The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia presents its compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and, referring to the Note No. ODA/16-2009/NLDU, dated on 20 February 2009, has the honour to forward information on the national legislation, regulations and procedures on the transfers of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology.

Circulation of goods of strategic significance (military and dual-use items) is controlled in accordance with Latvian national legislation and international documents, such as the EU Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment, the EU Council Regulation No. 1334/2000 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use items and technology, and control lists of international export control regimes: the Australia Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Currently the following legislation governing transfers of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology is in force in the Republic of Latvia:

"Law on the Circulation of Goods of Strategic Significance" of July 19, 2007 is designed to ensure control over the circulation of strategic goods in accordance with national and international requirements for monitoring their export, import, transfer and transit. The Law defines division of authority among institutions involved. It provides definitions for transactions with strategic goods, including brokering, and sets procedure of expertise and identification of specific goods.

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 747 of November 6, 2007, "Procedures by Which Licenses and Other Documents of the Control of Strategic Goods are Issued" set down procedures of issuance, denying or annulment of import, export, transfer or transit licences of military or dual-use goods, as well as of end use certificates, international import certificates and delivery verifications.

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 701 of October 16, 2007, "Founding Law of the Control Committee of Strategic Goods" determines functions and responsibilities of the Committee. The Strategic Goods Control Committee is an interministerial group of experts in charge of controlling circulation of military and dual-use goods in the territory of the Republic of Latvia, by monitoring the system of manufacture, stockpiling, use, export, import and transit of military and dual-use
goods in Latvia, and issuing licences for transactions in export, import, transit or transfers of these goods.

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 736 of October 11, 2007 “Procedure by Which the Documents of Approval are Issued by State Police for Transfer of Firearms and Ammunition in the Territory of the EU Member States”. The regulations provide the list of documents a natural person or entity involved in strategic goods circulation shall submit to the State Police to obtain documents of approval for transfer of firearms and ammunition in the territory the EU Member States, as well as procedure by which documents are issued. The regulations contain requirements of the EU Council Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons and Council Directive 93/15/EEC of 5 April 1993 on the harmonization of the provisions relating to the placing on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses.

Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 645 of September 25, 2007, “Regulations on the National List of Goods and Services of Strategic Significance”. The regulations provide the list of goods to be controlled additional to those included in the EU Council Regulation 1334/2000 and Common Military List of the EU. According to current regulations, the list is approved by government, contrary to the previous procedure by which the Strategic Goods Control Committee held the authority.

Any kind of illegal circulation of weapons or other military or dual-use goods carries administrative and criminal liability in the Republic of Latvia.

All documents on export, import, transfer and transit of strategic goods (licences, certificates, end-use certificates and statements) and the related information is entered in databases, which permit easy access by one or several key definitions: names of merchants, specific goods or their groups, states. These databases provide for easy statistical analysis of development trends in export, import, transfer and transit of goods of strategic nature. The databases on goods subject to control are also used by representatives of other Ministries, members of the Strategic Goods Control Committee, Customs, Border Guard and agencies monitoring export control.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Riga, 29 April 2009