

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 1st MIXED COMMISSION ON CO-OPERATION
IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

In accordance with the Article 22 of the Agreement between the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Co-operation in the fields of Education, Culture and Sports, signed in Mexico City on April 14th of 2005, the 1st Mixed Commission on Co-operation in the fields of Education, Culture and Sports was held in Riga, on 22 and 23 October 2007.

The Latvian delegation was presided by Ms. Solvita Zvidrina, State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture of Latvia. The Mexican delegation was presided by Mr. Alberto Fierro Garza, Director General of Cultural Affairs at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs. The list of members participating in each delegation is included in ATTACHMENT 1.

In line with the interests of Latvia and Mexico, the Parties approved the following Programme on Educational, Cultural and Sports Co-operation for 2007-2010, which was elaborated according to the Article 20 of the above mentioned Agreement and which does not exclude the possibility to perform other future actions.

**PROGRAMME ON EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SPORTS
CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES
FOR 2007-2010**

A. EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION

I. Education

“Educational co-operation”

Both Parties express their interest to learn from each other's educational systems by exchange of information and materials in the following areas:

- Preschool education
- Youth and Adult education
- Educational integration for pupils with special educational needs
- Professional and work training
- Technological education
- Application and qualification of the professions
- Copyright and related rights
- Recognition of studies, diplomas and academic degrees

“Higher Education co-operation”

The Parties will support the co-operation agreements between Mexican and Latvian institutions, which include the exchange of academic staff, researchers and students through visits or joint research projects, as well as other activities.

Both Parties express that the institutions of higher education are interested in performing projects in the following areas: History of Art, History of Culture, Fine Arts in general, Social Sciences, Technology and Business Administration, among other fields.

Also they will encourage the mobility between scientists, experts, academic staff and researchers of both countries in order to participate at international congresses, symposia, conferences and other meetings held in each Party's country.

In this regard, on behalf of the Mexican Government, the Secretariat for Foreign Relations (SRE), through the Direction General for Cultural Affairs (DGAC), offers to Latvian professors the possibility to visit Mexico in the frame of its Special Programmes and High Level Lectures foreseen in its Application Call for Scholarships for Foreigners.

II. Human Resources

Scholarships

On behalf of the Mexican Government, the SRE through the DGAC offers the Latvian Party a maximum of two (2) scholarships, which could be used to study the language and the Mexican culture during twelve months, with the possibility to extend the scholarship to make post graduated studies.

The Latvian Party also offers up to two (2) scholarships at the International Summer School organized by the Vidzeme University College. The information for applicants is available on the Internet website: www.biss.va.lv.

III. Diplomatic Studies and International Relations

The SRE, through the Institute Matías Romero (IMR), invites Latvian experts on regional affairs, foreign politics and international relations, who visit Mexico, to give lectures at the Institute.

Both Parties will exchange experiences on their respective diplomatic training systems.

IV. Teaching of Spanish in Latvia and Latvian in Mexico

The Parties will facilitate and reinforce the teaching of their respective languages and cultures in schools and higher education institutions of the other Party, particularly through lectures, as well as the exchange of experts.

V. Youth and Sports

“Exchange of experiences in the Field of Youth”

The Parties will support and stimulate the co-operation in the field of youth, particularly through an exchange of information and experiences with the purpose to extend knowledge and understanding about the reality of the life of young people in both countries.

The Mexican Youth Institute (IMJ) expresses its interest to acquire knowledge about the Latvian system for youth work, its organization, programmes and what kind of institutes they could establish co-operation with.

The IMJ especially wishes to know the programmes and actions made in the following areas:

- Employment of young people
- Community development
- Entrepreneurship of young people
- Summer employment supported by government agencies
- Internship in government agencies and private companies
- Vocational training programmes of the youth
- Fostering entrepreneurship and leadership
- Youth activities related with the environment

“Exchange of Experiences within the area of Sports”

The Parties will promote the co-operation between the institutions of both countries in the field of sports through the exchange of information, sportsmen, coaches and experts.

