

The Saeima has adopted and the President has proclaimed
the following Law:

Law on the Preservation and Protection of Riga's Historical Centre

Article 1. The following terms are used in this Law:

- 1) **cultural and historical value** — a masterpiece of the human creative spirit that demonstrates a significant interaction of human values in a particular time or place; that is related to the development of architecture or technology, monumental art, city planning or landscape design; that is directly or physically connected to events, living traditions, artistic or literary works; that has universal appeal; and that is more than 25 years old;
- 2) **cultural and historical environment** — an area that is the result of conscious effort in the course of humanity's development, specifically one that as a whole or in its individual elements has historical, scientific, artistic, natural or another cultural value worth preserving;
- 3) **modification of a cultural and historical environment** — any technical, construction or commercial activity as a result of which the cultural and historical environment is modified (in function, form, colour, individual details, building materials) or another cultural value is modified;
- 4) **public space** — streets, boulevards, open areas, parks, squares, embankments, areas around housing blocks, or yards that are easily accessible to people regardless of who owns the property where they are located;
- 5) **plan for Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone** — a physical planning document or a set of planning documents which is worked out in accordance with the procedure prescribed by this Law and other normative acts.

Article 2. The purpose of this Law is to ensure the preservation, protection and qualitative development of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone.

Article 3. The objective of this Law is to determine the status and territory of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone, the procedure for their preservation, protection and use, as well as the procedure for implementing development projects and the requirements for developing a physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone.

Article 4. (1) The territory of Riga's Historical Centre, covering 438.3 ha, and the territory of the protective zone of Riga's Historical Centre, covering 1574.2 ha, are a part of the city of Riga. The boundaries of the two territories shall be determined in accordance with the Boundary Plan included in Annex 1 to this Law and the Description of the Boundaries included in Annex 2.

(2) Riga's Historical Centre is a cultural monument of national importance. Riga's Historical Centre has been put on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The preservation and

protection of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone are regulated by this Law, the Law on Protecting Cultural Monuments, the 1972 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and other normative acts.

Article 5. (1) Any activities which may damage or destroy the cultural and historical values under protection in Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone are prohibited.

(2) The following authentic cultural and historical values within Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone shall be preserved and protected:

- 1) the structure of historical planning (along with qualitative modifications made later);
- 2) panoramic view, skyline, scenic vistas;
- 3) historical buildings (particularly those from the Middle Ages or the Art Nouveau era and those of wooden construction), their scale and character;
- 4) archaeological layer;
- 5) public space;
- 6) system of parks and green zones;
- 7) historical watercourses and reservoirs;
- 8) historical surfacing (cobblestone surfaces, gravel paths, etc.);
- 9) elements of historical landscaping.

(3) Modification of cultural and historical values to be preserved in Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone shall be permitted if the necessary modification is the only way to ensure urban development and if the modification does not decrease the cultural and historical value of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone.

(4) In Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone, no reconstruction of historical buildings or re-planning of storeys of these buildings shall be permitted if as the result of these modifications possibilities for residential use of the buildings are irreversibly lost. This provision shall not apply to ground floors, basements or semi-basements of historical buildings.

(5) In Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone, qualitative buildings of modern architecture, urban design and monuments may be erected as long as the following provisions are observed: the chosen construction site does not contradict the city plan of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone; due respect is paid to historical buildings, their character, scale, rhythm, traditional building materials and the atmosphere created; and the building or structure fits into the historical environment.

Article 6. The territory of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone, which, in accordance with the Law on the Free Port of Riga, is also the territory of the Free Port of Riga, shall be developed or otherwise modified in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 7. The Cabinet of Ministers shall issue regulations on the preservation, protection and use of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone, on the modification of the cultural and historical environment, and on the procedure for implementing development projects and shall set requirements consistent with the value of the relevant cultural and historical environment (hereinafter — Cabinet of Ministers Regulations on the Preservation and Protection of Riga's Historical Centre).

Article 8. (1) The physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone (hereinafter — the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre) shall contain written and

graphical (visual) presentation of the present and planned (permitted) use of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone; it shall also specify restrictions on use, requirements for the preservation of the cultural and historical environment and values, and the city blocks and groups of such blocks for which a land-use plan is compulsory.

