

EU Accession Monitoring Program
Experts Meeting on Latvian Minorities Report

Riga Graduate School of Law, March 16, 2001

Agenda

9:00 – 10:45

Introduction to the project. Themes, aims and progress to date

Monitoring minority rights: Objectives and progress to date

Country report on minorities: Status, a brief account of sources and gaps and areas in need of support. – Country reporter

Discussion: Feedback on report from participants. Outline of main problematic areas

10:45-11:00

Coffee Break.

11:00 - 12:30

Working Session 1: Discrimination

Existence of discrimination and sources of information. Legal and institutional framework for rights protection; patterns of discrimination; reporting and prosecution methods; existence of data.

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Working Session 2: EU accession and the Government

Minority rights in Latvia's EU accession process. Public statements; legislation harmonisation; accession partnerships; Phare assistance. Government programs – EU assistance. Existence/ focus of govt programs. Program capacity to tackle discrimination. EU involvement in elaboration, funding.

15:30 – 15:45

Coffee break

15:45 – 16:45

Working Session 3: Minority involvement

Extent of and gaps in minority involvement in problem identification; in govt and EU program elaboration; minority activism; minority litigation.