VI. Protection of children

The Parties will support the exchange of information between the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs of Latvia and responsible Mexican agencies regarding the application of The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction of 25th October, 1980.

B. CO-OPERATION IN ART AND CULTURE

“Annual Cultural Activities of Mexico in Latvia and of Latvia in Mexico”

The Parties agree to present their provisional annual programme of cultural activities in the other country, through the diplomatic channels, during the first quarter of each year during the validity of the Programme. These documents will be a basic part of this Programme.

“Collaboration in Education and Training in Arts”

The Parties will promote the exchange of experiences in the area of education and training in Arts through the participation of teachers and students at seminars, symposia and workshops.

The Latvian Academy of Arts expresses its interest to organise exchanges of students and professors with its Mexican counterparts. The practical conditions of this co-operation will be determined by the involved institutions themselves.

The National Council for Culture and Arts (CNCA) of Mexico through the National System for Musical Promotion expresses its interest in sending Mexican students to the Latvian Academy of Culture.

VII. Cultural Industries

The Parties emphasize the importance of the cultural industries and agree on the necessity to reflect jointly about the legislations and public politics related to the audiovisual, editorial and phonographic industries, as well as the new technologies and will therefore strengthen the co-operation in this matter.

VIII. Archaeology, Anthropology, Conservation and Restoration of the Historic and Cultural Heritage

“Co-operation in the areas of Archaeology and Anthropology”

The Parties will promote the exchange of information and experts in the areas of archaeology and anthropology, as well as participation in courses, seminars or work-shops in the respective areas.

"Promotion, Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage"

The Parties will encourage, through their appropriate institutions, joint co-operation projects for the promotion, protection, conservation, restoration and management of cultural heritage.

They will favour the exchange of information in order to facilitate the recuperation of the lost cultural properties that were either lost or illegally taken from both countries, in accordance with their respective legislations and elaborate a bilateral agreement to establish the measures to prevent the Import and Export and illegal transfer of their historic and cultural heritage according to the national and international legislation.

Both Parties will exchange the experiences regarding the safeguard of the intangible cultural heritage.

IX. International Festivals

The Parties will promote the participation of their respective countries in international festivals held in the territory of the other country. Therefore each Party will provide the other Party, in advance, through the diplomatic channels, with detailed information about its festivals.

The financial conditions will be negotiated, in each case, between the organizing committees and the proper institutions from the guest Party.

In this frame, the Ministry of Culture of Latvia, through the Latvian National Centre for Traditional and Performing Arts extends a kind invitation to Mexico to participate in the following cultural festivals that will be held in Riga:

- XI International Festival "Solaris", to be held in October, 2009 (folklore string instruments).
- International Festival "Baltica 2009", to be held in June, 2009 (folklore groups)
- International Folklore Dance Festival "Sudmalinas", to be held in August 2009 (folklore dance).

X. Visual Arts and Museums

The Parties will encourage the collaboration between their respective institutions on visual arts, particularly the presentation of exhibitions from Mexico to Latvia and from Latvia to Mexico.

The Mexican Party informs that during 2010 it will celebrate the Bicentennial of the Independence and the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution and will welcome the presentation of Latvian graphic exhibition to Mexico in 2010.

The Parties will inform well in advance about the arts touring exhibitions which could be presented in the other country.

The Mexican Party proposes to the Latvian Party to consider receiving the following exhibitions, and will send the information on each through the diplomatic channels:

- “Homage to the great masters of the National Plastics”. Founders of the Salon for Mexican Plastic Arts, coordinated by Carlos Blas Galindo.
- “Viva la vida: Frida” (Bless Life Frida); a collective exhibition organized by the members of the Salon for Mexican Plastic Arts, as a recognition of Frida Kahlo’s plastic art.
- The exhibition “Tepito Bravo, el Barrio!” (Bravo, the quarter!) by photographer Francisco Mata Rosas from the Gallery “José María Velasco” of the National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA).

