the Central office, verified by checking information and further permission or rejection for vessel entry into port is provided. In the port the physical verification of the landing, based on decision made by the Central office is performed by the sub-quarter of SES located in the designated port.*

*Co-operation among the authorities of the SRS National Customs Board, involved in the implementation of the IUU Regulation, is described in the guidance of the SRS National Customs Board 'On changes in the IUU fishing control'.*

*Co-operation among the respective structures of the SRS National Customs Board when dealing with the implementation of the IUU Regulation is as follows:*

*Customs Clearance Process Unit of Customs Clearance Process Management Division – develops guidance etc. for customs officials and explanations for customs clients as well, performs co-operation with other structures in Customs Department, entities in Latvia (MoA, SES) responsible for implementation of the IUU Regulation,*

*Import Custom Control Point of Riga Custom Control Points' Division – involved in drawing up import customs procedure (incl. control of documents (also catch certificates) concerning the respective consignment),*

*Risk Management Division – performs risk management regarding customs matters.*

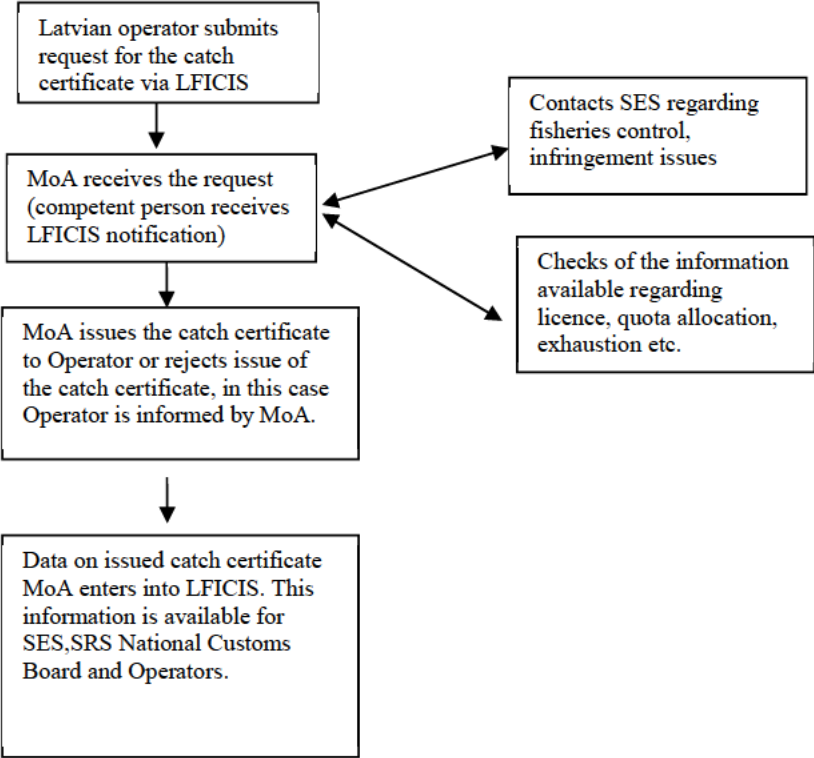
- b) co-operation with other authorities and allocation of tasks for various authorities in the implementation of the IUU Regulation (Fisheries, Health, Customs, Coast Guard, Navy, etc.);

*Please explain and describe this cooperation:*

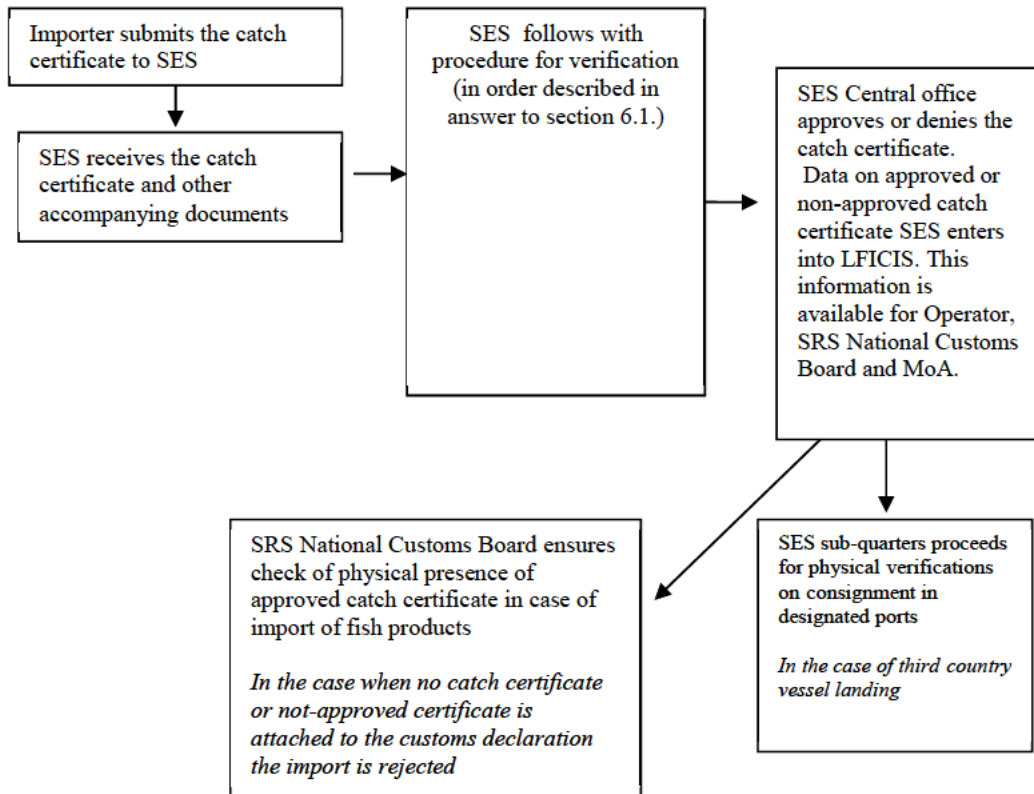
The interinstitutional cooperation has been set in the Rules of the Cabinet as well as in the trilateral agreement between the MoA, SRS Nationals Customs Board and SES.

