

COUNTRY PROFILE

**TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY VIDEO-LINK UNDER THE
HAGUE CONVENTION OF 18 MARCH 1970 ON THE TAKING OF
EVIDENCE ABROAD IN CIVIL OR COMMERCIAL MATTERS**

STATE NAME: [Latvia](#)

PROFILE UPDATED ON (DATE): [January 2022](#)

PART I: STATE

1. Contact details <i>The contact details provided in this section <u>will be published</u> on the Hague Conference website</i>	
CHAPTER I (LETTERS OF REQUEST)	
<i>As with any other Letter of Request under Chapter I of the Evidence Convention, the requesting authority should contact the Central Authority(ies) of the requested State when seeking to obtain evidence by means of a Letter of Request, whether using video-link or not.</i>	
a) Are the contact details of the Central Authority(ies) designated by YOUR STATE up-to-date on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please provide the contact details on a separate Word or PDF document for uploading on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website.
b) Would YOUR STATE be in favour of specifying a person or department within the Central Authority(ies) who would assist in processing Letters of Request where the use of video-links has expressly been requested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or provide technical assistance)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. If YOUR STATE has already done so, please specify the contact details: International Cooperation Department of Ministry of Justice +371 6703 6824 <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain why: Comments:
c) What arrangements are there for ensuring that there is a contact person with whom the requesting authority can liaise and who is available on the day of the hearing to operate the video-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking system)?	To ensure that there is a contact person available, please get in touch with the Central Authority, if possible in advance of the scheduled date.

CHAPTER II (TAKING OF EVIDENCE BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS)

Permission by a designated authority may be required to apply certain provisions under Chapter II. To know if such a permission is required for a particular State, see the practical information chart (accessible from the [Authorities](#) page) AND / OR the declarations (accessible from the [Status Table](#) page) of the relevant State available on the [Evidence Section](#) of the Hague Conference website.

If permission is not required, applicants should contact the diplomatic and consular mission (Arts 15/16) or the commissioner (Art. 17) to explore whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

If permission is required, applicants should contact the authority that was designated to grant permission AND the relevant diplomatic and consular mission or commissioner, to explore, where necessary, whether or not evidence may be obtained by video-link under this Chapter.

<p>d) Would YOUR STATE be in favour of specifying an entity or authority, in addition to the relevant authority / diplomatic or consular agent / commissioner, that would assist in processing applications where the use of video-links has expressly been requested (e.g., to arrange the video-link or provide technical assistance)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. If YOUR STATE has already done so, please specify the contact details: International Cooperation Department of Ministry of Justice +371 6703 6824</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain why:</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p>
<p>e) What arrangements are there for ensuring that there is a contact person with whom the Court of Origin can liaise and who is available on the day of the hearing to operate the video-link facilities (e.g. is there a booking system)?</p>	<p>To ensure that there is a contact person available, please get in touch with the Central Authority, if possible in advance of the scheduled date.</p> <p>Responsible court employee organizes videoconference in accordance with internal rules Nr.1-2/14 "Video conferencing equipment booking and procedures for the use in legal proceedings" (12.06.2013.) of Ministry of Justice.</p>

PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND COURT SYSTEM

Legal basis	
<p>a) Does YOUR STATE, in the application of Article 27 (<i>i.e.</i> internal law or practice), allow for a foreign Court to directly take evidence by video-link?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify: Not Applicable Art.27.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p>
<p>b) Please indicate the legal basis or applicable protocols (<i>i.e.</i>, relevant laws, regulations, practice, etc.) for the use of video-links in the taking of evidence in YOUR STATE, either under the Convention or independent of the Convention (see, <i>e.g.</i> Art. 27 (b) and (c)):</p> <p><i>Please also attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French.</i></p>	<p>General provisions that shall be applied under the Convention are included in Chapter 85 "International Civil Procedural Cooperation in the Taking of Evidence in Accordance with International Agreements Binding upon the Republic of Latvia" of the Civil Procedure Law of the Republic of Latvia, and Article 703 "Taking of Evidence by Use of Technical Means" of the mentioned law.</p> <p>The full English text of mentioned law is available at: https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/50500-civil-procedure-law.</p> <p>Independent of the Convention, the following internal rules shall be applied: Internal rules Nr.1-2/14 "Video conferencing equipment booking and procedures for the use in legal proceedings" (12.06.2013.) of the Ministry of Justice.</p>
<p>c) Does YOUR STATE have any agreements with other Contracting States that derogate from the Convention when taking evidence by video-link (see Art. 28 and Art. 32)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please attach a copy of, or provide a link to, the relevant provisions, where possible in English or French:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p>
Court system	
<p>d) Please indicate which courts permit, or have the facilities for, the taking of evidence by video-link. If possible, indicate where relevant information on videoconferencing facilities in courts can be found online:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All courts.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All courts of a specific type / level. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only specific courts. Please specify which courts, or provide a link to/attach a full list:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p>

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PART III: TECHNICAL AND SECURITY ASPECTS (APPLICABLE TO BOTH CHAPTERS)

<p>a) Does YOUR STATE use licensed software (which ensures support for technical and security matters) for the taking of evidence by video-link?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>b) What are the specifications of the video-link technology in use in YOUR STATE, including, if any, the minimum standards or mechanisms used to secure the communications and any recordings made?</p> <p><i>States are encouraged to provide as much information as possible when responding to this question. As such, it may be useful to consider liaising with the relevant IT experts.</i></p>	<p>Codec (i.e., manufacturer, model, transmission speed, bandwidth): Cisco c40, c20, 1700, EX90</p> <p>Video and audio standards (e.g. Standard Definition, High Definition, etc.): HD, 720p, 1080p</p> <p>Type of network (e.g., ISDN, IP, etc.): IP, ISDN</p> <p>Type of encryption for signals in secure transmissions: TLS</p> <p>Split screen capability: 1 to 16</p> <p>Document cameras: Elmo TT-12</p> <p>Multipoint connections: yes, MCU</p> <p>Additional specifications or capabilities:</p> <p>Protocols or other practices:</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>c) Can evidence be taken via commercial providers (e.g., Skype™)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments: In case if skype have IP connection, we don't have integrated skype in our VC infrastructure.</p>
<p>d) Does YOUR STATE have a procedure for testing connections and the quality of transmissions before the hearing?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: At least 2 weeks before hearing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>e) Does YOUR STATE have any requirements as to the hearing room, e.g., should be located in a court, should have a camera view of the whole room or a view of all the parties, etc.?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>

	<i>Comments:</i>
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PART IV: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER BOTH CHAPTERS – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Restrictions	
a) Must a court order directing the use of video-links first be obtained from the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: <i>If the judicial authority of the requesting State requests the use of video-links, the Latvian Central Authority will request the Latvian judicial authority to consider such a request.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No. Comments:
b) Are there any restrictions on what type/s of evidence can be taken by video-link or how it is to be taken?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Comments: <i>Generally, where are no restrictions on type of evidence, yet it shall be taken into consideration that it is up to the Court to determine where the requested evidence is admissible.</i>
c) Are there any specific restrictions on how evidence gathered via video-link can be handled and distributed, or do the usual rules for evidence obtained in person apply?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, there are specific restrictions. Please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the normal rules for evidence apply. Comments:
d) Are there any restrictions on the type of person who may be examined by video-link?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Comments:
e) Is it necessary to seek the consent of the parties to use video-link to take evidence?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the conditions under which parties may refuse the use of video-link: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Comments:
f) Are there any restrictions on the location where the person should be examined (e.g. in a courtroom, on the premises of an Embassy or diplomatic mission)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: <i>If Latvia is the requested state a person has to be examined in Court.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No.