(Proposal from the Direction for Architecture and Conservation of the Real Estate Heritage of the INBA)

- Architecture from Pedregal, 1940-1975
- Architect Photographers
- Religious Architecture in Mexico, XX Century

“Biennales and International Encounters”

The Mexican Party, through the Association Trama Visual, A.C., invites the Latvian Party to participate in the Poster’s International Biennial in Mexico in 2008.

The Ministry of Culture of Latvia, through the Museum of Decorative Art and Design and the Textile Art Association, extends a kind invitation to Mexico to participate in the Triennial International Fibre Art to be held in Riga in 2010.

“Collaboration between Museums”

The Parties will encourage the co-operation between the museums of both countries through the exchange of exhibitions, experts and artists.

The Latvian Party expresses its interest to present a significant Mexican archaeological exhibition (for example, Olmec arts) in their Museum of Foreign Art. The specific details will be provided through the diplomatic channels.

XI. Performing Arts

“Exchange of Orchestra Conductors, Soloists and Musical Groups”

The Parties will promote the exchange of Mexican and Latvian orchestra conductors, soloists and musical groups, with the purpose to present the artistic traditions of both countries. The specific proposals and details will be provided through the diplomatic channels.

“Collaboration in Dance”

The Parties will promote the exchange of Mexican and Latvian dance soloists and groups.

The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), through the University Company for Free Dance, expresses its interest to make presentations in Latvia and give lectures about the dance in Mexico.

The CNCA, through the National Company of Dance of the INBA, invites a couple of high level dancers from the Ballet of the Latvian National Opera (Riga Ballet), to participate in the festivities of the 45 Anniversary of the National Company of Dance, “Ballet Gala” that will be held in the autumn 2008.

The CNCA, through the National Fund for Culture and Art (FONCA), invites artistic programmers and cultural promoters to assist to the IV Encounter for Performing Arts in Mexico: A Door to the Americas, that will be held in June 2008.

The Mexican Party is also interested in receiving a donation of books and videos about the Latvian dancing art.

XII. International Book Fairs, Publishing Co-operation and Literature

“International Book Fairs”

The Parties express their interest to promote the participation of both countries in the International Book Fairs held in each country, where writers and publishers could participate in fora, conferences or literary meetings.

Therefore, each Party will provide to the other Party, information with due advance and through the diplomatic channels, about the book fairs which take place in their country. The financial conditions will be negotiated, in each case, between the organizing committee and the proper institutions from the invited Party.

The CNCA, through the General Direction of Publications (DGP), expresses its interest to have the participation of Latvian writers, editors, illustrators and experts in the different activities that will be realized during the XXVII, XXVIII,

XXIX and XXX editions of the Children and Youth International Book Fair to be held on November 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively.

“Translation, Co-publishing and Spreading Literary Works by Mexican and Latvian Authors”

The Parties will promote the translation and publishing of the literary work of authors from both countries.

In this frame, the National Council for Culture and Arts, through the FONCA, invites the Latvian publishing houses to participate in the Programme of Support for Translation of Mexican Works (PROTRAD) by presenting translation and publications projects in Latvian language of Mexican writers. The Latvian proposals should be presented directly to PROTRAD.

The Latvian Party, through the Latvian Literature Centre (LLC), will inform the Mexican Party about the application call for participation in the programme “Support to Foreign Publishers for Publishing the Translated Latvian Literature”.

The CNCA, through the DGP, offers to publish an anthology of Latvian short stories/poetry. The Latvian Party, through the LLC, according to its capacity, will promote publishing of an anthology of Mexican short stories/poetry.

“Exchange of Writers and Experts”

The Parties will continue to encourage and facilitate the exchange of experiences to develop programmes related with the promotion of books and reading, as well as the participation of writers in fora, meetings or conferences organized by public and private institutions in Mexico and Latvia. The specific proposals will be provided through the diplomatic channels.