To improve cooperation in 2015 the SRS Nationals Customs Board was granted access to MoA information system LFICIS, this allows to see in the LFICIS, and check import catch certificate validated by SES.

Scheme of cooperation in the case of export of fisheries products from Latvian vessels is as follows:



*Scheme of cooperation in the case of import/ re-export of fisheries products from third countries:*



c) how many officials are involved in the implementation of the catch certification scheme?

*Please specify the number of officials expressed in Full Time Equivalent (FTE): For the export catch certificates for Latvian vessels, mutual assistance and requests co-ordination 1,5 official in MoA is involved.*

*For the import and re-export catch certificate verification (formalities and procedures, as well as physical control and verification) - 3 SES officials and 6 SRS National Customs Board officials are involved.*

*In the case of physical control of third country vessel landing in the designated port at least one more official should be added to the import control number. In this case total numbers for landing control are 4 SES officials.*

d) Do the authorities of your country have the possibility to audit/verify a company for the purposes laid down in the IUU Regulation?

- Yes                       No

*If yes, which and how many audits/verifications have they undertaken since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2016-2017? Which authorities are responsible for audits/verifications? Please detail the results: .....*

*According to the Fishery Law and National Regulation of the Cabinet No 94 "Regulations Regarding the Control of Fish Landing and Inspection of Fish Marketing and Transport Facilities, Warehouses and Processing Premises" mentioned above officials of the SES have the power to carry out*



verification of the transport, storage and production facilities in order to eliminate IUU fishing. There were no any suspicions of illegal activities during the routine inspections within the period from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019. There was no information regarding the necessity to carry out more specific inspections (no attempt to import IUU catch etc.). However, random verifications were carried where compliance with the Control regulation 1224/2009 was checked and that included monitoring for potential activities under the IUU Regulation.

2.4. Does your country have freezones/freeports<sup>3</sup> in which activities relevant to importation/exportation/processing of fishery products are authorised?

Yes  No

**Section 3. Information on direct landings and transshipments of fishery products by third country fishing vessels<sup>4</sup> (including information on port inspections and infringements)<sup>5</sup>**

3.1. Please check if your list of designated ports correspond to the latest version of the Office Journal.

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2019.276.01.0011.01.ENG](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2019.276.01.0011.01.ENG)

3.2. Does your country have designated ports for direct landings or transshipment operations of fishery products and port services of third country fishing vessels (Article 5 of the IUU Regulation<sup>6</sup>)?

Yes  No

*If yes, please list your country's designated ports (including ports designated under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations requirements) and answer to questions 3.2. to 3.7.:*

*Rīga;  
Ventspils*

3.3. How many landings and transshipments in designated ports of third country vessels have been recorded by your country between 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019? How many inspections has your country carried out and how many infringements have been detected?

*Please fill-in the table below (2018):*

		Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2018)							
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2018)	Flag of the third country vessel(s) <sup>7</sup>						Total
			NO	PA	BS	AG	FO	VC	
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	1	1	3	2	2	2	11
		Number of inspections	1	1	0	0	0	0	2

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/business/customs-procedures/what-is-importation/free-zones\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/customs-procedures/what-is-importation/free-zones_en)

<sup>4</sup> Fishing vessels as defined in article 2.5 of the IUU Regulation

<sup>5</sup> This section 3 refers to Chapter II (Articles 4 to 11) of the IUU Regulation and is applicable to coastal Member States. Landlocked Member States should not fill in this section.

<sup>6</sup> Please note that ports designated under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations must also be designated under the IUU Regulation with restrictions if necessary (species etc.)

