

No. 53119*

**Lithuania
and
Georgia**

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of Georgia on cooperation and mutual assistance in the field of emergency prevention and response. Vilnius, 26 September 2013

Entry into force: *27 May 2014 by notification, in accordance with article 17*

Authentic texts: *English, Georgian and Lithuanian*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Lithuania, 23 December 2015*

**No UNTS volume number has yet been determined for this record. The Text(s) reproduced below, if attached, are the authentic texts of the agreement /action attachment as submitted for registration and publication to the Secretariat. For ease of reference they were sequentially paginated. Translations, if attached, are not final and are provided for information only.*

**Lituanie
et
Géorgie**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République de Lituanie et le Gouvernement de la Géorgie relatif à la coopération et l'assistance mutuelle en matière de prévention et de réponse en cas d'urgence. Vilnius, 26 septembre 2013

Entrée en vigueur : *27 mai 2014 par notification, conformément à l'article 17*

Textes authentiques : *anglais, géorgien et lituanien*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies : *Lituanie, 23 décembre 2015*

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**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA
ON COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF
EMERGENCY PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of Georgia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

considering the provisions of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Georgia and the European Communities and their Member States;

recognising that the cooperation in the field of emergency prevention and response will contribute to the well-being and safety of both countries;

conscious of the danger posed by emergencies to both countries;

recognizing the mutual benefit of the exchange of scientific and technical information on emergency prevention and response;

considering the possibility of emergencies that cannot be dealt with individually by the Parties with their own resources and means, and the need for coordinated actions by both Parties in terms of emergency prevention and response;

noting the importance of the United Nations and other international organizations as regards emergency prevention and response,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Definitions

For the purpose of the present Agreement, the following terms shall have these definitions:

a) **the competent authority:** an authority designated by each Party to manage and coordinate activities related to the implementation of this Agreement;

b) **the Requesting Party:** a Party that requests the other Party to render assistance by sending a response team, equipment and emergency response resources;

c) **the Assisting Party:** a Party that fulfils the other Party's request for assistance by sending a response team, equipment and emergency response resources;

d) **the response team:** an organised group of specialists (experts) of the Assisting Party, assigned to undertake emergency response and having the necessary equipment;

e) **the emergency:** a situation which occurs in certain area due to an accident, or dangerous natural phenomenon, calamity, natural disaster or any other disaster, which has claimed or may claim human lives, or which has caused or may cause personal or environmental damage, also material losses, and which has disturbed or is capable of disturbing human vital operating conditions;

f) **the emergency area:** a territory where an emergency has occurred;

g) **emergency prevention:** a complex of prearranged measures aimed to mitigate, to the extent possible, the risk of an emergency, as well as to protect human health, and to minimize the actual damage to the environment and material losses;

h) **emergency response:** rescue operations and other urgent works in the event of an emergency, aimed to save lives, protect human health, mitigate damage to the

environment and reduce material losses, as well as to localize the emergency and stop the impact of the hazards intrinsic to it;

i) **rescue operations:** actions, aimed to rescue people, material and cultural property, to protect the environment in the emergency area, to localize the emergency and suppress or mitigate, to the extent possible, the impact of the hazards intrinsic to it;

j) **the equipment:** material, technical equipment, vehicles, equipment of the response team, and personal gear of the response team members;

k) **emergency response resources:** material supplies intended for distribution to the population, victims of the emergency;

l) **third country:** countries that are not Parties to this Agreement.

Article 2

Scope of the Agreement

The present Agreement shall cover issues of cooperation and mutual assistance in the field of emergency prevention and response.

Article 3

Competent authorities

1. The competent authorities of the Parties shall be as follows:

a) For the Republic of Lithuania: the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania;

b) For Georgia: the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

2. If the Party appoints another authority as a competent authority, or renames the present competent authority, it shall notify the other Party thereof in writing through the diplomatic channels.

