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## National specialised courts

This section provides an overview of specialised courts in Latvia.

### Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia (*Satversmes tiesa*)

Pursuant to [the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia](#), Latvia has a **Constitutional Court** which is an independent judicial institution that examines whether in cases within its remit the law is in conformity with the Constitution, and also considers other cases assigned to it by the law. The Constitutional Court may declare laws and other legal acts or parts thereof null and void.

Pursuant to Article 16 of [the Law on the Constitutional Court](#), the Constitutional Court **considers cases concerning**:

the constitutionality of laws;

the constitutionality of international agreements signed or concluded by Latvia (before or after those agreements are approved by the *Saeima* (Parliament));

the conformity of laws and regulations or parts thereof with higher-ranking rules of law;

the conformity with law of other acts of the *Saeima*, Cabinet, President, Speaker of Parliament or Prime Minister (other than administrative acts);

the conformity with law of orders by which a Minister empowered by the Cabinet has suspended the decisions of a local council;

the conformity of provisions of Latvian national law with international agreements concluded by Latvia that are not incompatible with the Constitution.

The Constitutional Court comprises seven judges who are approved by a majority of the Members of Parliament (at least 51 votes). Three of the judges are approved at the proposal of at least ten Members of Parliament, two are approved at the proposal of the Cabinet, and a further two at the proposal of a sitting of the whole Supreme Court. The candidates put forward by the Supreme Court must be selected from among Latvia's judges.

The Constitutional Court may not institute proceedings at its own initiative; it considers cases only on receipt of an application from persons so authorised by law.

**The following are entitled to bring an application** instituting proceedings regarding the constitutionality of international agreements signed or concluded by Latvia (before or after those agreements are approved by the *Saeima*), or the conformity of laws and regulations or parts thereof with higher-ranking rules of law, or the conformity of provisions of Latvian national law with international agreements concluded by Latvia that are not incompatible with the Constitution:

the President;

the *Saeima*;

no fewer than twenty Members of Parliament;

the Cabinet;

the Prosecutor-General;

the Council of the State Audit Office (*Valsts kontroles padome*);

a local council;

the Ombudsman (*tiesībsargs*), if the institution or official that issued the contested act has not rectified the shortcomings identified within the deadline set by the Ombudsman;

a court examining a civil, criminal or administrative case;

a judge at a land registry office when registering immovable property and related rights in the land register;

any person whose fundamental rights under the Constitution have been prejudiced;

the Council for the Judiciary (*Tieslietu padome*), within its legally prescribed remit.

**The following are entitled to bring an application** instituting proceedings regarding the compliance with law of other acts of the *Saeima*, Cabinet, President, Speaker of Parliament or Prime Minister (other than administrative acts):

the President;

the *Saeima*;

no fewer than twenty Members of Parliament;

the Cabinet;

the Council for the Judiciary, within its legally prescribed remit.

**Entitlement to bring an application** instituting proceedings regarding the conformity with law of orders by which a Minister empowered by the Cabinet has suspended the decisions of a local council lies with that local council.

Cases concerning the constitutionality of laws, Cabinet regulations and other Cabinet acts, the conformity of provisions of Latvian national legislation with international agreements concluded by Latvia which are not incompatible with the Constitution, and the constitutionality of international agreements signed or concluded by Latvia (before or after those agreements are approved by the *Saeima*) and laws or regulations or parts thereof are considered by the Constitutional Court in full session. Other cases are examined by a panel composed of three judges, unless the Constitutional Court decides otherwise.

The judgment of the Constitutional Court is final and enters into force at the time of delivery. A judgment of the Constitutional Court and the interpretation it contains of a contested provision is binding on all central and local government bodies (including courts) and officials, and on natural and legal persons.

A provision which the Constitutional Court has declared incompatible with a higher-ranking rule of law is deemed annulled with effect from the date on which the Constitutional Court judgment is published, unless the Constitutional Court determines otherwise. If the Constitutional Court has declared an international agreement that has been signed or concluded by Latvia to be unconstitutional, the Cabinet must immediately take steps to amend, denounce, suspend or withdraw from the agreement.

### Legal databases

#### Name and URL of the database

[Cases before the Constitutional Court \(search function\)](#)

#### Is access to the database free of charge?

Yes, access is **free of charge**.

#### Content of the database in brief

The database contains judgments of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia.

#### Additional information

The database search interface and judgments are available in Latvian and English.

## Links

### [Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia](#)

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