<sup>7</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

		% of inspections / landings	100%	100%	0	0	0	0	18.18%
		Number of infringements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Transshipments</b>	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Number of inspections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		% of inspections / transshipments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Number of infringements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Please fill-in the table below (2019):

Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2019)							
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2019)	Flag of the third country vessel(s) <sup>8</sup>				
			PA	NO	BS	AG	Total
<b>Landings</b>	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	3	3	2	1	9
		Number of inspections	0	1	1	0	2
		% of inspections / landings	0	33.33%	50%	0	22.22%
		Number of infringements	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Transshipments</b>	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	-	-	-	-	-
		Number of inspections	-	-	-	-	-
		% of inspections / transshipments	-	-	-	-	-
		Number of infringements	-	-	-	-	-

3.4. From the figures above, in the cases where your country detected infringements by third country vessels between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2019, please specify the flag, the vessel's name, the type of infringement and the measures taken (Article 11 of the IUU Regulation).

<sup>8</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Please fill-in the table below (2018): n/a (no infringements were detected)

Flag of the third country vessel <sup>9</sup>	Name of the third country fishing vessel	Type of infringements	Measures taken
FS1			
FS2			
...			
FSx			

Please fill-in the table below (2019): n/a (no infringements were detected)

Flag of the third country vessel <sup>10</sup>	Name of the third country fishing vessel	Type of infringements	Measures taken
FS1			
FS2			
...			
FSx			

3.5. Has your country had any problems with third country fishing vessels when implementing Articles 6 (prior notice) and 7 (authorisation) of the IUU Regulation?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail the nature of the problems and the measures taken:

In 2018: .....

In 2019: .....

3.6. Since January 2018, has your country denied access to its ports to a fishing vessel for port services, activities of landing or transshipment of fishery products based on the conditions of the IUU Regulation?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail the nature of the problem, the number of vessels concerned and their flags:

In 2018: .....

In 2019: .....

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<sup>9</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>10</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.



3.7. Do you have third country fishing vessel landings in transit in your country with final destination in another Member State? [Article 19.3 of the IUU Regulation]

- Yes  No\*

\* Latvian competent authorities and its databases does not collect statistical data of fishing vessel landing in transit, therefore, such data for Latvia are not available.

If yes, please indicate the number of landings in transit per year:

In 2018: .....

In 2019: .....

3.8. In order to determine the cases for port inspection, does your country use risk assessment criteria [cf. benchmarks for port inspections, Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No1010/2009]?

- Yes  No

Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of landings/transhipments from third countries)

If yes, please detail:

*There are the risk assessment criteria elaborated by SES for the port inspections to control the Latvian vessels as well as EU Member State vessels landings. The criteria are set considering landing amount of species under the recovery plan, proportion of the fleet using this port etc., as well behaviour of the certain vessels (penalty points, included/not included in IUU "blacklist" etc.). This risk assessment has been included in LFICIS, therefore surveillance of the riskiest areas has become more efficient.*

**Section 4. Information on catch certification scheme for importation for the purpose of the IUU Regulation<sup>11</sup>**

4.1. How many catch certificates from non-EU countries were presented to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019? Please complete the following table by flag state validating the catch certificates, including in cases catch certificates are accompanied by processing statements.<sup>12</sup>

Flag State (non-EU) <sup>13</sup>	2018	2019
US	10	14
AR	4	4
CL	1	1
KR	4	9
EC	0	1
FO	28	56
PH	0	3
GH	2	0

<sup>11</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States. Article 2.11 of the IUU Regulation – "importation means the introduction of fishery products into the territory of the Union, including for transshipment purposes at ports in its territory"

<sup>12</sup> If catch certificates are submitted only for transshipment purposes, please specify.

<sup>13</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<b>Flag State (non-EU)<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<i>GL</i>	5	0
<i>ID</i>	2	0
<i>IS</i>	116	85
<i>CA</i>	10	10
<i>RU</i>	16	31
<i>CN</i>	8	30
<i>MA</i>	14	16
<i>MR</i>	0	1
<i>MU</i>	6	1
<i>NO</i>	326	323
<i>PA</i>	0	1
<i>PG</i>	0	1
<i>PE</i>	17	6
<i>SV</i>	0	1
<i>SC</i>	6	9
<i>TW</i>	9	0
<i>TR</i>	1	0
<i>UA</i>	5	0
<i>VN</i>	22	20
<i>SB</i>	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>625</b>

4.2. From the number above, how many recognised RFMO catch certificates accompanied imports into your country? Please detail per RFMO certificate and year.

<b>RFMO document</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>	0	0
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>	0	0
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

4.3. How many catch certificates from EU Member States were presented to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019?

<b>Flag State (EU)</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<i>DK</i>	11	11
<i>FR</i>	22	10
<i>IT</i>	3	0

Flag State (EU)	2018	2019
<i>IE</i>	3	4
<i>LV*</i>	3	0
<i>GB</i>	23	21
<i>NL</i>	2	0
<i>ES</i>	10	7
<i>DE</i>	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>54</b>

\*Latvian IUU SLO notes: mentioned Latvian catch certificates presented to the Latvian competent authority content fisheries products cached by Latvian flag vessels which are landed in the Norwegian ports. Under the IUU regulation in such cases to import products landed in the third country (NO) into Latvia (EU) catch certificates are required.

4.4. From the number above, how many recognised RFMO catch certificates from EU Member States accompanied imports into your country? Please detail per RFMO certificate and year.