Article 4

Forms of cooperation

The cooperation under this Agreement shall include:

a) ensuring cooperation between the competent authorities of the Parties, including assistance measures for the third countries in the event of an emergency;

b) forecasting emergencies and measuring their consequences;

c) arranging for emergency response cooperation between public authorities;

d) planning and arranging for emergency prevention and response measures;

e) exchanging experience in training people on how to behave in the event of an emergency, and how to provide first medical aid;

f) cooperating in the evaluation of the potential risk of contamination to the environment and population, caused by industrial accidents, calamities, and natural disasters;

g) jointly planning, developing and implementing scientific and research projects, as well as exchanging scientific and technical literature and the outcomes of relevant research;

h) exchanging information on emergency prevention and response, as well as periodicals, methodical and other publications, video and photographic material;

i) organising joint conferences, seminars, workshops, training, exercises and special exhibitions;

j) preparing joint reports and publications;

k) training specialists under this Agreement in training institutions of the states of the Parties, as well as exchanging trainees, teachers, researchers and specialists;

l) other activities as agreed between the competent authorities of the states of the Parties with respect to emergency prevention and response.

Article 5

Joint Commission

With a view to implementing the measures necessary for the fulfilment of this Agreement, the competent authorities of the Parties, after six months from the date of signing of the Agreement, shall set up a Joint Commission for the cooperation in emergency prevention and response. Its composition, functions and rules of procedure shall be established by the Joint Commission Regulations to be approved by the heads of the competent authorities of the Parties.

Article 6

Mutual assistance in the event of an emergency

1. Assistance shall be provided on the basis of a written request, where the Requesting Party provides information about the nature of an emergency and specifies the type and scale of the assistance required.

2. The Assisting Party shall, within a reasonable time, examine the request and inform the Requesting Party about the possibility of assistance, its scope and conditions.

3. Emergency response assistance shall be provided through response teams, emergency response resources or in any other requested form.

4. The response team of the Assisting Party shall be guided by the competent authority of the Requesting Party through the leaders of this response team.

5. The response team shall be sent to complete rescue operations and other urgent works in the emergency area.

6. The Requesting Party shall inform the leader of the response team about the situation and, if necessary, provide the team with an interpreter/translator and the means of communication, and it shall ensure protection and free medical assistance to the response team, as well as coordinate its actions.

7. The life and health insurance shall be arranged for the response team by the Assisting Party.

8. The response team must be adequately equipped to operate autonomously for 72 hours. In case the response team runs out of the resources, the Requesting Party shall provide the team, at his own expense, with the means necessary for further operation.

Article 7

Procedures for border crossing of the response team and its presence in the territory of the Requesting Party

1. Response team members shall be issued visas without prejudice to the national legislation in force in the territory of the states of the Parties upon the presentation of valid travel documents confirming identity, a list of the members of the response team, a list of equipment and emergency response resources, a valid appropriate health insurance of the team members, a document issued by the competent authority of the Assisting Party confirming the powers conferred to the leader of the response team, as well as a written

request by the Requesting Party; and in case of transit: a written assistance request by a third country. Without prejudice to the provisions of the national legislation in force in the territory of the states of the Parties, visas may be issued at border checkpoints.

2. The members of the response team shall be granted priority border-crossing at international border checkpoints. The border and customs checks of an aircraft shall be effected at the international airports or other landing sites as determined in advance.

3. The groups of cynologists that are part of the response team shall cross the border of the Requesting Party and stay in the territory of the Requesting Party under quarantine rules, applicable in the territory of this country.

4. The members of the response team staying in the territory of the Requesting Party shall comply with the legal requirements applicable in that country. Labour relations of these individuals as well as other related issues shall be subject to the national legislation in force in the territory of the state of the Assisting Party.

5. The response team, equipment and emergency response resources shall be carried by road, rail, water or air transport.

6. Vehicles must be insured under the national legislation applicable in the territory of the state of the Assisting Party.

7. The provisions of this Article shall also apply to general training, when the response team of one Party enters the territory of the other Party, and stays there.

Article 8

Import and export of equipment and emergency response resources in the event of an emergency

1. Equipment and emergency response resources shall be imported into the territory of the state of the Requesting Party and exported from the territory of the Assisting Party for the purpose of rendering assistance in elimination of an emergency and shall be exempted from customs duties and taxes following the procedure established by national legislation in force in the territory of the state of each Party.

2. Customs clearance of the equipment and emergency response resources shall be subject to the simplified procedure and order of priority based on notices issued by competent authorities of the Parties, containing information on the composition of the response team, and a list of imported or exported equipment and emergency response resources.

3. The response team shall have the right to import only equipment and emergency response resources.

4. Once the response operation is complete, the imported equipment should be exported from the territory of the state of the Requesting Party.

