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Text consolidated by Tulkošanas un terminoloģijas centrs (Translation and Terminology Centre) with amending laws of:

22 May 1991;
20 November 1991;
15 January 1992;
27 April 1993;
5 August 1993;
4 November 1993;
28 July 1994;
21 September 1995;
12 June 1996;
25 November 1996;
18 May 2006.

If a whole or part of a section has been amended, the date of the amending law appears in square brackets at the end of the section. If a whole section, paragraph or clause has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted section, paragraph or clause.

*The Supreme Council of the
Republic of Latvia has adopted a Law*

Law on Land Commissions

The Central Land Commission shall cease accepting submissions regarding the land disputes specified in Clause 4.2.8 of this Law, from 1 December 1996. (*Transitional Provisions of the Law of 12 June 1996*)

1. For the co-ordination of work and ensuring of lawfulness of the land reform the *Saeima* shall establish the Central Land Commission of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – Central Land Commission). For the examination of matters regarding the formation of land ownership and taking decisions, city councils shall establish a land commission of the relevant city, and parish councils – a land commission of the relevant parish.

In the administrative territories of a city, in which there is also land of rural areas, the relevant city council may also establish a land commission that performs the functions allocated to the parish land commission by this Law.

The land commissions shall work according to land and other legislative enactments in force in the Republic of Latvia.

The work of land management in parishes and cities shall be performed by the State Land Service or its licensed performers of work.

[27 April 1993; 5 August 1993; 28 July 1994; 21 September 1995; 12 June 1996]

2. The composition and tasks of a parish land commission:

2.1. a parish land commission shall include:

the chair of the land commission appointed by the parish council;
the chair of the parish council or his or her deputy;
a representative of the State Land Service; and,

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a land manager, who shall work permanently in the territory of the parish.

Invited specialists may also participate in parish land commission meetings in an advisory capacity. If there is a great amount of work, the parish council may establish a working group of invited specialists.

2.2. a parish land commission shall: 2.2.1. register, summarise and analyse requests for land and submit its decision in issues regarding the division of the land fund to the head of the work related to the parish land management for implementation;

2.2.2. within 10 days inform the requester of land in writing regarding receipt of the request, indicating the registration date and number of the request;

2.2.3. review and correct a project for parish land management and submit this to the parish council for approval;

2.2.4. within its competence settle land disputes;

2.2.5. provide an opinion regarding land ownership rights, take a decision regarding the compensation for land ownership and rights of use, but following the determination (measuring) of land boundaries and drawing up of the deed for determination of land boundaries and preparation of a land boundary plan shall take a decision regarding:

- the renewal of land ownership rights; or

- the granting of land into ownership for a fee and the determination of the amount of the fee;

2.2.6. review proposals regarding measures that are necessary for ensuring unsatisfied requests for land;

2.2.7. review proposals regarding the further utilisation of non-requested land;

2.2.8. provide opinions regarding raw data for the calculation of land tax;

2.2.9. review proposals regarding the utilisation of parish collective land;

2.2.10. take a decision regarding the aims of utilisation of land saleable to legal persons or obtainable at auction and the area of land to be utilised for entrepreneurial activities; and,

2.2.11. take a decision regarding the approval of the area of a plot of land and boundary plan, if a request for corroboration regarding the entering of a building (structure) into the Land Register is submitted prior to the entering of the land into the Land Register.

[28 July 1994; 21 September 1995; 12 June 1996]

2.¹ The composition and tasks of a city land commission:

2.¹ 1. a city land commission shall include:

- the chair of the land commission appointed by the city council;

- the chair of the city council or his or her deputy;

- a representative of the State Land Service;

- a land manager, who shall work permanently in the territory of the city; and,

- the city's chief architect (architect).

Those city councils that do not have their own chief architect (architect) may delegate the relevant functions to the chief regional architect. Invited specialists may also participate in city land commission meetings in an advisory capacity. If there is a great amount of work, the city council may establish a working group (groups) of invited specialists.

