



EURO PRIDE
2015
Rīga Latvia

Thursday, March 5, 2015
Rīga, Latvia

Is EuroPride 2015 in Riga under threat? Support Human Rights and EuroPride Riga 2015!

On March 4, 2015, Latvian News Agency LETA reported that Association "Antiglobālisti" (Anti-globalists) is trying to prevent planned EuroPride 2015 events in Riga this summer.

On February 20, Association of LGBT and their friends MOZAĪKA submitted an application to Riga City Council to hold the EuroPride 2015 Parade and Rally on June 20. The parade will start at Vērmanes Dārzs (a central park in Riga) and proceed through the streets of Riga, including the central Brīvības street, then close with a rally back at Vērmanes Dārzs. Since 2007, MOZAĪKA has organized human rights events in Vērmanes Dārzs.

Unfortunately, the City Council received two more applications for public events to be held at the same time and date, both from the association "Antiglobālisti." One of the locations for their proposed events is the same place where the EuroPride rally is due to be held. "Antiglobālisti" submitted an application for one event June 20-21 from 9:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 11 Novembra krastmala (a riverside street in the center of Riga) between the Vanšu bridge and the Akmens bridge, with the purpose of the event cited as "promoting family values." The same association submitted a second application for an event from June 13-21, every day from 9:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Vērmanes dārzs, where "Antiglobālisti" plan to (direct quote from the application) "promote smoking, alcohol and drug use, unhealthy food and lifestyle, sexual deviations and various perversions, as well as other strange things."

According to Latvian law, applications for meetings and street marches can be submitted to the City Council no earlier than four months prior to the event. In accordance with the law, MOZAĪKA submitted its application on February 20, at the start of opening hours of Riga City Council, exactly four months prior to the planned EuroPride march on June 20. This was done specifically to avoid any possible conflicting events being submitted for the same time & place. However, "Antiglobālisti" exploited a legal loophole and listed their event as lasting for the entire week of June 13-21, thus legally allowing their application to precede MOZAĪKA's application. "Antiglobālisti" seeks to occupy Vērmanes Dārzs to obstruct EuroPride Riga, which they allege will be an event promoting "sexual deviations" and "strange things."

The Riga City Council has approached the Ministry of Justice to ask how the municipality should act in this situation, where it is clear that the application for a

specific event was submitted in accordance with legal procedures but with the obvious aim of blocking another event. Specifically, "Antiglobālisti" wants to prevent EuroPride Riga and obstruct the fundamental human rights, including freedoms of expression and assembly, that MOZAIKA seeks to peacefully promote. The relevant law prohibits the restriction of a previously submitted event with a new event. However, even taking into account clearly provocative nature of the "Antiglobālisti" event, according to the Latvian Law on Meetings, Street processions and Pickets, the anti-pride event was in fact submitted to the city authorities first.

The municipality will evaluate all submitted applications in consultations with the Ministry of Justice.

EuroPride Riga 2015 will be the largest and most important event promoting the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in the region, to date. The Association of LGBT and their friends MOZAIKA calls on the people and government of Latvia to support universal values such as respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, rule of law and the human rights of all people, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

MOZAIKA is asking you to send a letter to the Prime Minister of Latvia with a call to ensure that EuroPride 2015 can safely take place in Riga without any obstacles and to encourage the Prime Minister to show strong support for human rights. It is unacceptable that the country now holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union would restrict the human rights of LGBT people based on a clear provocation and mockery by a marginal group.

Prime Minister of Latvia
Mrs. Laimdota Straujuma
36 Brīvības Boulevard
Riga, LV-1520, Latvia
Fax: +371 67280469
e-mail: vk@mk.gov.lv

MOZAIKA invites you to come to Riga for EuroPride 2015 and stand for equality! Hundreds of European and international guests have already confirmed their participation. Join us: <https://www.facebook.com/events/636904136414039/>

EuroPride 2015 will take place thanks to our fantastic team of volunteers and courageous supporters. EuroPride 2015 does not receive any funding from Latvian authorities. All donations are highly valuable and appreciated. You can make a donation here: <http://ej.uz/ep15donate>

For more information please contact:

Kaspars Zalitis, Co-Chair of EuroPride 2015, e-mail: kaspars.zalitis@gmail.com / phone +371 26607868

Kristine Garina, Co-Chair of EuroPride 2015, e-mail: kristine.garina@gmail.com / phone +371 29413155

More information on EuroPride 2015 in Riga www.europride2015.eu

EuroPride 2015 on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EuroPride2015>

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Association of LGBT and their friends Mozaika www.mozaika.lv