PART IV - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	<i>Comments:</i>
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PART IV - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

<p>g) Can a witness / expert be compelled to use video-links to give evidence?</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. If so, please specify what coercive measures may be used: </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain: </div> <div style="color: blue; font-size: small;"> <i>Comments: According to Art 704 of the Civil Procedure Law in executing a request of a foreign country for taking of evidence a court shall ascertain whether the obstacles indicated in Section 106 of this Law exist, as well as explain the witnesses their right of refusal to testify in the cases provided for in Section 107 of this Law. In executing a request of a foreign country for taking of evidence a court shall, in accordance with Hague Convention 1970, explain the witnesses their right of refusal to testify also in accordance with the law of the country submitting the request.</i> </div> </div>
<p>h) Please briefly outline the procedure/s, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for actually notifying or summoning the witness / expert to give evidence by video-link, including any references to relevant laws, regulations or practice.</p> <p style="color: green; font-style: italic; font-size: small;">Please also include, where applicable, the differences between notifying or summoning a willing witness / expert and notifying or summoning a witness / expert that is to be compelled.</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="color: blue; font-size: small;"> <i>Chapter I: As soon as the Central Authority receives a request for taking of evidence, it will file an application asking the court to collect the necessary evidence. The request will be attached together with the application. Once the evidence is collected, the evidence will be transcribed, forwarded to the Central Authority which will in turn send to the requesting Central Authority.</i> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> Chapter II: </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <i>Comments:</i> </div> </div>
<p>i) The law of which State governs the use of privileges?</p> <p style="color: green; font-style: italic; font-size: small;">Please tick all that apply.</p> <p style="color: green; font-style: italic; font-size: small;">See Articles 11 and 21(e) of the Convention</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> Chapter I: <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> The law of the Requesting State. <input type="checkbox"/> The law of the Requested State. <input type="checkbox"/> The law of another State. Please specify: </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> Chapter II: <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> The law of the State of Origin. <input type="checkbox"/> The law of the State of Execution. <input type="checkbox"/> The law of another State. Please specify: </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <i>Comments:</i> </div> </div>

PART V: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER CHAPTER I (LETTERS OF REQUEST) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Legal obstacles	
<p>a) Does YOUR STATE consider that there are legal obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention?</p> <p><i>The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (see C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
Direct and indirect taking of evidence	
<p>b) Under Chapter I of the Convention, does YOUR STATE allow for the direct taking of evidence by judicial personnel of the <i>requesting</i> State (i.e., the State in which the proceedings are pending)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>c) Under which provisions of Chapter I of the Convention is indirect taking of evidence by video-link possible in YOUR STATE?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art. 9(1) – The judicial authority of the requested State obtains evidence (e.g., a witness / expert examination) which is located in a (distant) location within its own State.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Art. 9(2) - As a special method or procedure. Please also outline whether any specific conditions must be satisfied:</p> <p><i>See also questions on presence.</i></p> <p>Comments:</p>
Legal safeguards for witness / expert	
<p>d) What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in YOUR STATE when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter I (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?</p>	<p>In accordance with Art 704 of the Civil Procedure Law in executing a request of a foreign country for taking of evidence a court shall ascertain whether the obstacles indicated in Section 106 of this Law exist, as well as explain the witnesses their right of refusal to testify in the cases provided for in Section 107 of this Law. In executing a request of a foreign country for taking of evidence a court shall, in accordance with Hague Convention 1970, explain the witnesses their right of refusal to testify also in accordance with the law of the country submitting the request.</p> <p>According to Paragraph 2 of Art 703 of the Civil Procedure Law if necessary, an interpreter shall participate in taking of evidence in Latvia or abroad, using technical means.</p>