(2) Requirements, the boundaries of territories, and structures specified in the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre shall be made more precise in the land-use plan for city blocks or groups of such blocks.

(3) City blocks or groups of such blocks for which a land-use plan is compulsory shall be indicated by the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments when drafting the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre.

Article 9. (1) The physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre shall be developed and approved as binding regulations by the Riga City Council in accordance with this Law, the Law on Physical Planning, the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations on the Preservation and Protection of Riga's Historical Centre, and other normative acts, as well as in accordance with the requirements of the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments and the recommendations of UNESCO's Latvian National Committee (hereinafter — the Latvian National Committee).

(2) The draft of the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre (or the draft of the land-use plan of a city block or a group of such blocks), before its approval by the Riga City Council, should be co-ordinated with the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, and if the Inspectorate has no objections, it should be put on the agenda of the Riga City Council for approval. The draft physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre should also be sent for review to the Council for the Preservation and Development of Riga's Historical Centre.

(3) The State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments or any other interested party may suggest that the Minister for Regional Development and Local Governments suspend the Riga City Council's binding regulations on approving the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre (or a land-use plan of a city block or a group of such blocks) if

- 1) the requirements with regard to the procedure for developing and co-ordinating the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre (or a land-use plan of a city block or a group of such blocks) are not observed;
- 2) the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre (or a land-use plan of a city block or a group of such blocks) contradicts the provisions of this Law, the Law on the Protection of Historical Monuments, the Law on Protective Zones, or other normative acts.

Article 10. (1) In order to facilitate institutional co-operation and decision making on issues pertaining to the preservation, protection and development of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone, the Council for the Preservation and Development of Riga's Historical Centre (hereinafter — the Council) shall be formed, and its membership (as suggested by the Minister for Culture) and statutes shall be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

(2) The Council shall be an advisory body consisting of ten members:

- 1) the head of the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments;
- 2) an official of the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in charge of registering and researching historical monuments;

- 3) an archaeologist or an architect of the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments;
- 4) the head of the Riga City Council's institution responsible for the protection of cultural monuments;
- 5) an official of the responsible institution of the Riga City Council who is in charge of the development of Riga's Historical Centre;
- 6) an official of the responsible institution of the Riga City Council who is in charge of developing the master plan of the city of Riga;
- 7) an expert invited by the Minister for Culture;
- 8) a representative of the Latvian National Committee;
- 9) a representative of the Latvian Architects' Union;
- 10) a representative of the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Governments.

(3) The members of the Council shall be approved for a term of three years. The Council members shall elect from their midst a Council Chairman for the three-year term.

(4) Technical and organizational services for the Council shall be provided by the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments.

Article 11. The responsibilities of the Council shall be the following:

- 1) to facilitate the process of developing and implementing the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre;
- 2) to give to the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Historical Monuments and to the responsible institution of the Riga City Council its opinion on the draft of the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre or of any proposed amendments to it before their approval by the Riga City Council;
- 3) to assess tentative construction plans for building new structures, reconstructing or demolishing buildings and structures, as well as erecting and renovating monuments in Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone, and to give to the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments and to the institution of the Riga City Council responsible for the protection of cultural monuments its opinion on the tentative construction plan's impact on the cultural and historical environment if either of the said institutions has so requested. When taking a decision on a particular issue, the opinion of the Council must be taken into consideration;
- 4) to give its opinion if in considering an issue on the preservation, protection or development of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments and the institution of the Riga City Council responsible for the protection of cultural monuments have different opinions on it and if either of the said institutions has so requested. When taking a decision on that issue, the opinion of the Council must be taken into consideration;
- 5) to suggest that relevant institutions monitor whether the financial resources gained by state or local government institutions from renting (leasing) state or local government-owned buildings listed as cultural monuments and located in Riga's Historical Centre, as well as other revenues, are used in accordance with the provisions of this Law;
- 6) to give its opinion on the drafts of normative acts on the preservation, protection and development of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone;

- 7) to specify those city blocks and groups of such blocks in Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone for which a land-use plan is required;
- 8) to suggest that relevant institutions consider other issues concerning the preservation, protection and development of Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone, as well as to participate in considering such issues and to give opinions on them.

