



## AGREEMENT on COOPERATION

The trade union cooperation between Lo-Sweden and LBAS is an important part of our bilateral cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. The EU enlargement with ten new member States is a very positive step forward. Nevertheless, enlarged labour market is not free from rules and agreements, particularly in such areas like the free movement of workers.

One of the general principles of trade unions is to defend workers' interests, therefore Lo-Sweden and LBAS agreed that problems that will be shown in the future must find early solutions.

We can't accept social dumping in any form, and collective agreements, bargaining and labour laws in the country of destination shall be respected in line with the principles of the existing European legislation.

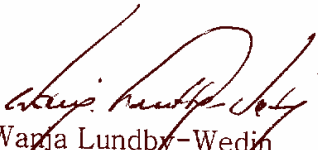
Upwards harmonization of working and living conditions is necessary to avoid social dumping.


It is also important to promote common interests to ensure a strong and stable trade union movement by continuous bilateral relations, especially concerning collective agreements and living standard that workers benefit from.

1. The purpose of this Agreement is to explore the idea of trade union solidarity and to strengthen cooperation between both organizations within the following areas:
  - a. regular exchanging of information on the situation on both labour markets;
  - b. extending contacts by exchanging experts on different issues;
  - c. immediate actions and finding of solutions concerning upcoming internal problems;
  - d. improving the participation and consultation of the social partners at all levels - national, regional and local level, and to establish better co-operation with employers organizations of both countries in order to better protect workers trade union members;

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- e. encouraging affiliates to engage in cooperation between respective branches;
  - f. preventing and combating social dumping in both countries;
2. The cooperation between LO-Sweden and LBAS may take the following forms:
    - a. mutual visits;
    - b. bilateral talks and consultations on current issues;
    - c. seminars and conferences on specific topics;
    - d. exchange of knowledge, experience between trade unions at all levels.
  3. The LO-Sweden and LBAS may agree on other forms on cooperation activities.

Done in Riga on October 13, 2005 in two copies, both drawn up in English.

  
Wanja Lundby-Wedin  
President of LO-Sweden

  
Peteris Krigeris  
President of LBAS