RFMO document	2018	2019
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>	0	0
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>	0	0
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

4.5. Has your country received processing statements from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019?

Yes

No

If yes, how many processing statements under Article 14.2 accompanied imports into your country? If possible, please provide details per year and per processing country.

Processing non-EU State <sup>14</sup>	2018	2019
<i>EC</i>	0	2
<i>FO</i>	1	0
<i>IS</i>	2	0
<i>CN</i>	28	31
<i>PG</i>	0	3
<i>SC</i>	40	17
<i>TH</i>	13	11
<i>TR</i>	1	1
<i>UA</i>	7	0
<i>VN</i>	1	0

<sup>14</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<b>Processing non-EU State<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<i>EC</i>	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>65</b>

4.6. Please indicate if the information in processing statements referring to the corresponding catch certificates is retained and recorded:

*Yes*                       *No*

*Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of processing statements received from non-EU countries in 2018-2019)*

4.7. Has your country received requests to authorise APEO<sup>15</sup>s in 2018-2019?

*Yes*                       *No*

If yes, how many requests has your country received and how many APEOs have been authorised?

.....

4.8. Has your country adopted administrative rules referring to the management and control of APEO in 2018-2019?

*Yes*                       *No*

*Not applicable (e.g. absence of APEO request)*

If yes, please detail:

.....

4.9. Has your country validated re-export certificates for products imported from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019?

*Yes*                       *No*

If yes, how many re-export certificates? Please detail per year and, if possible, per destination country:

<b>Destination country (non-EU)<sup>16</sup></b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<i>Third Country 1</i>		
<i>Third Country 2</i>		
...		
<i>Third Country x</i>		
<b>Total</b>		

<sup>15</sup> Approved Economic Operators – IUU Regulation, Article 16 and Implementing Regulation (EC) 1010/2009, Chapter II

<sup>16</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

4.10. Does your country monitor if the catches for which your country has validated a re-export certificate actually leave the EU?

Yes  No

*Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of validation of re-export certificates in 2018-2019)*

If yes, please detail:

.....

4.11. Has your country established any IT tools to monitor the catch certificates and processing statements accompanying imports?

Yes  No

If yes, does it include a module for re-exportation of imported catches?

Yes  No

4.12. Does your country implement the provisions regarding transit under Article 19.2 at the point of entry or the place of destination?

*At the point of entry*  *At the place of destination*  *Not implemented*

**Section 5. Information on catch certification scheme for exportation<sup>17</sup>**

5.1. Has your country established a procedure for validation of catch certificates for exportation of catches from own vessels in accordance with Article 15?

Yes  No

*Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of validation of catch certificates for exportation in 2018-2019)*

If yes, please explain briefly the established procedure and answer questions 5.2 to 5.5.

*Fishing company submits to the MoA the catch certificate via LFICIS with necessary data entered and signed by the master of the vessel (in a case when exported fisheries product consignment contains catches from several fishing vessels the relevant information may be attached as an annex to the catch certificate). Officials of the MoA check the licence number, quota and its' exhaustion level, landings and other relevant information, communicates, if necessary, with the SES on control and infringement matters, and then proceeds for signing of catch certificate. The scanned signed catch certificate is sent via email to the relevant entrepreneur (fishing company), as well as placed to the information system LFICIS. If requested also the original is available at any stage.*

5.2. Has your country validated catch certificates for exportation in 2018-2019 in accordance with Article 15?

Yes  No

<sup>17</sup> Section to be filled-in by flag Member States.

If yes, how many catch certificates did your country validate from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019? If possible, please provide details per requesting third country/country of destination in the following table:

Destination State <sup>18</sup>	Year	
	2018	2019
AU	3	-
BA	2	-
BG	-	1
HR	3	2
EE	4	-
FR	2	2
GE	5	-
GH	76	129
IL	-	1
JP	-	1
ME	1	-
NO	9	1
PL	37	1
PT	-	1
US	2	-
UA	475	262
UZ	3	1
Total*	622	402

*\*Not all mentioned countries are third countries, many of them are not in the list of third countries requesting catch certificates for the exportation catches by fishing vessels flying an EU Member state flag, however, catch certificates were validated for various reasons, for example: entering into the new markets. As well there were situations, when catch certificates were validated for exportation to the EU (Poland, Portugal, France etc.) with subsequent exports to third countries.*

5.3. Has your country established any IT tool to monitor the catch certificates validated for exports stemming from own vessels?

Yes  No

5.4. Does your country monitor that the catches for which your country has validated catch certificates actually leave the EU?

Yes  No

Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of validation of catch certificates for exportation in 2018-2019)

5.5. Has your country refused the validation of a catch certificate between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2019?

<sup>18</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.



Yes  No

Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of request for validation of catch certificates for exportation in 2018-2019)

If yes, please detail:

Number (per year): .....

Reason: .....

Follow-up: .....

**Section 6. Information on verifications of catch certificates for importation according to Article 17.1 to 5 of IUU Regulation<sup>19</sup>**

6.1. Has your country established a procedure for verification of catch certificates for importation in accordance with Article 17.2?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail:

.....