Article 12. The Council shall have the right to receive free information necessary for resolving issues within its competence from state and local government institutions and from the author or the submitter of a tentative construction plan.

Article 13. The Council shall have the right to receive free information from state and local government institutions on spending financial resources gained from renting (leasing) state or local government-owned buildings listed as cultural monuments and located in Riga's Historical Centre, as well as on spending other revenues referred to in this Law.

Article 14. Construction of new buildings in the public space of Riga's Historical Centre shall be permitted only for those projects that have been selected by open architectural tenders, evaluated by the public, examined by the Council, and co-ordinated with the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in accordance with the procedure prescribed in normative acts.

Article 15. Before co-ordinating preliminary construction designs, the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, in conjunction with the Latvian National Committee, shall inform the World Heritage Committee about any significant planned modifications of the cultural and historical environment in Riga's Historical Centre and its protective zone if such modifications could affect their cultural and historical value. Information to the World Heritage Committee should be provided as soon as possible in order to ensure preservation of Riga's Historical Centre as a world cultural heritage site.

Article 16. (1) Revenues which state or local government institutions gain from renting (leasing) state or local government-owned buildings listed as cultural monuments and located in Riga's Historical Centre shall be spent for the maintenance, conservation, reconstruction, restoration and renovation of such buildings.

(2) Revenues which state or local government institutions gain from renting (leasing) state or local government-owned buildings listed as cultural monuments and located in Riga's Historical Centre and which exceed the expenditures for the maintenance, conservation, reconstruction, restoration and renovation of such buildings as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, as well as fines for damaging or destroying these buildings and compensation received for such damage or destruction, shall be transferred to the relevant state or local government special budget and used only for research, conservation, reconstruction, restoration and renovation of the cultural monuments located in Riga's Historical Centre.

Article 17. (1) For promoting the preservation and protection of Riga's Historical Centre, there shall be established the Fund for the Preservation and Development of

Riga's Historical Centre (hereinafter – the Fund) whose financial resources shall be derived from the following sources:

- 1) donations and gifts by natural persons and legal entities, including donations and gifts from foreign natural persons and legal entities and international organizations;
 - 2) fines for administrative violations concerning protecting cultural and historical monuments except the fines referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 16 of this Law;
 - 3) compensation for damage caused by modification of the cultural and historical environment except the compensation referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 16 of this Law;
 - 4) target financing from the state and local governments.
- (2) The financial resources of the Fund shall be kept in the State Treasury's budget accounts.
- (3) The financial resources of the Fund shall be used for research, as well as technical, educational and administrative purposes, in order to discover, explore, protect, conserve, renovate and popularise historical values and the cultural and historical environment of Riga's Historical Centre and to stimulate the creation of high-quality modern architectural structures and urban design in Riga's Historical Centre.
- (4) The Cabinet of Ministers shall designate the administrator of the Fund's financial resources and shall set the procedure for making decisions on the use of financial resources of the Fund and for providing information on the resources used.

Transitional Provisions

1. By 31 December 2003, the Cabinet of Ministers shall issue the regulations referred to in Article 7 of this Law.
2. The Riga City Council shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre is developed, approved and enters into force not later than 1 July 2004.
3. Within three months after this Law has entered into force, the Cabinet of Ministers shall approve the membership of the Council and its statutes.
4. The provisions of Article 16 of this Law shall enter into force on 1 January 2004.
5. Until the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre enters into force, it shall be prohibited to construct new buildings in a public space (except in the cases referred to in item 8 of the Transitional Provisions), to demolish historical buildings (except wrecked buildings if they endanger the health and lives of people in a public space), to reconstruct buildings and structures, and to erect or renovate monuments if they radically alter the cultural and historical environment.
6. Until the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre enters into force, any tentative construction plan for building new structures, demolishing historical buildings, reconstructing buildings and structures and erecting or renovating monuments (hereinafter in this item and item 7 of the Transitional Provisions – the tentative construction plan) in Riga's Historical Centre to which the prohibitions listed in item 5 of Transitional Provisions do not apply shall be reviewed by the Council. The

