

Report of the Latvian Contraceptology Association's seminar on abortion
By Dr. Elisabeth Aubény, France

On May 10, 2002, the Latvian Contraceptology Association organised a seminar in Riga (Latvia) entitled "*Safe Medical Abortion and Contemporary problems of Contraception*".

Dr. Mélanie Orlean, president of the Latvian Contraceptology Association and also Board member of the ESC for many years, kindly invited the European Society of Contraception (ESC) to participate in the seminar.

As I had the honour to represent the ESC at this one day Seminar, which took place in a beautiful, very trendy and well equipped conference centre in Riga, I want to share my feedback with you.

The seminar was of high important, not only in terms of audience - more then 400 participants, the most of them coming from Latvia and Lithuania! - but also in terms of content.

Abortion, the first theme, was largely document by speakers from Russia, Lithuania and Latvia. I myself spoke about the abortion pil by the administration of Mifeprestone and Misoprostol.

The Lithuanian experience regarding the induction of the labour by Misoprostol was also reported.

I had the pleasure to speak about over the counter contraception when the second theme namely emergency contraception was presented.

The Seminar was also exciting due to the large interest of the participants for the ESC and its points of view which I had the opportunity to promote during different conferences. As such, I spoke about the development of medical techniques of excellent quality, as well as about the right of women to choose their own contraception method and, when needed, the right to benefit from an efficient and safe abortion, as less traumatising as possible.

In conclusion, I'd like to emphasise the success of the Latvian seminar considering the extremely interested audience towards the range of actual medical techniques, but also by the input of the ESC. I'd like to congratulate Dr. Mélanie Orlean for organising this very fruitful seminar, which made me a richer person, and I want to thank her for involving the ESC.

Footnote: Abortion by the administration of Mifeprestone and Misoprostol was authorised in Latvia 3 days after the seminar. It had always been refused until then.