

Conference: “The future steps towards the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Latvia.”

Organizers:

Council of Europe Information Bureau, Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies and Human Rights Institute of the University of Latvia, Faculty of Law

(Co-partner: Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Time: 29th of November 2005

Place: Reiterņa nams, Maršala street 2/4

The draft programme:

9:00-10:00 – **Conference registration**

10:00-10:05 – **Welcome and opening remarks**

10:05-10:20 - **Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia**

10:20 – 11:15 - **Rainer Hofmann (President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention) - The general principles underlying the Convention and the monitoring mechanism**

11:15 – 11:45 - **The implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities – the experience of Estonia**

11:45-12:05 – *Coffee break*

12:05-12:35 – **Rasa Paliukiene (Department of National Minorities and Lithuanians living abroad to the government of the Republic of Lithuania, Head of the Division of National Minorities) - The implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities - the experience of Lithuania**

12:35 – 13:20 – **Discussion**

13:20 - 14:20 – *Lunch*

14:20 – 14:50 - **Representative of the Secretariat of the Special Assignments Minister for Social Integration - The current status and the further steps as regards the implementation of the Convention in Latvia**

14:50 – 15:20 – **Boriss Cilevičs (Member of the Latvian Parliament) – The view on the impact of the Framework Convention on the minority policy in Latvia**

15:20 – 15:50 – Ilze Brands-Kehris (Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies) – Minority participation in the monitoring process of the Framework Convention

15:50-16:30 – Discussion

Coffee table