Council shall have the right to approve the tentative construction plan, to request that necessary adjustments be made and that the tentative construction plan documents be re-submitted to the Council for review or to reject the tentative construction plan. The Council shall review the submitted proposals at least once a month. The Council shall take its decision by a majority vote not later than within 30 days after the documents on the tentative construction plan have been submitted. All Council decisions shall be made accessible to the public. If the Council has rejected the submitted tentative construction plan, the implementation of the project shall be suspended until the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre or the land-use plan of a city block or a group of such blocks of the particular territory enters into force.

7. The decisions adopted by the Council in accordance with the procedure prescribed by item 6 of the Transitional Provisions shall be sent to the Riga City Council, the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments and to the author of the tentative construction plan. The decision may be challenged and referred to the Ministry of Culture or appealed in court in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law.

8. Until the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre enters into force, and in cases when in accordance with the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre a land-use plan for a city block or a group of such blocks must be developed, then until the moment when the respective land-use plan enters into force, the Council shall approve the list of significant urban sites designated for potential development where the construction of new structures in public space shall be permitted only for those projects that have been selected by open architectural tenders, evaluated by the public, examined by the Council, and co-ordinated with the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Monuments.

9. Until the day the physical plan of Riga's Historical Centre enters into force, the Ministry of Culture, in performing supervisory functions, shall be responsible for supporting materially and financially the carrying out of tasks delegated to the Council under items 6, 7 and 8 of the Transitional Provisions, as well as for lawful and appropriate performance of the said tasks.

10. Until this law enters into force, natural persons or legal entities may continue the construction works lawfully undertaken in Riga's Historical Centre.

11. The owners of buildings situated in Riga's Historical Centre who have started and completed reconstruction or re-planning of buildings in accordance with the procedure prescribed by normative acts before this Law has come into force shall by 1 July 2004 bring the documents on the buildings into compliance with the objectives for their use as indicated in the project documents.

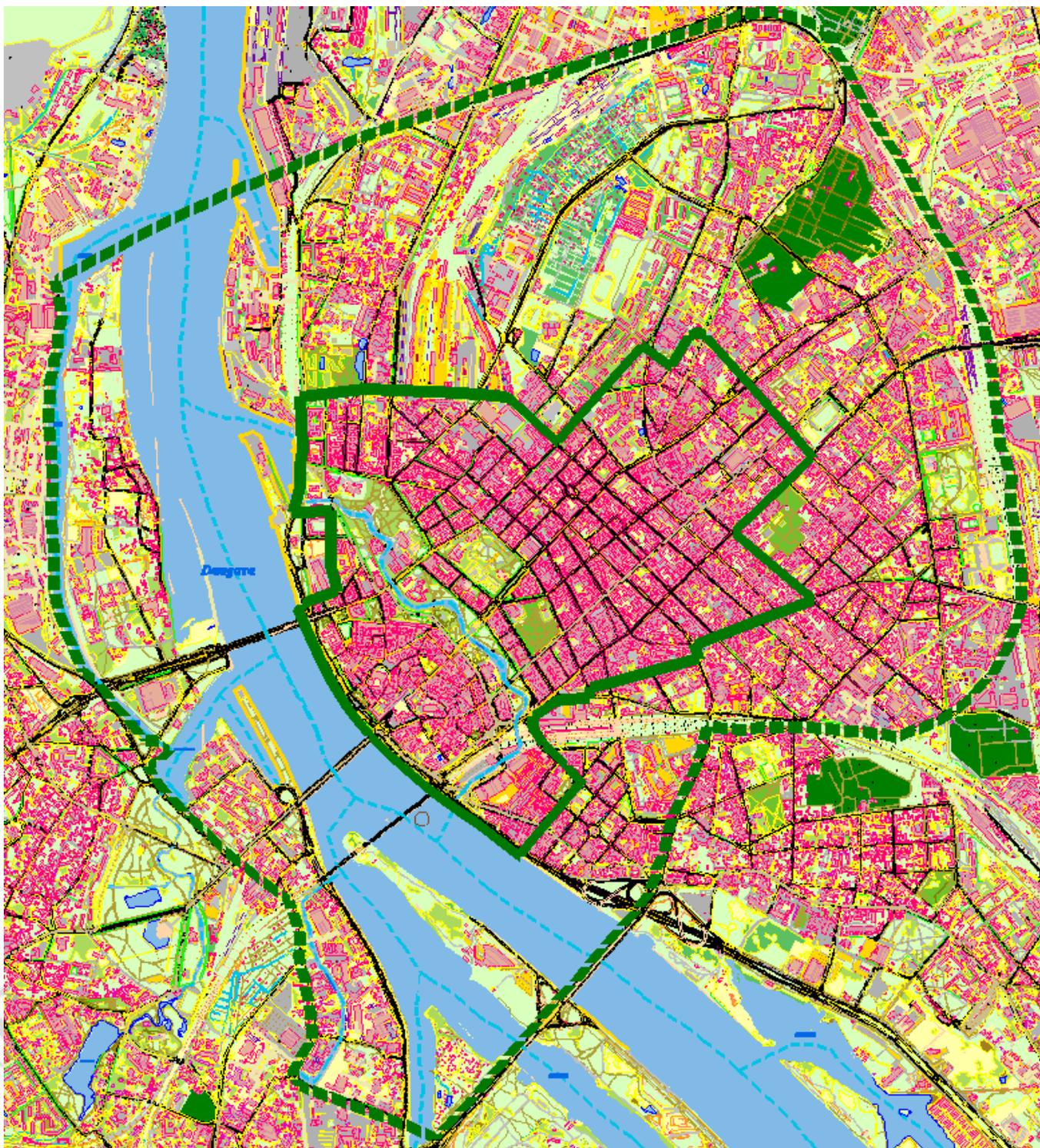
The Law was adopted by the Saeima on 29 May 2003.

