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**Sub: INDIA-LATVIA BUSINESS CONFERENCE IN RIGA, LATVIA, ON 24-25
MAY 2017**

Dear Member,

The Embassy of India to Sweden and Latvia and the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, in collaboration with its Indian and Latvian partners, are organizing the first India-Latvia Business Conference in Riga, Latvia, on 24-25 May 2017.

The Conference will be inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Arvils Ašeradens, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economics of the Republic of Latvia, and H.E. Mr. M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India, in the forenoon of 24 May 2017.

Representatives of apex business forums, Central and State Governments, and business community of the two countries, among others, will be participating in this 2-day Conference, which is planned to hold a number of parallel seminars and round tables, covering several prime sectors to promote mutual trade and investments, with **greater focus on promoting Indian Exports to the European Union (EU), Russia, and the CIS.**

The event will impart authentic and up-to-date information by Latvian, EU and Indian experts on infrastructural advantages, legal aspects, European Commission regulations and compliances, and financial and tax benefits for doing business in Latvia, EU and India. It will also provide an excellent platform for exchanging sector specific information and for holding B2B meetings.

Latvia, with its three free ports, is situated in close proximity of affluent

economies of Europe and Russia. The entire European Union – being borderless and allowing free movement of labour, goods and services – is projected as a single entity for the purpose of trade and commerce.

With one of the cheapest logistic facilities in Europe, Latvia serves as a gateway to Europe, Russia, CIS and other Baltic countries.

Latvia as a member of Schengen Visa Regime facilitates free movement within Europe's Schengen Area in which internal border checks have largely been abolished. Automated Latvian ports offer good connectivity, inter alia, to Scandinavia, Germany and Russia. Latvia is a partner country in the EU's high speed 'Baltic Rail' project, a Euro 5 billion project, connecting Berlin (Germany), Warsaw (Poland), Kaunas (Lithuania), Riga (Latvia), Tallinn (Estonia), St. Petersburg (Russia), and Helsinki (Finland). Efforts are also on to develop India-Baltic Rail Corridor. Latvia, thus, holds a vital position in Europe.

There are excellent opportunities for Indian Exporters to make Latvia a distribution hub for their businesses and avail of efficient and affordable connectivity to transfer goods within EU, Russia, CIS and other Baltic countries.

Indian companies seeking to establish industries in Latvian free ports/SEZs can avail of subsidy on their investments in plant and machinery in addition to substantial tax rebates. Indian Industries can avail of EU funding for advance research activities in Latvia.

The Conference is planned, among others, to hold discussions in different segments covering – Latvian, EU and Indian business regulations and compliances and tax benefits; Latvian and EU funding to promote R&D and innovation and infrastructural development; Transport & Logistics; IT & Electronics, including e-Governance; Astronomy; Aviation; Defence; **Textiles**; Life Sciences including healthcare, Ayurveda, Yoga and Pharmaceuticals; Metal industries; Baltic Rail project; Timber & Forestry; India's flagship initiatives including Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, etc.; Food processing and agro products and FMCG; and Higher Education collaboration. A paper, prepared by the President of Indo-Latvian Chamber of Commerce in Riga, describing various important sectors, is attached for your information.

The main seminars and roundtables and B2Bs will take place on 24 May, while site visits will be organized on 25 May 2017.

Details of the Conference, including its programme and registration link, can be accessed at the following website:

<https://www.indianembassy.se/>

Interested participants are requested to register online to confirm their participation in the event at the earliest possible, preferably by 15 April 2017, to enable us to firm up programme for different segments and logistical arrangements accordingly.

Any queries regarding the above event may be emailed to:

Mr. Vijai Kumar, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of India, Stockholm, Tel: 0046-8-411 6693 email: commercial@indianembassy.se & fscom@indianembassy.se and copy to us at ravi@texprocil.org

We look forward to receiving your confirmation to participate in the Conference.

Regards,

N Ravindranathan
Director

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