

G U I D E L I N E S

Media visits near the Latvian – Belarussian state border and interviews on the current situation

1. The State Border Guard organizes media visits, determining a specific place and time in order not to jeopardise the security interests of the Republic of Latvia, i.e., the return of the offenders to the country of entry shall not be jeopardized, or the service activities of the officers of the State Border Guard shall not be interfered.
2. Media visits are organized through the responsible person of the State Border Guard (phone No. +371 28364592, e-mail: Kristine.Petersone@rs.gov.lv), by prior arrangement at a specific time.
3. Special permit is required in order to stay at the borderland area, which is not wider than 2 km from the state border line. Currently, due to the declared state of the emergency situation in borderland along the Latvian – Belarussian state border, the issuance of temporary permits is temporary limited. The State Border Guard is allowed to make exceptions for planned and previously arranged media visits by issuing temporary permits for the duration of the visit. For such visits, media representatives are invited to submit all the required information in a timely manner.
4. Participation of media is not allowed at:
 - 4.1. national protection measures;
 - 4.2. person return procedures;
 - 4.3. border surveillance measures (patrols along the state border).
5. Interviews are organized at the premises of the border guarding units or, if necessary, on the background of the state border, without identification of a specific place. State Border Guard officials are appointed to give an interview taking into account the specifics of the questions. The statistics, published every morning by the Strategic Development and Public Relations Unit of the Central Board of the State Border Guard are used during the interviews.

6. Media representatives have an opportunity to take part in the immigration postings located at the control points or follow the performance of the border guards' duties in the borderland area.
7. Presence of the media in the vicinity of the state border shall only be allowed under the strict supervision of border guards and only in compliance with the instructions given by the officials of the State Border Guard.
8. Prior to going near the state border, the officials of the State Border Guard will provide the media with instructions regarding the nuances, filming of which is not permitted:
 - 8.1. landmark numbers;
 - 8.2. the opposite side of the state border, the territory of the neighboring country in direct focus;
 - 8.3. landmarks in the nature (in order not to identify the specific place);
 - 8.4. badges of identification of the officials;
 - 8.5. faces;
 - 8.6. initials (4.4. to 4.6. for safety purposes so the health and life of a particular official and/or his family members is not endangered);
 - 8.7. car number plates;
 - 8.8. armament and technical equipment (filming is allowed only to create overall image without emphasizing specific details).
9. The location of the media in the vicinity of the state border shall not be closer than 15 – 20 meters from the state border.
10. The presence of media in the 12 meter wide state border zone is strictly prohibited (Section 14 of the Law on the State Border of the Republic of Latvia).
11. In case the instructions given by the officials of the State Border Guards' officials are violated (not observed) by media, or in situation when a threat to security interests of Latvia, during the visit of media, arises, the media is restricted and reporting is stopped.

12. Interviews on the general situation at the Latvian – Belarussian state border and answers to all questions are organized by a contact person of the State Border Guard (phone No. +371 28364592, e-mail: Kristine.Petersone@rs.gov.lv) and provided either by the management of the State Border Guard or an official authorized by the Chief of the State Border guard via phone, zoom or in person at the Central Board of the State Border Guard.