President V. Vīķe-Freiberga

11 June 2003

Annex 1 to the Law on the Preservation and Protection of Riga's Historical Centre

Boundary Plan



boundaries of Riga's Historical Centre



boundaries of the protective zone of Riga's Historical Centre

Annex 2 to the Law on the Preservation and Protection of Riga's Historical Centre

Description of the Boundaries

Boundaries of Riga's Historical Centre

The world's cultural heritage site — Riga's Historical Centre — occupies the territory which is bordered by Hanzas Street, E. Melngaiļa Street, K. Valdemāra Street, Palīdzības Street, A. Briāna Street, Tallinas Street, A. Čaka Street, Matīsa Street, Avotu Street, Lāčplēša Street, E. Birznieka-Upīša Street, Elizabetes Street, Satekles Street, Marijas Street, Gogoļa Street, Turgeņeva Street, Krasta Street, November 11 Embankment, Muitas Street, Citadeles Street, the green zone of the city canal and the territory adjacent to Eksporta Street on the eastern side of Andrejosta.

Boundaries of the Protective Zone of Riga's Historical Centre

The protective zone of the world's cultural heritage site — Riga's Historical Centre — occupies the territory which is bordered by Salu Bridge, the turn onto Mūkusalas Street, Bieķensalas Street, Jelgavas Street, the continuation of Jelgavas Street to Raņķa Dam, Raņķa Dam, the south and west bank of Āgenskalns Inlet, the west bank of the Āzene, the west bank of the Zunds, the middle of Roņu Pond and its continuation across the Daugava to the middle of Eksportosta pier and thence to Eksporta Street, Lugažu Street, the south side of of the port railway branch to the Ganību Dam intersection, the southbound port railway branch from Bukultu Street to Laktas Street, the northbound port railway branch from Laktas Street to the intersection of the Saulkrasti — Rīga rail line, the Saulkrasti — Rīga rail line to the Lāčplēša Street intersection, Lāčplēša Street and Salu Bridge.

If the boundary of Riga's Historical Centre or its protective zone is a street, the relevant territory includes buildings on the side of the street adjacent to the territory and half of the street closer to the territory.