2.¹ 2. the city land commission shall:

2.¹ 2.1. within 10 days inform the requester of land in writing regarding receipt of the request, indicating the registration date and number of the request;

2.¹.2.2. summarise and analyse requests for land and submit its decision to the city council for the drawing up of a land management project, as well as provide an opinion regarding land ownership or rights of land use and shall take a decision regarding compensation for land ownership, but following the measuring of land boundaries and the preparation of a deed for measuring land boundaries and a plan of land boundaries, shall take a decision:

- regarding the renewal of land ownership rights; or
- regarding the acquisition of land into ownership for a fee and approval of the amount of the fee;

2.¹.2.3. review and correct a project for land management in the composition of the general building plan for the city and submit this to the city council for approval;

2.¹.2.4. settle land disputes within its competence ;

2.¹.2.5. co-operate with the land commissions of neighbouring parishes and neighbouring cities regarding matters relating to the suburb zones, green belt, and land for collective communication, transport and linear constructions for communication;

2.¹.2.6. review proposals regarding measures that are necessary for the ensuring of unsatisfied requests for land, also observing recommendations from the land commissions of neighbouring parishes and neighbouring cities;

2.¹.2.7. review proposals regarding the further utilisation of non-requested land;

2.¹.2.8. provide opinions regarding raw data for the calculation of land tax;

2.¹.2.9. take a decision regarding the aims of utilisation of land saleable to legal persons or obtainable at auction and the area of land to be utilised for entrepreneurial activities; and,

2.¹.2.10. take a decision regarding the approval of the area of a plot of land and boundary plan, if a request for corroboration regarding the entering of a building (structure) into the Land Register is submitted prior to the entering of the land into the Land Register.

[20 November 1991; 28 July 1994; 21 September 1995; 12 June 1996]

3. [12 June 1996]

4. The composition and tasks of the Central Land Commission of the Republic of Latvia:

4.1. The Central Land Commission shall be composed of eight deputies of the *Saeima*, one representative from the State Land Service, the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Forest Service, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia University of Agriculture, the University of Latvia, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Ministry of Finance, the Union of Local and Regional Governments, the Latvian Mortgage and Land Bank, the Ministry of Economics and the Land Commission of the City of Riga, as well as a representative from the working group of the Central Land Commission. Following recommendations from the relevant authorities and organisations and with the agreement of the members of the commission, the composition of the commission shall be approved by the *Saeima*. Specialists from various sectors may be invited to the work of the commission with an advisory right to vote, as well as representatives from socio-political and public organisations.

4.2. The Central Land Commission of the Republic of Latvia:

4.2.1. shall co-ordinate the work of the city council and parish council land commissions and monitor the conformity of decisions taken with legislative enactments in force;

4.2.2. is entitled to provide obligatory instructions corresponding with legislative enactments, to legal persons, local governments and State institutions and receive the requested information from them within a period of 14 days;

4.2.3. [27 April 1993]

4.2.4. [28 July 1994]

4.2.5. shall determine the terms for implementation of work for cadastral measurements and land valuations;

4.2.6. shall propose and monitor the development of programmes for the implementation of measures that are necessary in order to ensure unsatisfied requests for land and the further utilisation of non-requested land;

4.2.7 [12 June 1996]

4.2.8. shall review disputes associated with rights of land use, land use and ownership boundaries, that have not been settled by city and parish land commissions, shall take a decision regarding these disputes within a period of one month and, if necessary, prepare proposals for the *Saeima*.

Decisions taken by the Central Land Commission regarding disputes that are associated with the rights of land use, land use and ownership boundaries, may be appealed to a court;

4.2.9. shall control the development of programmes, in order to ensure unsatisfied requests for land and the further utilisation of non-requested land;

4.2.10. shall take decisions regarding the granting of land into ownership for a fee in the cases provided for in Section 16 of the Law on the Privatisation of Land in Rural Areas;

4.2.11. shall take decisions regarding the renewal of land ownership rights and the granting of land into ownership for a fee in the cases provided for in Section 21, Paragraph four of the Law on the Privatisation of Land in Rural Areas;

4.2.12. shall review submissions received according to the terms specified in Section 16 of the Law on the Completion of Land Reform in Rural Areas regarding the granting of compensation certificates for property and shall take the relevant decisions until 29 December 2006.

4.3. If a parish or city land commission does not fulfil its duties or takes decisions that are in conflict with land reform and other legislative enactments for land, as well as Cabinet regulations, the Central Land Commission has the right to propose that the parish council (city council) review the matter regarding the conformity of the chair of the parish (city) land commission with the position. If a parish council (city council) repeatedly allows the previously specified breaches or does not implement judgments of a court, the Central Land Commission has the right to submit a proposal to the Cabinet regarding the dismissal of the relevant board (council).