*There is an internal order of the SES regarding procedure for verification. It prescribes the order of the circulation of the documents, as well actions of officers in verification process.*

*Importer submits documents prescribed by the Council Regulation 1005/2008, as well shows the originals of invoice and if necessary veterinary certificate or packaging documents.*

*Procedure of verification:*

- SES verifies the state of origin of cargo - crosscheck of information mentioned in the documents (invoice, certificates etc.), compliance of the catch certificate with the sample, also information regarding fishing vessel, catch origin (fishing area).*
- If necessary, SES communicates with the administration of state of origin, communicates via IUU mutual assistance.*
- Registration and signing of the documents according to the national regulations and SES internal orders;*
- SES confirms/denies relevant catch certificate and in the first case gives an official reference to the legality of production;*
- SES scans relevant documents and placed scanned document into the information system LFICIS, if necessary, SES sends scanned document via email to the relevant importer.*
- The Custom has the access to the information system LFICIS and checks documents verified by SES.*

6.2. How many catch certificates have been verified by your administration from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019? Please specify, separately for each year:

Flag State of origin (EU or non-EU) <sup>20</sup>	Number of verifications	
	2018	2019

<sup>19</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>20</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

	No of basic document-based verifications <sup>21</sup>	No of in-depth verifications <sup>22</sup>	No of basic document-based verifications	No of in-depth verifications
<i>US</i>	10	10	14	14
<i>AR</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>CL</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>KR</i>	4	4	9	9
<i>EC</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>FO</i>	28	28	56	56
<i>PH</i>	0	0	3	3
<i>GH</i>	2	2	0	0
<i>GL</i>	5	5	0	0
<i>ID</i>	2	2	0	0
<i>IS</i>	116	116	85	85
<i>CA</i>	10	10	10	10
<i>RU</i>	16	16	31	31
<i>CN</i>	8	8	30	30
<i>MA</i>	14	14	16	16
<i>MR</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>MU</i>	6	6	1	1
<i>NO</i>	326	326	323	323
<i>PA</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>PG</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>PE</i>	17	17	6	6
<i>SV</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>SC</i>	6	6	9	9
<i>TW</i>	9	9	0	0

<sup>21</sup> See fields CC1 to CC6 (*Preliminary overview checks “helicopter view”*) of the EFCA Common methodology for IUU catch certificates verification and cross-checks.

<sup>22</sup> See fields CC7 to CC32 (*Verify and cross-check information related to the form, flag state, validating authority, fishing vessel, product(s), transshipment operations*) of the EFCA Common methodology for IUU catch certificates verification and cross-checks.

Flag State of origin (EU or non-EU) <sup>20</sup>	Number of verifications 2018		Number of verifications 2019	
	No of basic document-based verifications <sup>21</sup>	No of in-depth verifications <sup>22</sup>	No of basic document-based verifications	No of in-depth verifications
TR	1	1	0	0
UA	5	5	0	0
VN	22	22	20	20
SB	4	4	2	2
DK	11	11	11	11
FR	22	22	10	10
IT	3	3	0	0
IE	3	3	4	4
LV	3	3	0	0
GB	23	23	21	21
NL	2	2	0	0
ES	10	10	7	7
DE	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>679</b>

*In table above only UNIQUE catch certificates has been counted, but we have to take a note, that one catch certificate can be submitted to SES more than only once (for example with more than one Indirect statement, Processing statement etc.) what means that real verified number of catch certificates (consignments) is much more bigger.*

6.3. Does your country use a risk assessment approach for verification of catch certificates in accordance with Article 17?

Yes

No \*

If yes, please detail (e.g. EU criteria for verifications (Article 31 of Commission Regulation 1010/2009); EFCA risk assessment methodology; national criteria).

*\* Latvian IUU SLO notes: there are no specific criteria implemented in Latvia regarding identification of risks upon which verifications take place in accordance with Article 17.3 of the IUU Regulations. Verifications are always performed in cases noted in paragraph 17.4 of the IUU*

*Regulation. At the same time documentary validation of the catch certificates and other accompanying documents checks are in a place. Documents for all imports are checked according to the EFCA and Commission guidelines etc. If there is any suspicion on the compliance of the consignment with the rules prescribed in the regulations, it is the duty of the officials to proceed with the physical verification of the products to be imported.*

6.4. Does your country also physically verify the consignments?

Yes                                     No

If yes, please detail:

*Number (per year):* .....  
*Method of selection:* .....  
*Follow-up:* .....

**Section 7. Verification requests to flag States<sup>23</sup>**

7.1. Has your country sent requests for verifications under Article 17.6 of the IUU Regulation to other countries authorities in 2018-2019?

