

# PUBLISKA DISKUSIJA “Interesešu pārstāvības regulējums Latvijā”

2021. GADA 23. APRĪLIS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION  
“Legislation on Lobbying in Latvia”



APRIL 23, 2021

## Public Discussion Regarding “Legislation on Lobbying in Latvia”

“Legislation on Lobbying in Latvia” was the name of the conference organized by Delna together with the US Embassy in Latvia. Participants of the public discussion, which took place on April 23, were introduced to recommendations prepared specifically for Latvia by GRECO (The Group of States Against Corruption) and other international organizations.

Members of Latvia’s parliament and invited experts discussed progress being made in developing lobbying legislation, and how international institutions and other nations view the advances being made.

For more information and to view the discussions, please visit the [Delna homepage](#) ->

Highlights of the conference are [published here](#) ->.



## Our Report on Observing the Selection of Council Members for the State Audit Office of Latvia

From February 10 – April 15, 2021 Delna observed the work of the commission that would select candidates to the State Audit Office of Latvia (SAOL). Delna was included in the commission as an outside observer without voting rights. We were represented on the commission by Inese Tauriņa and Agnija Birule, who participated in all of the meetings. Delna did not receive compensation from the SAOL for its participation in the proceedings.

It is Delna's view that the selection process for the new council members was open and competitive. Previous board selections had not been open. While SAOL rule 27 states that "Upon the recommendation of the Auditor General, State Audit council members are approved by Parliament to a term of four years", it does not state how candidates are to be chosen.

We are convinced that the SAOL selection commission followed the previously developed and approved "SAOL Council Member Candidate Selection Rules." We also recognize the commission's efficient and transparent work. Overall, the commission's work adhered to the principles of good governance, honesty and equal opportunity, thus helping ensure that the most professional and appropriate candidates were chosen.

A complete report and summary in Latvian can be found on the [Delna website](#) >.

Additional information about the selection proceedings and the candidates chosen is available at [lsm.lv](#) (in Latvian).



## The Annual Delna Membership Meeting

Transparency International Latvia / "Sabiedrība par atklātību – Delna" annual membership meeting took place on March 25, 2021. Members elected two new

council members, approved the overview of Delna's activities and finances in 2020, and discussed a number of key issues.

### **Delna 2020 in review**

Delna director Inese Tauriņa presented the [review](#) of last year's activities and finances, including the [report](#) from the audit committee (both in Latvian). These and other administrative documents are accessible on our website under "[Par Delnu – Pārvaldes Dokumenti](#)" (in Latvian).

### **The Delna Council**

Two new [council members](#) were elected to 3-year terms: Agnese Alksne and Jēkabs Kārlis Rasnačs. The other council members are Kārlis Jānis Ātrenš, Jana Simanovska, Anna Plaudiņa, Kaspars Strazds and Valdis Verners.

The council held its first meeting on April 12. There Kārlis J. Ātrenš was re-elected chairperson, Jana Simanovska vice-chair and Jēkabs K. Rasnačs secretary.

Kārlis Ātrenš has been a council member for four years. He works in IT and is a lecturer at the Rīga School of Business. Mr. Ātrenš stated that his main goal is to complete the Delna 2021 – 2025 Strategy Plan and then undertake its implementation.

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## **Article: How the Risk of Corruption Halted the Development of a Rīga Tram Line-What Can We Learn from That Experience**

From 2016 to 2020 Delna, as part of the international Integrity Pact, monitored procurements by the municipal enterprise Rīgas Satiksme (Riga's Traffic) and the development of the Skanste tramline. The Integrity Pact – one of 18 European Commission and Transparency International Integrity Pacts in 11

European nations – was an agreement between Riga Traffic and businesses not to engage in illegal and corruptive actions during the project.

As an independent observer Delna monitored compliance with the provisions of the agreement and uncovered questionable procurements that led to the termination of the project. The article describes Delna’s experience and discusses the lessons learned about how an active citizenry can have an impact on government waste and corruption.

The article (in English) can be found on the Transparency International [website](#).

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## The Corruption Prevention and Combatting Bureau of Latvia (KNAB) Anti-Corruption Plan

In April KNAB organized public discussion of its “Corruption Prevention and Combatting Action Plan 2021 – 2023”, part of its “Anti-Corruption Project” ([Pretkorupcijas pasākumu plāna projekts](#)) During its April 15 meeting the KNAB Public Consultative Council (SKP) also discussed this plan, supporting its overall direction and unanimously agreed to prepare needed documents. Delna submitted its proposals for preventing and combating corruption in Latvia and invited the public to do likewise.

Aizvadīta  
**KNAB Sabiedriski  
konsultatīvās  
padomes**  
69. sēde



[www.knab.gov.lv](http://www.knab.gov.lv)

Delna holds in high regard the effort of KNAB and the SKP to develop such a project. We urge the public to express their views about the anti-corruption activities proposed for 2021 – 2023. It is an opportunity for people to help KNAB uncover areas where anti-corruption efforts need to be focused.





### **A Number of Municipal Candidates Are Involved in Criminal Court Cases**

Among the candidates in the upcoming June 5, 2021 municipal elections are a number of persons who have been accused of bribery and forging documents. For example, the case against the former mayor of Daugavpils has not yet started, as well as against public officials in Zilupe and Preiļi. Delna director Inese Tauriņa has pointed out that if such candidates feel they must run, it is essential not only that they explain to voters and the public their decision, but that voters demand explanations. The video of the interview (in Latvian) can be viewed at [www.lsm.lv](http://www.lsm.lv) ->.

### **Should Regional Parties Also Receive Public Financing?**

Delna supports the decision by KNAB to review the current model used for financing political organizations and to evaluate ways of providing state budget financing to regional parties. The article (in Latvian) is available at [www.lvportals.lv](http://www.lvportals.lv) ->.

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## JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

If you want to help reduce corruption in Latvia, become a member of Delna. As a member you will join [80 others](#) in Latvia and become a part of the [Transparency International global anti-corruption network](#) with chapters in more than 100 countries. Join today!

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### **The Upcoming Municipal Elections – Learn About Party Platforms**

This year's municipal elections in Latvia will see 683 candidates vie for positions in 41 municipalities. As the June 5 elections approach Delna invites

voters to go to [www.lsm.lv](http://www.lsm.lv) to learn about the candidates running for office, the political parties they represent and the party platforms.

## OSCE Handbook on Combatting Corruption

For those concerned about corruption, we recommend looking into the OSCE Handbook on Combatting Corruption. The handbook provides a guide on available legal tools, the latest legislative and policy trends, and practices to prevent and reduce corruption. A summary of the report (in Latvian) is available on the [Delna website](#). The annual report can be accessed [here](#) ->.

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Šo vēstuli nosūtīja Delna – Sabiedrība par atklātību uz .  
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Kāpēc es saņēmu šo vēstuli?  
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