[27 April 1993; 5 August 1993; 4 November 1993; 28 July 1994; 21 September 1995; 12 June 1996; 25 November 1996; 18 May 2006]

5. Activities of the land commissions:

5.1. the Chair of the Central Land Commission of the Republic of Latvia shall be elected by the *Saeima* from among its deputies;

5.2. a land commission shall elect a deputy chair (deputies) and a secretary of the commission from among their number;

5.3. the meetings of a land commission shall be convened by the chair or his or her deputy at least once per month;

5.4. a land commission shall have a quorum, if more than half of the members of the land commission participate therein, including the chair of the commission or his or her

deputy. A decision shall be taken by a majority vote of the members of the commission that are present. In the event of a tied vote, the vote of the chair of the land commission or his or her deputy shall be decisive. The Central Land Commission is entitled to resolve land disputes if not less than seven members of the commission are taking part in its meeting, including the chair of the commission or his or her deputy;

5.5. the members of the commission, interested representatives of land users, interested officials and citizens shall be informed regarding the time of the meeting five days prior to the date of the meeting. If these persons have not appeared at the meeting, the commission shall resolve the matters to be reviewed without their presence. In cases of land dispute prior to convening a meeting the chair of the commission (deputy), involving the deputies of the relevant council (board), as well as the relevant specialists, shall check the basis of a submission and prepare a draft opinion; and

5.6. land commissions, in resolving matters of land division or land disputes, shall inform the interested land users and the inferior land commissions of their decisions in writing within a period of 5 days following the taking of a decision.

[5 August 1993; 28 July 1994; 21 September 1995; 12 June 1996]

6. A decision of a parish or city land commission regarding the rights of land use, use of land and property boundaries may be appealed to the parish council (city council) or Central Land Commission by interested persons, within one month after the notification of the decision. The decision of a parish council (city council), as well as the Central Land Commission may be appealed to a court.

A decision of a parish (city) land commission regarding land ownership rights, the amount of the fee (charges) and compensation may be appealed to the parish council (city council) by interested persons within one month after the notification of the decision. The decision of the parish council (city council) may be appealed to a court.

The decision taken by a parish (city) land commission, or the decision taken by the appeal procedures specified in Paragraphs one and two of this Section regarding land ownership boundaries, the renewal of land ownership rights, the granting of land to ownership for a fee (charge), determination of the amount of the fee (charge) and regarding compensation of land ownership shall be the basic document for the registration of land ownership in the Cadastral Register and its corroboration in the Land Registers, as well as for the opening of an account for compensation certificates for land.

A decision of a land commission regarding the renewal of land ownership rights, regarding the granting of land to ownership for a fee (charge) and the determination of the amount of the fee (charge), as well as compensation for land ownership, shall come into effect if it has not been appealed by interested persons within 10 days after the notification of the decision.

[21 September 1995; 12 June 1996]

7. Minutes shall be taken regarding each meeting of a commission, that shall be signed by all the members of the commission that are present and the invited specialists; each member of the commission and each invited specialist has the right to append to the minutes his or her individual opinion.

The minutes of land commission meetings shall be permanently kept at the relevant: parish council or city council; or,

the Central Land Commission of the Republic of Latvia.

[22 May 1991; 5 August 1993; 28 July 1994; 21 September 1995; 12 June 1996]

8. The chair of a land commission, his or her deputies and the secretary shall be officials who are responsible for the implementation of his or her duties in accordance with the legislative enactments in force.

9. Remuneration and payment of social taxes for the chairs of parish and city land commissions shall be financed from the State basic budget, but the remaining financing of the commissions shall be covered from local government budgets. The expenditure for maintenance of the Central Land Commission shall be covered from the State basic budget.

[25 November 1996]

10. The Central Land Commission of the Republic of Latvia shall be a legal person that has a current account in a bank and a seal bearing a supplementary image of the lesser State coat of arms.

The decisions of parish and city land commissions shall be signed by the chair of the relevant land commission.

[4 November 1993; 21 September 1995; 12 June 1996]

11. Parish and city land commissions shall terminate their activities within a period of two months following the proclamation of the completion of land reform in the territory of the relevant local government or in the entire State. Within this period of time, parish and city land commissions shall hand over their archives to the relevant regional department of the State Land Service. Documentation shall be arranged according to archive regulations. The Central Land Commission shall terminate its activities in accordance with the relevant decision of the *Saeima*.

[25 November 1996]

Transitional Provision

From 1 January 1997 until the termination of activities of city and parish land commissions, the financing thereof from the State basic budget shall be performed by the State Land Service, in accordance with Section 9 of this Law.

[25 November 1996]

Chair of the Supreme Council
of the Republic of Latvia

A. Gorbunovs

Secretary of the Supreme Council
of the Republic of Latvia

I. Daudišs

Rīga, 10 July 1990