Yes                                     No

If yes, how many requests for verifications? *Note: please provide separate data for 2018 and 2019:*

<b>Flag States<sup>24</sup></b>	<b>No of requests for verifications 2018</b>	<b>Justifications (Articles 17.4 and 17.6 of the IUU Regulation)-</b>	<b>No of requests for verifications 2019</b>	<b>Justifications (Articles 17.4 and 17.6 of the IUU Regulation)</b>
<i>PE</i>	2	17.4.	5	17.4.
<i>NO</i>	1	17.6.	0	
<i>NL</i>	1	17.6.	0	
<i>TH</i>	1	17.4.	0	
<i>VN</i>	0		1	17.4.
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>6</b>	

7.2. How many requests for verification were not replied to by the other countries' authorities within the deadline provided in Article 17.6 of the IUU Regulation? Does your country in these situations send a reminder to the authorities of the country in question? Could you please specify when the request, despite reminder(s), remained unanswered? What measures have you taken in that case (i.e. denial of importation) [Please provide separate data for 2018 and 2019]

2018 - 0  
 2019 - 0

<sup>23</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States  
<sup>24</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

7.3. Was the quality of the answers provided overall sufficient to satisfy the request?

Yes  No

7.4. Has your country been using IT systems developed by third countries allowing for a full or partly verification of catch certificates and how many verifications were made through these systems (approximately)?

In year 2018 approximately 360 catch certificates and 40 indirect statements;

In year 2019 approximately 370 catch certificates and 40 indirect statements.

*As an example, Latvian competent authority - SES mostly uses Norwegian, Russian and US IT systems (but they are much more and mostly used without authentication). Mentioned IT systems help to identify whether the catch certificate submitted to authority by the importer matches the one in the third country national IT system.*

*SES checks 100% of the Norwegian, Russian and US certificates in their IT systems. SES also has access to the systems of Greenland, Ecuador, Turkey and India, but its IT systems are used as needed, as the number of catches certificates from these countries is much lower.*

**Section 8. Information on refusal of importations (Article 18 of the IUU Regulation)<sup>25</sup>**

8.1. Has your country refused any imports from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019? *Note: please only consider refusals based on the IUU Regulation, not for other reasons e.g. Food Safety, Customs legislation, etc.*

Yes  No\*

*\*Latvian IUU SLO notes: we would like to draw the Commission attention to the situation which faced Latvian IUU SLO at the end of 2018, when the Commissions assistance was asked in relation with competent authority in Ukraine which is authorized to validate catch certificate and processing statements for the product export from Ukraine to the EU. Given that this issue was addressed before the competent authorities of Latvia received catch certificates for validation, there have been no cases of import refused during mentioned period.*

If yes, please provide details in the table below:

Reason for refusal of importation	2018		2019	
	Flag State <sup>26</sup>	No.	Flag State <sup>27</sup>	No.
Non-submission of a catch certificate for products to be imported.				
The products intended for importation are not the same as those mentioned in the catch certificate.				
The catch certificate is not validated by the notified public				

<sup>25</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>26</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>27</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Reason for refusal of importation	2018		2019	
	Flag State <sup>26</sup>	No.	Flag State <sup>27</sup>	No.
authority of the flag State				
The catch certificate does not indicate all the required information.				
The importer is not in a position to prove that the fishery products comply with the conditions of Article 14.1 or 2.				
A fishing vessel figuring on the catch certificate as vessel of origin of the catches is included in the Union IUU vessel list or in the IUU vessel lists referred to in Article 30.				
The catch certificate has been validated by the authorities of a flag State identified as a non-cooperating State in accordance with Article 31				
Further to the request for verification (Article 18.2)				

8.2. If the answer to 8.1 is yes, what measures were taken by your authorities towards the refused fishery products?

.....

.....

8.3. In case of refusal of importation, did the operators contest the decision of the authorities of your country?

Yes

No

If yes, please detail: .....

**Section 9. Information on trade flows<sup>28</sup>**

9.1. Did your country note a change<sup>29</sup> of imports of fishery products since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2016-2017?

Yes

No

<sup>28</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>29</sup> For example: new kinds of fishery products, new trade patterns or significant and sudden increase in trade volume for a certain species and/or certain third countries.



If yes, please detail: .....

9.2. Please provide information, deriving from your country's statistical data, concerning change of trade patterns in imports of fishery products into your country:

*MoA notes that amount, structure and value of imported fish production are more related to the general economic processes, not to the introduction of IUU control measures. It should be noted that the largest part of the Latvia's fish production – both frozen fish products and canned and processed fish are exported. Therefore, major part of imported fish is used as raw material for diversification of production range in fish processing. Total volume of imported frozen fish products (excluding canned fish) in 2018 (compared to 2017) decreased by 2,4 % (total import from third countries and EU). In turn in 2019 (compared to 2018) it increased by 7,2 %.*

*From the third countries the biggest share of fish import for a longer period has been Norway (9.7% from the total import from third countries and EU), Iceland (5.9 %), China (1.6%) and Morocco (0.7 %). The imported volumes from other third countries can be considered as not very significant. The proportion of EU countries was stable and accounted for over 80% of Latvia's total imports of fish products. However, over a three-year period, import of fish products from EU countries decreased by 1.3%.*

Larger fish products importers from third countries	2017	2018	2019
<i>Norway</i>	6398 t	7069 t	6331 t
<i>Iceland</i>	1910 t	4017 t	3870 t
<i>China</i>	754 t	457 t	1024 t
<i>Morocco</i>	698t	390 t	447 t

*It should be noted that in 2019, compared to 2018, the import of fish products from Russia significantly increased (more than 10 times): 2017 - 91 t; 2018 - 108 t; 2019 - 1216 t. In 2019, the share of Russian fish products import in the total import of Latvian fish products was 1.9%.*

#### **Section 10. Information on mutual assistance<sup>30</sup>**

10.1. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2016-2017, how many mutual assistance messages of the Commission has your country replied to?