PART V - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

	<p>According to Paragraph 2 of Art 705 of the Civil Procedure Law the Ministry of Justice may request the competent authority of the foreign country to cover the costs of enforcement of request of a foreign country for taking of evidence which have incurred in accordance with Article 14(2) of Hague Convention 1970.</p>
Presence	
<p>e) Are the rules for the presence of the parties and their representatives when physically in a single location the same for when evidence is taken via video-link?</p> <p><i>See Article 7 of the Convention</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate: Judicial authority competent to execute the request.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p>
<p>f) Under Chapter I of the Convention, does YOUR STATE allow for the cross-examination of a witness / expert by video-link by the representatives located in the <i>requesting</i> State (<i>i.e.</i>, the State in which the proceedings are pending)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Any participation in the hearing is to be decided by the Latvian judicial authority.</p>
<p>g) Does YOUR STATE allow for the presence of the judicial personnel of the requesting State via video-link?</p> <p><i>See Article 8 of the Convention</i> <i>Please note that a declaration may be made under this provision.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. If so, please specify if they are allowed to actively participate: According to Art 4 of the Law on the Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters (26.02.2009.) in accordance with Article 8 of the Convention in Latvia another Contracting State Representatives of the judiciary may be present at the execution, after receiving a permit from the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p>

PART VI: USE OF VIDEO-LINKS UNDER CHAPTER II (BY DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, CONSULAR AGENTS AND COMMISSIONERS) – LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

<p>The questions in this Part are only for States that have not wholly excluded the application of Chapter II</p> <p>Please note that Chapter II may be subject to a reservation in whole or in part under Article 33. Check the reservations that YOUR STATE has made under this Chapter in the status table, available on the Evidence Section of the Hague Conference website.</p>	
<p>Legal obstacles and legal framework</p>	
<p>a) Does YOUR STATE consider there to be any legal obstacles to the taking of evidence by video-link under Chapter II of the Convention?</p> <p><i>The Special Commission has noted that the use of video-link and similar technologies is consistent with the current framework of the Convention (C&R No 55 of the 2009 SC and C&R No 20 of the 2014 SC).</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>b) Under which provisions of Chapter II of the Convention is taking of evidence by video-link possible in YOUR STATE?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Art. 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Art. 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Art. 17</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>c) Is prior permission from YOUR STATE required when taking evidence under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of YOUR STATE?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please outline the procedure for seeking such permission, including any specific conditions that must be satisfied:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>Latvia made a declaration in this regard, stating that persons wishing to obtain evidence within the Republic of Latvia under Article 16 and Article 17 of the Convention submit the respective application to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia.</p> <p>The domestic law (the Paragraph 3 and 4 of the Article 700 Civil Procedure Law) subsequently specifies: When examining the request of a foreign country for the taking of evidence in the case provided for in Article 16 or 17 of the Hague Convention 1970, the Ministry of Justice shall take one of the following decisions:</p> <p>1) on the permissibility of execution of the request for the taking of evidence by establishing that the district (city) court in the territory of which the source of evidence to be taken is located shall</p>

PART VI - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

	<p>participate in the execution of the abovementioned request, time periods and other conditions for the execution of the request for the taking of evidence;</p> <p>2) to refuse to accept the request for the taking of evidence or a part thereof.</p> <p>The decision of the Ministry of Justice may not be appealed.</p> <p>There are no specific provisions in the domestic legislation that would characterize the hearing of a witness through video-link without prior permission as a criminal act. Yet the question arises on admissibility of use of such evidence. Furthermore, general provision of the Criminal law may apply in relation to criminal offences of administration of justice.</p>
<p>d) Please indicate who administers the oath or affirmation and how perjury and contempt are dealt with when evidence is taken under Chapter II of the Convention on the territory of YOUR STATE.</p>	<p>Administration of the oath or affirmation:</p> <p>Dealing with perjury and contempt:</p>
<p>Direct and indirect taking of evidence</p>	
<p>e) Diplomatic and consular agents are usually located in the State where the witness / expert resides. It may be, however, that a witness / expert is located in a neighbouring country or in a place distant from the Embassy or Consulate. In these circumstances, does YOUR STATE consider it possible to use video-link to obtain evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>