5. In case of need to provide emergency medical aid to victims, a fixed amount of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic and psychotropic substances shall be allowed to be imported into the territory of the state of the Requesting Party. The pharmaceuticals cannot be transferred to the Requesting Party, and they shall be used only by the qualified medical personnel of the response team under the supervision of the representatives of the Requesting Party. The pharmaceuticals containing narcotic and psychotropic substances that have not been used for the response operations shall be exported to the territory of the state of the Assisting Party.

6. Imports and exports of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic and psychotropic substances shall be subject to the legal requirements applicable in the territories of the states of the Parties.

7. This Article shall also apply to imports and exports of equipment needed for joint training.

Article 9

Aircrafts

1. The competent authority of the Assisting Party shall inform the competent authority of the Requesting Party about the decision to provide assistance by an aircraft for emergency operations, and it shall specify aircraft registration states, a number of the crew and passengers at each aircraft and flight routes (location and time of the take-off and the landing), the air carrier, flight charterer, and the description of the cargo (listing the equipment and emergency response resources).

2. The Requesting Party shall grant to the aircraft, which carries the response team, equipment and emergency response resources, and which takes off in the territory of the other Party, the right to use air corridors in accordance with international treaties and navigation rules.

3. The flights shall be subject to the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization and national legislation in force in the territory of the state of each Party.

Article 10

Transit

1. Each Party, in consultation with their respective public authorities, shall grant air transit to the other Party, when the latter provides assistance to a third country.

2. A transit by road of the response team, equipment and emergency response resources shall be subject to the provisions of Article 7 and 8 of the present Agreement.

Article 11

Assistance costs

1. The Assisting Party shall bear all emergency response-related assistance costs, including the costs of transportation of the response team and equipment to the territory of the state of the Requesting Party and the return costs after the completion of the mission, unless the Parties agree to share the costs according to the bilateral cost report, signed by the competent authorities of the Parties.

2. The provisions of the paragraph 1 of the present Article shall not be applicable, if the assistance costs are fully or partially covered by the Requesting Party or donor countries, international organizations or non-governmental organizations.

3. During the response operations, the Requesting Party shall, at its own expense, provide logistical support and necessary medical assistance to the response team.

Article 12

Damage compensation

1. The Party shall waive all claims for damages by the other Party in the following cases:

a) where damage is caused to a natural or legal person of the Requesting Party, as well as to their property or to the environment by a member of the response team that carries out tasks related to the implementation of this Agreement;

b) where injury, health damage or death of a member of the response team happens while carrying out tasks related to the implementation of this Agreement.

2. A deliberate damage caused by a member of the response team must be compensated by the Assisting Party.

Article 13

Use of information

Information received in connection with the application of this Agreement, except the information which should not be disclosed according to the national legislation, may be used and made public according to the national legislation of each Party, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

Article 14

Settlement of disputes

1. Any disputes between the Parties concerning the interpretation and application of this Agreement, shall be settled through negotiations between the competent authorities of the Parties.

2. Unresolved disputes shall be further resolved through consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

Article 15

Relation with other international agreements

The provisions of the present Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from other international agreements, binding their states.

Article 16

Amendments and supplements to the Agreement

This Agreement may be amended or supplemented by mutual consent of the Parties. Amendments and supplements shall be documented in separate protocols, which shall constitute an integral part of this Agreement and shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure established by the Paragraph 1 of the Article 17 of the present Agreement.

Article 17

Final provisions

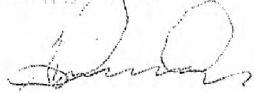
1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the receipt, through the diplomatic channels, of the last written notice by the Parties about the completion of the internal procedures of each State, required for its entry into force.

2. This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time. Each Party may at any time terminate this Agreement by a written notice communicated to the other Party. This Agreement shall be terminated upon the expiration of the six-month period after the day of the receipt of the termination intention notice by the other Party.

3. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the activities that are in progress under this Agreement, and that have not been completed by the date of the termination of the present Agreement, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

Done in *Vilnius*....., on *26th of September* 2013, in two copies, each in the Lithuanian, Georgian and English languages. All texts shall be equally authentic. In case of any divergence in interpretation of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government of
Republic of Lithuania**



**For the Government of
Georgia**