The Latvian Party will invite, while this Programme is in force, writers, poets and translators up to thirty days for a residency at the International Writers’ and Translators’ House in Ventspils (www.ventspilshouse.lv) setting as priority the translation of the Latvian literature. The International Writers’ and Translators’ House in Ventspils will cover the expenses of accommodation and a monthly allowance (scholarship) in the amount of LVL 150.

“Literary Co-operation”

The Parties propose to donate collections of books about art, culture and history from their respective countries with the purpose to provide the potentially interested institutions, among them student communities of Mexico and Latvia, with materials to improve their knowledge about the literature of the respective Party.

In this respect, the CNCA, through the Educal, gave a donation of more than 100 samples of different titles.

The Latvian Academy of Culture expresses its gratitude for the above mentioned donation.

In this respect, the Latvian Literature Centre will send a donation of the journal „Latvian Literature” with translations of the works of Latvian writers in English, German and French as well as other informative materials on Latvian literature and books.

XIII. Archives and Libraries

“Co-operation between Archives”

The Parties will continue supporting the collaboration in the area of archives, particularly the access to consult material for scientific, social and legal purposes, as well as the exchange of experiences, publications and microfilms.

“Co-operation between Archives and Libraries specialized in Diplomatic History and International Relations”.

The SRE expresses its interest to exchange materials with the Latvian archives and libraries regarding diplomatic history and international relations.

“Co-operation between Libraries”

The Parties will support the collaboration between Mexican and Latvian libraries and will facilitate the contacts for an exchange of experiences.

XIV. Radio, Television, Cinematography and Audiovisual Media

“Collaboration in Radio”

The Parties will promote the exchange of broadcasting material between their respective radio institutions.

“Co-operation in Television”

The Parties will support the collaboration of educational and cultural television, as well as the co-operation between their respective radio stations and the organizations of educative television. The specific proposals will be provided through the diplomatic channels.

The Parties will particularly support the diffusion of historical, archaeological and cultural documentaries.

The CNCA, through Channel 22, is interested in promoting a cooperation agreement with its Latvian counterpart, with the purpose to exchange and promote programmes and series about the cultural legacy, as well as the contemporary artistic life of both countries.

“Co-operation in Cinematography”

With the purpose to strengthen the relations in the area of cinematography, the Parties will promote the realization of film-weeks dedicated to the other country, as well as the collaboration between the cinematography institutions, organizations and other entities in this field.

C. FINANCIAL AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The Parties will be able to propose the implementation of other co-operation activities or projects in the fields of education, art, culture, youth and sports, which should be specified through the diplomatic channels.
2. The Parties will exchange, through the diplomatic channels, evaluation reports of the Programme.
3. When implementing co-operation and cultural activities, the institutions of both Parties will search, case by case, convenient financial agreements to share in a fair way the expenses of such activities.

Exchange of Persons

4. The institution of the sending Party will make available to the institution of the receiving Party, with due opportunity, the documentation of the proposed experts and/or artists. The receiving Party will inform in due time its decision of acceptance of the proposal to the institution of the sending Party.
5. Except for those cases in which the responsible institutions establish other terms, the financing will be as follows:
 - a) The institution of the sending Party will assume the international round-trip expenses, including transit, luggage, airport use and medical insurance expenses (with the exception of previous diseases and dental attention).
 - b) The receiving Party will cover the housing, meals and the necessary trips within its own country to make possible the

implementation of the agreed project between the Parties. These expenses will be specified at the approval of the exchange.

c) The sending Party must see that the persons participating in the exchanges planned in the frame of this Programme will have a medical insurance that covers the health risks and fatal accidents, in despite of the possibility that the current law of the receiving country could give the right of such medical benefits.

Scholarships

6. Each Party will send to its Counter Party the Call of Application for Scholarships, for its dissemination, at least three months before its closing date. They will also send the corresponding application forms. This call of application shall inform about the conditions and documents to be filled by the candidates, the deadline for receiving the documentation and the benefits of the scholarships.