PART VI - LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

Legal safeguards for witness / expert	
<p>f) What are the legal safeguards in place for witnesses / experts in YOUR STATE when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II (e.g. protective measures for the witness / expert, provision of interpretation, right to legal counsel, etc.)?</p>	
Presence	
<p>g) Under the law of YOUR STATE, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by diplomatic and consular agents?</p> <p><i>Please tick all that apply.</i></p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> The parties. <input type="checkbox"/> The parties' representatives. <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial personnel. <input type="checkbox"/> Someone else. Please specify: </div> <div>Comments:</div> </div>
<p>h) Under the law of YOUR STATE, who may be present via video-link when evidence is taken by commissioners?</p> <p><i>Please tick all that apply.</i></p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> The parties. <input type="checkbox"/> The parties' representatives. <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial personnel. <input type="checkbox"/> Someone else. Please specify: </div> <div>Comments:</div> </div>
Applicable law	
<p>i) The law of which State governs the administration of an oath or affirmation when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II?</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> The law of the State of Origin <input type="checkbox"/> The law of the State of Execution <input type="checkbox"/> It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify: </div> <div>Comments:</div> </div>
<p>j) The law of which State governs perjury and contempt when evidence is taken by video-link under Chapter II?</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> The law of the State of Origin <input type="checkbox"/> The law of the State of Execution <input type="checkbox"/> It depends on whether evidence is taken by a consular or diplomatic agent or a commissioner. Please specify: </div> <div>Comments:</div> </div>

PART VII PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

COMMON TO BOTH CHAPTERS	
Notice	
a) What does YOUR STATE consider to be the minimum amount of time required between the request and the actual hearing in order to make the arrangements to take evidence by video-link?	<p>Chapter I: It would be preferable and if possible, to start the preparation of relevant arrangements at least 30 days prior to the actual hearing.</p> <p>Chapter II: It would be preferable and if possible, to start the preparation of relevant arrangements at least 30 days prior to the actual hearing.</p>
Interpretation services	
b) Who is responsible, under Chapter I and Chapter II, for the use of interpretation services and who arranges these services in YOUR STATE when video-link is used?	<p>Chapter I: According to Paragraph 2 of Art 703 of the Civil Procedure Law if necessary, an interpreter shall participate in taking of evidence in Latvia or abroad, using technical means.</p> <p>According to Paragraph 2 of Art 705 of the Civil Procedure Law the Ministry of Justice may request the competent authority of the foreign country to cover the costs of enforcement of request of a foreign country for taking of evidence which have incurred in accordance with Article 14(2) of Hague Convention 1970.</p> <p>Chapter II:</p>
c) Are professional accredited interpreters required in YOUR STATE, and where can relevant contact details be found?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
d) Under the law of YOUR STATE, is interpretation to be <i>simultaneous</i> or <i>consecutive</i> when a witness / expert is examined via video-link?	
e) Where may the interpreter be located when a witness / expert is examined via video-link? <i>Please check all that apply.</i>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> In the room with the witness / expert.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In the room with those conducting the examination.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in the requesting State (Chapter I) / State of Origin (Chapter II).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in the requested State (Chapter I) / State of Execution (Chapter II).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In a third State.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify: The Latvian judicial authority may decide on this issue.</p>

PART VII – PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (BOTH CHAPTERS)

	Comments:
Reporting and recording	
f) Is a written report of the video-link hearing or testimony prepared?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify by whom: Please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the report: <input type="checkbox"/> No. Comments: The secretary of the Court's Hearing (Court's clerk) prepares a formal report, noting that start and end of the Hearing, the identity confirmation checks and other procedural issues. General rules on storage applies.
g) Are facilities and equipment made available in order to record the hearing or testimony?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, with audio and video. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, only with video. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, only with audio. <input type="checkbox"/> No, but the recording of hearings/testimonies is permitted. If a recording is produced, please also outline the specific rules or regulations, if any, that are applicable to the handling/storage/distribution of the recording: <input type="checkbox"/> No, because the recording of hearings/testimonies is not permitted under internal law. Comments: Please contact the Central Authority beforehand to consult about this possibility in a specific court around the country.
Documents and exhibits	
h) What arrangements are to be made for showing or referring to documents or exhibits when taking evidence by video-link?	Please contact the Central Authority in this regard.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER I	
Practical obstacles	
<p>i) Does YOUR STATE consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter I of the Convention?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
Identification of all relevant actors	
<p>j) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in YOUR STATE when video-link is used under Chapter I?</p>	<p>The Latvian judicial authority will identify all relevant local actors and ask for the requesting authority to do the same. According to Paragraph 3 of Art 703 of the Civil Procedure Law a court shall confirm the identity of the persons involved and ensure the performance of taking of evidence in Latvia.</p>
Standard Forms	
<p>k) Do the authorities of YOUR STATE use a standardised request form under Chapter I that makes specific reference to the use of video-links?</p> <p><i>The use of the Model Form of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I.</i></p> <p><i>While the Model Form has no explicit reference to the use of video-link, a request to this effect may be included in item 13 of the Form.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No standardised form is used.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>In practice the Courts use both options, mostly no standardized form is used, but on a few occasions the same was indeed used.</p>
<p>l) Does YOUR STATE require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the requesting State in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness / expert examination by video-link under Chapter I? (e.g. contact details for IT support, technical specifications, etc)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
Costs	
<p>m) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter I in YOUR STATE?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>Comments:</p>

