

IS LATVIA READY FOR THE WHISTLEBLOWERS LAW?

NEW RULES AND BEST PRACTICES

SPEAKERS



EVITA GOSA
CEMEX

Evita Gosa is the Legal Director and management board member of SIA CEMEX in Latvia, chairperson of the board in Embra Oy (CEMEX group company in Finland) and board member of AB Akmenes cementas in Lithuania. Before joining CEMEX in 2008 Evita practised business law in several leading law firms in Latvia. Evita is a diversity management expert and deals with strategic litigation in matters related to human rights. Evita studied law in Estonia (LL. B. studies at Concordia International University Estonia), Russia (exchange studies at St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance), Austria (exchange studies at Johannes Kepler University Linz) and Germany (master's studies at University of Mannheim).



FRANCIS HARMAN
InC Blue Group

Francis Harman is an American expert on internal control and business risk, focused on operational effectiveness. He is based in the United States and his internal control work has taken him to Western Europe, Australia and China as well as to South East Asia. As Group Chairman he is supporting InC Blue to expand into the Baltic region. He has investigated many whistleblower issues for major corporations and government agencies. He brings a unique perspective to his professional work. In addition to senior professional qualifications and experience, he also has CEO and CFO experience in public companies. For several years he was a company doctor, returning failing companies to profitability on behalf of venture capital organizations.



INESE KUSKE
State Chancellery

Inese Kuske is an expert in public sector reforms and good governance. In particular, her expertise lies in the area of anti-corruption as she has worked on the topic for more than 15 years. Former civil servant at the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau of Latvia and international expert at the Anti-Corruption Division of the OECD, Inese now works at the State Chancellery of Latvia where she played a pivotal role in drafting the recently adopted Whistleblowers Law. Inese holds Bachelor degree in Political Science and international Relations from University of Latvia and Master's degrees in International relations from Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne and Institut international d'administration publique (Paris).



EUGENE LYONS
Irish Trade Union Forsa

Eugene Lyons is the Civil Servant and Former Executive Forsa, an Irish trade union for public service staff. With over 80,000 members, it is the largest public service union in Ireland, and second largest trade union in the state.



DEBORA PAVILA
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Debora Pavila is an attorney educated at the University of Oxford and King's College London and advising clients on a wide range of national and EU law matters, specialising primarily in competition law. Debora represents clients before administrative institutions such as Latvia's Competition Council and the Procurement Monitoring Office, as well as national and international courts. Debora Pavila is a "Chambers & Partners Europe" and "Legal 500" recommended practitioner in Latvia. Debora is leading the currently major litigation case against Latvia's Competition Authority – challenge of a EUR 7.4 Mio fine imposed on the Latvian subsidiaries of the Møller Mobility Group for an alleged cartel (the VW case).



PAULS RAUDSEPS
NEWSPAPER IR

Pauls Raudseps is one of Latvia's leading journalists and commentators. He writes on a wide variety of topics, including economics, politics, international affairs, and history. Born in the United States, Mr. Raudseps received a degree in Russian and Soviet Studies from Harvard University. In 1990 he moved to Latvia to work for the Popular Front, the organisation that led the fight for Latvian independence. He was one of the founders of Diena, which for many years was Latvia's leading daily newspaper. Having worked for almost 19 years at the newspaper as managing editor and editorial page editor, he left Diena in October, 2009, to found the weekly news magazine and website "Ir", where he is both a commentator and chairman of the advisory board.



MARIS VAINOVSKIS
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Maris Vainovskis is a Senior Partner at Eversheds Sutherland Bitāns Law Office. He has more than 15 years of legal experience in corporate governance, banking and finance, commercial and company law, IT law and EU law. During his many years of legal experience, he has been involved in the majority of the largest and most complex M&A projects in the country. Maris is a member of the Latvian Bar Association and the Advisory Council of the Latvian Company Register as well as Deputy Chairman at BritCham Latvia. He is also involved in several Latvian government-formed working groups on legislative initiatives. Maris is an active member of the Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia (FICIL) where he heads working groups on court system efficiency as well as investment security and protection.



JANIS VEIDE
Transparency International Latvia

Jānis Veide works as a TI Latvia's lawyer and project manager. In particular, his expertise lies in the area of whistleblowing legislation and international experience as he has worked on topic for past 3 years. Previously was an assistant to a Member of a Parliament. From August 2015 is an owner and CEO of JV merch Ltd.