

**TARGETED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION 2023 RULE OF LAW REPORT  
UN HUMAN RIGHTS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE (OHCHR)**

**LATVIA REVIEW**

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**IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances**

***A. The process for preparing and enacting laws***

*Framework, policy and use of impact assessments and evidence based policy-making, stakeholders'[1] /public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary and other relevant stakeholders on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process*

In September 2022, several Special Procedure mandate-holders entered into a dialogue with the Latvian Government regarding a bill that would require that all pre-school and school institutions, including those operating in minority-language or bilingual institutions, transition to Latvian-language instruction. The mandate-holders raised concerns that this bill severely limits education in the minority languages of Latvia and would likely lead to a breach of Latvia's international obligations under a number of human rights instruments. Further concerns were raised that the amendments were developed without effective and meaningful participation of the affected minorities. During the public discussion of the bill, in April 2022, more than 95% of the approximately 4000 individuals and legal entities submitted comments feedback and comments, opposed the bill. Despite this and related complaints pending before the European Court of Human Rights (Case No. 56928/19) and the UN Human Rights Committee (Case No. 4120/2022), the bill was submitted for the consideration of the Parliament without major changes. The mandate holders recommended review and reconsideration of the bill aiming at transitioning all pre-schools and schools, including minority-language and bilingual institutions, to instruction in Latvian language, so as to ensure compliance with Latvia's international human rights obligations ([OL LVA 1/2022](#) pages 1-3, 5).