

referendums.

81. [3 May 2007]

[21 March 1933; 4 December 1997; 15 October 1998; 8 May 2003; 23 September 2004; 3 May 2007]

## Chapter VI Courts

82. In Latvia, court cases shall be heard by district (city) courts, regional courts and the Supreme Court, but in the event of war or a state of emergency, also by military courts.

83. Judges shall be independent and subject only to the law.

84. Judicial appointments shall be confirmed by the *Saeima* and they shall be irrevocable. The *Saeima* may remove judges from office against their will only in the cases provided for by law, based upon a decision of the Judicial Disciplinary Board or a judgment of the Court in a criminal case. The age of retirement from office for judges may be determined by law.

85. In Latvia, there shall be a Constitutional Court, which, within its jurisdiction as provided for by law, shall review cases concerning the conformity of laws with the Constitution, as well as other cases conferred within the jurisdiction thereof by law. The Constitutional Court is entitled to declare laws or other enactments or parts thereof invalid. The *Saeima* shall confirm the appointment of judges to the Constitutional Court for the term provided for by law, with a majority of the votes of not less than fifty-one members of the *Saeima*.

[19 September 2013]

86. Decisions in court proceedings may be made only by bodies upon which jurisdiction regarding such has been conferred by law, and only in accordance with procedures provided for by law. Military courts shall act on the basis of a specific law.

[5 June 1996; 4 December 1997; 15 October 1998]

## Chapter VII The State Audit Office

87. The State Audit Office shall be an independent collegial institution.

88. Auditors General shall be appointed to their office and confirmed pursuant to the same procedures as judges, but only for a fixed period of time, during which they may be removed from office only by a judgment of the Court. A specific law shall provide for the organisation and responsibilities of the State Audit Office.

## Chapter VIII Fundamental Human Rights

89. The State shall recognise and protect fundamental human rights in accordance with this Constitution, laws and international agreements binding upon Latvia.

90. Everyone has the right to know about his or her rights.

91. All human beings in Latvia shall be equal before the law and the courts.

Human rights shall be realised without discrimination of any kind.

92. Everyone has the right to defend his or her rights and lawful interests in a fair court. Everyone shall be presumed innocent until his or her guilt has been established in accordance with law. Everyone, where his or her rights are violated without basis, has a right to commensurate compensation. Everyone has a right to the assistance of counsel.

93. The right to life of everyone shall be protected by law.

94. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one may be deprived of or have their liberty restricted, otherwise than in accordance with law.

95. The State shall protect human honour and dignity. Torture or other cruel or degrading treatment of human beings is prohibited. No one shall be subjected to inhuman or degrading punishment.

96. Everyone has the right to inviolability of his or her private life, home and correspondence.

97. Everyone residing lawfully in the territory of Latvia has the right to freely move and to choose his or her place of residence.

98. Everyone has the right to freely depart from Latvia. Everyone having a Latvian passport shall be protected by the State when abroad and has the right to freely return to Latvia. A citizen of Latvia may not be extradited to a foreign country, except in the cases provided for in international agreements ratified by the *Saeima* if by the extradition the basic human rights specified in the Constitution are not violated.

99. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The church shall be separate from the State.

100. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes the right to freely receive, keep and distribute information and to express his or her views. Censorship is prohibited.

101. Every citizen of Latvia has the right, as provided for by law, to participate in the work of the State and of local government, and to hold a position in the civil service. Local governments shall be elected by Latvian citizens and citizens of the European Union who permanently reside in Latvia. Every citizen of the European Union who permanently resides in Latvia has the right, as provided by law, to participate in the work of local governments. The working language of local governments is the Latvian language.

102. Everyone has the right to form and join associations, political parties and other public organisations.

103. The State shall protect the freedom of previously announced peaceful meetings, street processions, and pickets.

104. Everyone has the right to address submissions to State or local government institutions and to receive a materially responsive reply. Everyone has the right to receive a reply in the Latvian language.

105. Everyone has the right to own property. Property shall not be used contrary to the interests of the public. Property rights may be restricted only in accordance with law. Expropriation of property for public purposes shall be allowed only in exceptional cases on the basis of a specific law and in return for fair compensation.

106. Everyone has the right to freely choose their employment and workplace according to their abilities and qualifications. Forced labour is prohibited. Participation in the relief of disasters and their effects, and work pursuant to a court order shall not be deemed forced labour.

107. Every employed person has the right to receive, for work done, commensurate remuneration which shall not be less than the minimum wage established by the State, and has the right to weekly holidays and a paid annual vacation.

108. Employed persons have the right to a collective labour agreement, and the right to strike. The State shall protect the freedom of trade unions.

109. Everyone has the right to social security in old age, for work disability, for unemployment and in other cases as provided by law.

110. The State shall protect and support marriage - a union between a man and a woman, the family, the rights of parents and rights of the child. The State shall provide special support to disabled children, children left without parental care or who have suffered from violence.

111. The State shall protect human health and guarantee a basic level of medical assistance for everyone.

112. Everyone has the right to education. The State shall ensure that everyone may acquire primary and secondary education without charge. Primary education shall be compulsory.

113. The State shall recognise the freedom of scientific research, artistic and other creative activity, and shall protect copyright and patent rights.

114. Persons belonging to ethnic minorities have the right to preserve and develop their language and their ethnic and cultural identity.

115. The State shall protect the right of everyone to live in a benevolent environment by providing information about environmental conditions and by promoting the preservation and improvement of the environment.

116. The rights of persons set out in Articles ninety-six, ninety-seven, ninety-eight, one hundred, one hundred and two, one hundred and three, one hundred and six, and one hundred and eight of the Constitution may be subject to restrictions in circumstances provided for by law in order to protect the rights of other people, the democratic structure of the State, and public safety, welfare and morals. On the basis of the conditions set forth in this Article, restrictions

may also be imposed on the expression of religious beliefs.

*[15 October 1998; 30 April 2002; 23 September 2004; 15 December 2005]*

Adopted by the Constitutional Assembly of Latvia on 15 February 1922

President of the Constitutional Assembly J. Čakste

Secretary of the Constitutional Assembly R. Ivanovs

## **Transitional Provisions Regarding Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia**

### **Transitional Provisions**

(regarding amending Law of 30 April 2002)

Amendments to Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia shall come into force on 5 November 2002.

### **Transitional Provisions**

(regarding amending Law of 3 May 2007)

Cabinet Regulations issued in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, which were in force on the day of the coming into force of this Law, shall remain in force up to the recognition of the repeal thereof, but not longer than up to 31 December 2007.

---

<sup>1</sup>The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia

Translation © 2014 Valsts valodas centrs (State Language Centre)