Exchange of Artistic Groups

7. The specific conditions of the participation of artistic groups will be agreed, in each case, between the participating institutions.

8. Except for those cases in which the financing has been previously decided between the respective institutions, the soloists and artistic groups should themselves look for the financing for round-trip international travel expenses, including costumes and instruments. The receiving Party's institution will cover the housing, meals and local transportation, as well as the organization and publicity of the event.

Visual Arts

9. Except for those cases in which the responsible institutions establish other terms, the institutions of the sending Party will:

a) Inform the institutions of the receiving Party that might be interested to receive the proposed exhibition, about the dates and theme, at least twelve months in advance and in case they accept the proposal, they will give the complementary information and the necessary material for a catalogue four months in advance. The material of the exhibition should arrive to the final location fifth teen days before the inauguration date.

b) Cover the international round-trip transportation expenses, as well as the insurance of the transportation.

10. Except for those cases in which the responsible institutions establish other terms, the institutions of the receiving Party will:

a) Cover the insurance expenses during the exposition period and the local transportation of the exhibition, as well as the organization expenses, including halls, security, montage, dismantling and, if wanted, a catalogue and publicity.

b) If an object gets damaged, it will give the institution of the sending Party all the documentation about the causes of the damage and shall not proceed with the restoration of the damaged works without the previous consent of the sending Party's institution. In this case, it will cover the expenses caused by the compilation of this information and those of the expert work on the damage.

11. Except for those cases in which the responsible institutions establish other terms, the expenses caused by the visit of a commissioner and/or a curator (maximum two), will be regulated by the conditions for exchange of persons. The length of the period(s) of the commissioner and/or curator shall not exceed ten days.

International Book Fairs

12. The Publishing houses will cover their expenses for participating in the respective fairs.

Bibliographic, Audiovisual and Informative material

13. Except for those cases in which the responsible institutions establish other terms, the expenses for packing and transportation of bibliographic, audiovisual and informative material interchanged in the frame of this Programme will be covered by the institutions of the sending Party.

Other financial sources

14. For the implementation of the projects and proposals of this Programme, the Parties can, in mutual agreement, request the collaboration and financial support of internal and external sources as international organizations, foundations, NGO's, companies and local institutions.

FINAL STIPULATIONS

The Parties agree to yearly review the development of the activities of this Programme, through the diplomatic channels or through evaluation meetings, with the purpose to renew the educational and cultural development between both countries.

The present Programme will enter into force starting the day of its signature and will be valid until the signature of the next.

The 2nd Mixed Commission of Educational, Cultural and Sports Co-operation will be held in Mexico. The date will be determined through the diplomatic channels.

Made and signed in Riga, on the twenty third of October of the year two thousand and seven, in two originals, each in the Latvian, Spanish and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of the interpretation of this Cooperation Programme, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**



**Solvita Zvidriņa
State Secretary of the
Ministry of Culture**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**



**Alberto Fierro Garza
General Director of
Cultural Affairs
Secretariat for Foreign Affairs**

The Latvian delegation:

Ms. Solvita Zvidriņa, Head of Delegation, State Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Ms. Līga Briģe, Second Secretary, the Americas and Caribbean Countries Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Agra Brūne, Director of the Sport Department, Ministry of Education and Science

Mr. Andris Jakubāns, Member of the National Council of Broadcasting and Television

Ms. Gita Rēvalde, Director of the Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Science

Ms. Natalja Rogaļeva, Deputy Director of the Department for Youth Affairs, Ministry for Children and Family Affairs

Mrs. Janīna Tiškina, Head of Division for International Relations, Ministry of Culture

The Mexican delegation:

Mr. Alberto Fierro Garza, Head of Delegation, Director-General for Culture at the Secretariat of the Foreign Affairs of Mexico

Mr. Tirzo Beltran Torres, Chief of the Chancery of the Embassy of Mexico in Sweden