PART VII – PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER I)

<p>n) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter I in YOUR STATE? <i>See Art. 14(2) of the Evidence Convention</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The moving party (requesting the use of video-link).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The requesting authority (in the requesting State).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The requested authority (in the requested State).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify:</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p>
<p>o) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Payment in cash</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Payment by (credit) card</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Electronic/wire transfer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify:</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p>
<p>p) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter I in YOUR STATE when video-link is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?</p>	

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER CHAPTER II	
Only for States that have not excluded in whole the application of Chapter II	
Practical obstacles	
q) Does YOUR STATE consider that there are practical obstacles to using video-link to assist in the taking of evidence under Chapter II of the Convention?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No. <i>Comments:</i>
Identification of all relevant actors	
r) What is the procedure for verifying the identity of the parties, the witness / expert, and all relevant actors in YOUR STATE when video-link is used under Chapter II?	
Standard Forms	
s) Do the authorities of YOUR STATE use a standardised request form under Chapter II that makes specific reference to the use of video-links? <i>Although the use of the Model Form of the Evidence Convention is recommended when taking evidence under Chapter I, it may also be used, with the necessary amendments when applying for permission to take evidence under Chapter II.</i> <i>While the Model Form has no explicit reference to the use of video-link, a request to this effect may be included in item 13 of the Form.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> The standardised form used makes no reference to video-link. <input type="checkbox"/> No standardised form is used. <i>Comments:</i>
Assistance and facilities	
t) Are the Embassies and Consulates of YOUR STATE (acting as the State of Execution) able to assist applicants in arranging a video-link?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify how, e.g., via a booking system: <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify who else would assist, if anyone: <i>Comments:</i>
u) Is it possible to hold a video-link session requested under the Convention at the premises of the Embassies or Consulates of YOUR STATE abroad?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No. <i>Comments:</i>
v) Does YOUR STATE require the inclusion of any particular practical or technical information from the State of Origin in the request in order to conduct / arrange a witness or expert examination by video-link under Chapter II? (e.g. the use of interpreters, stenographers, or recording devices)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No. <i>Comments:</i>

PART VII – PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CHAPTER II)

Costs	
w) Are there any costs associated with the taking of evidence via video-link under Chapter II in YOUR STATE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide an approximate estimate of these costs and / or specify the criteria used to determine these costs: <input type="checkbox"/> No. <i>Comments:</i>
x) Who is responsible for bearing the costs occasioned by the use of video-link under Chapter II in YOUR STATE?	<input type="checkbox"/> The moving party (requesting the use of video-link). <input type="checkbox"/> The State of Origin <input type="checkbox"/> The Diplomatic mission or Consulate in the State of Execution. <input type="checkbox"/> The commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify: <i>Comments:</i>
y) How are these costs generally expected to be paid and/or reimbursed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment in cash <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by (credit) card <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic/wire transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify: <i>Comments:</i>
z) Who pays for the interpretation services under Chapter II in YOUR STATE when video-link is used and how are these costs to be paid and/or reimbursed?	