*Please provide separate data for 2018 and 2019 (if any)*

2018 - 6

2019 - 5

10.2. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2016-2017, has your country sent any mutual assistance message to the Commission/other Member States?

<sup>30</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

*Please provide separate data for 2018 and 2019 (if any)*

*2018 - 1*

*2019 - 0*

**Section 11. Information on cooperation with third countries<sup>31</sup>**

11.1. Apart from verifications and refusals under Articles 17 and 18, has your country had information exchange with third countries on issues related to the implementation of the IUU Regulation, such as follow-up of cases concerning nationals, consignments, trade flows, operators, private fishing licencing, as well as the investigation of criminal activities and serious infringements (Article 42)?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail (please provide separate data for 2018 and 2019, if any).

.....

**Section 12. Information on nationals<sup>32</sup>**

12.1. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2016-2017, has your country implemented or modified existing measures to ensure that your country can take appropriate action with regards to nationals involved in IUU fishing in accordance with Article 39 of the IUU Regulation?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail: .....

12.2. What measures has your country taken to encourage nationals to notify any information on interests in third country vessels (Article 40.1)?

*Since the last reporting covering the period 2016-2017 Latvian IUU SLO cooperated with Maritime Administration of Latvia, Register of Seamen, which is responsible for Certification of Seafarers, as a result, information regarding their work on a third country fishing vessel to be submitted to the SES, in 2019 also was placed on the premises of the Register of Seamen. This opportunity as another additional information option for seafarers was used.*

12.3. Has your country endeavoured to obtain information on arrangements between nationals and third countries allowing reflagging of their vessels in accordance with Article 40.4?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail: .....

According to the Fishery Law legal and natural persons who are engaged in industrial fishing have the obligation to provide information regarding catch in accordance with such procedures and within such time periods as are stipulated in fishing rights lease agreements and prescribed in industrial fishing regulations. If a ship registered in the third country is owned by a legal or natural person and such person is engaged in fishing or he or she owns the shares (stocks) of such commercial company which owns a ship registered in the third country and such commercial company is engaged in fishing, the abovementioned person, and also an employed person who is performing activities related to fisheries on the ship registered in the third country, shall inform the SES thereof within a month after commencement of fishing activities of the ship or employment relations.

12.4. If yes to any of the above, how many cases have your country dealt with and which administrative or penal follow-up was given?

Please provide details: .....

<sup>31</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>32</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

12.5. Has your country put in place procedures to ensure that nationals do not sell or export any fishing vessels to operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the Union IUU vessel list (Article 40.2)?

Yes  No\*

If yes, please provide details: .....

*\*Latvian IUU SLO notes: The Latvian authorities have introduced some improvements since 2020 to ensure Article 40.4. requirements of the IUU regulation. MoA, when taking decision regarding to exclusion of fishing vessel from the Latvian Ship Register and/or decision to register of fishing vessels, shall indicate that nationals do not sell or export any fishing vessels to operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the Union IUU vessel list.*

12.6. Has your country made use of Article 40.3 and removed public aid under national aid regimes or under Union funds to operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the Union IUU vessel list?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail: .....

*Latvia shall act in accordance with the Union funds Regulation, which prohibits support to operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the Union IUU vessel list.*

**Section 13. Infringements (Chapter IX of the IUU Regulation) and Sightings (Chapter X of the IUU Regulation)<sup>33</sup>**

13.1. Has your country detected serious infringements as defined in Article 42 of the IUU Regulation from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail separately for each year the number of serious infringements, nature and sanctions applied:

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) <sup>34</sup>	Serious infringements detected in 2018:			Serious infringements detected in 2019:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
LV	2	Administrative violation	Fine Penalty points	4	Administrative violation	Fine Penalty points

<sup>33</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>34</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.



Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) <sup>34</sup>	Serious infringements detected in 2018:			Serious infringements detected in 2019:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
<i>Total</i>	2			4		

13.2. Has your country applied or adapted its levels of administrative sanctions in accordance with Article 44?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail: .....

