

# LATVIAN STATE AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS – FROM SOVIET REALITY TO A NOWADAYS

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**Abstract:** 21 year has passed since on 8 April 1989 the Latvian Creative Unions newspaper *Literatura un Maksla* has published the Declaration Vienna meetings. Human and National Rights in Latvia. of Latvian Soviet Socialistic Republic Creative Unions Joint Plenum. At that time the document via telegram was forwarded to all European Security and Cooperation Council states. It was also sent to the Soviet government, and namely Michail Gorbachov. Telegram senders were the Culture Council of Creative Unions of Latvia which expressed in the announcement a strong attitude that all positions of the document shall be implemented and shall function. Amongst other rights craved for by the soviet intellectuals the requests for freedom of religion was also included in the declaration: "True freedom of conscience and rights to go in for religion, rights to freely promulgate religious opinions, as well as atheism shall be ensured. Churches and religious organizations shall become subjects of property law. By respecting rights of parents, a moral and religious bringing up of children based on their confidence shall be ensured, allowing the religious organizations to open educational establishments. (Clause 11 of the Declaration)"

**Keywords:** state, freedom of religion, religious organizations, property law.

**JEL Classification:** K 19

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