

Geography

Location: Eastern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland, between Latvia and Russia

Map references: Europe

Area:

total area: 45,100 sq km

land area: 43,200 sq km

comparative area: slightly larger than New Hampshire and Vermont combined

note: includes 1,520 islands in the Baltic Sea

Land boundaries: total 557 km, Latvia 267 km, Russia 290 km

Coastline: 1,393 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: limits to be fixed in coordination with neighboring states

territorial sea: 12 nm

International disputes: claims over 2,000 sq km of Russian territory in the Narva and Pechora regions - based on boundary established under the 1921 Peace Treaty of Tartu

Climate: maritime, wet, moderate winters, cool summers

Terrain: marshy, lowlands

Natural resources: shale oil, peat, phosphorite, amber

Land use:

arable land: 22%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 11%

forest and woodland: 31%

other: 36%

Irrigated land: 110 sq km (1990)

Environment:

current issues: air heavily polluted with sulfur dioxide from oil-shale burning power plants in northeast; contamination of soil and groundwater with petroleum products, chemicals at military bases

natural hazards: flooding occurs frequently in the spring

international agreements: party to - Biodiversity, Climate Change, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Ship Pollution, Wetlands