*On the basis of the Latvian Administrative Penalty Code in case of violation of the rules of fishing in the territorial waters, the economic zone waters or in international waters physical persons can be fined from 30 EUR up to 350 EUR, and legal persons can be fined from 140 EUR up to 4300 EUR. Also, confiscation of fishing gear, and suspension of the fishing license up to one year can be applied. In case of repeated violation of fishing regulations during the year, the physical persons can be fined from 140 EUR up to 700 EUR and legal persons can be fined from 700 EUR up to 14000 EUR. Also, confiscation of fishing gear and suspension of the fishing license up to three year can be applied. For fishing without authorization, in prohibited place, or with prohibited gear, physical persons can be fined from 280 EUR up to 700 EUR and legal persons can be fined from 1400 EUR up to 14000 EUR. Also, confiscation of fishing gear and suspension of the fishing license up to three year can be applied.*

*In addition, the sanction may also consist the requirement to compensate the value of losses done to the fish resources. Losses done to the fish resources shall be calculated in accordance with the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No 296. "Regulations Regarding Commercial Fishing in Territorial Waters and Economic Zone Waters" paragraph No 8.15. and Annex 4 which prescribes Basic Rates of Tax for the Calculation of the Sum to be Collected for Loss that Natural Persons or Legal Persons have Caused by Illegally Obtaining of Fish. For example, for Salmon, whitefish (*Coregonus lavaretus*), sea trout - 143 EUR per specimen, for eel - 72 EUR, for other species tax is fixed per kilogram for example, for cod - 15 EUR, for sprat and herring -1 EUR per kilogram. In turn, the basic rate of tax of loss calculation (Annex 4) shall be calculated in a triple amount if the following violations have been performed:*

- fishing without a fishing permit (licence);*
- fishing of the relevant fish species during a prohibited time period and in a prohibited area;*
- fishing of the relevant fish species after a complete use of the fishing limit thereof, except the permitted by-catch amount of fish species thereof;*
- use of prohibited fishing gear and methods of fishing, as well as use of fishing gear and methods of fishing not specified in the fishing permit (licence).*

*SES criteria for determining the serious nature of an infringement is still valid as from 2017. These criteria are amount of undeclared fish (if more than 15 % difference between amount recorded in logbook and landed amount), value of undeclared fish (if more than 500 EUR in value is taken beyond*

coastal zone waters and 250 EUR - in coastal waters), difference of mesh size greater than 5 mm and if the number of fishing gear used in fishing exceeds permitted fishing gear limit more than 20%.

The amount of the fine based on these criteria is determined taking into account Council Regulation No 1224/ 2009. Article 90.3 which provides that the Member States shall impose a sanction that is effectively dissuasive and, as appropriate, calculated on the value of the fisheries products obtained by committing a serious infringement.

13.3. Has your country issued sighting reports from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019?

Yes  No

If yes, how many sighting reports were issued by your country from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019?

Flag State of the sighted vessel (EU and non-EU) <sup>35</sup>	No of sighting reports issued in 2018	No of sighting reports issued in 2019
Country 1		
Country 2		
...		
Country x		
Total		

13.4. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2016-2017, has your country received any sighting reports for its own vessels from other competent authorities?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail follow-up (in accordance with Article 50 of the IUU Regulation).

.....

**Section 14. General**

14.1. In the reporting period 2018-2019, what have been the main difficulties that your country has encountered in implementing the IUU Regulation, including the catch certification scheme?

*The main potential problem is that it is possible to make multiple importations of notified amount of fish products using the same catch certificate several times, as it is not possible to communicate every catch certificate with colleagues in other Member States. This makes the system inefficient and easy to avoid. Mutual assistance is a good tool to assist in suspicious cases, but it is not enough. One more topical question is technical and practical implementation of CATC IT system developed by the Commission. At the end of 2019, the Commission was informed on Latvian IUU SLO concerns*

<sup>35</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.



regarding the implementation of the CATCH IT, as the existing catch certificate scheme in Latvia does not allow for the operation of CATCH IT. As a solution, Latvia would like to suggest the implementation of Customs Single Window as soon as possible. This tool, in Latvian view, could help to ensure the necessary data exchange between competent authorities, thus allowing to use CATCH IT system also in Latvia.



14.2. Which improvements would your country suggest to the Regulation that would make implementation smoother?

*Latvia supports work on the IUU IT project and recognizes their value in combating of IUU fishing. From the IT project Latvia expects possibility of obtaining the necessary documents from third countries and other EU member states, which would help to avoid falsification of documents and correction of data. Latvia hopes that the IUU IT project will help to improve common EU system for combating IUU fishing. Therefore, we will suggest and support any Regulation's improvements related to the implementation of the new IT tool.*

*In addition to the 14.2. notes on CATCH IT implementation, Latvian IUU SLO would like to mention possibility for use of the electronic signatures in the system. Latvian SLO IUU team emphasizes the importance of this issue because without electronic signature it is not possible to sign documents and proceed further in CATCH IT system.*

#### **Section 15. Any other comments**

*Latvian IUU team would like to thank the Commission and EFCA for the trainings and working groups organized in the context of IUU Regulation, as well as recognizes that these trainings and exchange of experience between MS are very useful and helpful for Latvian IUU team daily work.*

*Latvian IUU team informs again, that considering the last years' experience, MS IUU teams regularly send requests for third countries authorities contact persons. To facilitate the search for the information, Latvia proposes to develop an online list of MS and third countries authorities contact list with up-to-date contact details.*

• • •