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atvia's membership benefits both Latvia and the Alliance

Membership in NATO, along with the EU, remains the bedrock of Latvia's foreign and security policy. Credible membership prospects in both organizations have helped Latvia to muster significant reforms, including in the defense area. A consistent strategic course towards NATO and EU membership has turned the Baltic region into a prosperous, stable and truly integrated part of Europe that is whole and free. Latvia's NATO membership brings added security not just to Latvia, but also to the Alliance.

NATO means permanent allies

The most valuable effect of Latvia's membership in NATO is having permanent allies. Latvia's dramatic history explains the need for the sense of security. Permanent allies within NATO provide confidence that never again will Latvia stand alone in the face of a threat. Increased sense of security creates a better psychological climate in society. Security facilitates business confidence and, consequently, economic growth. In Latvia, the present NATO members are gaining an Ally that is determined to contribute to defense of the shared values.



NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson meeting with Latvian Foreign Minister Sandra Kalniete, 28.02.2003
/Photo: Ilmārs Znotiņš/

Supports Europe that is whole and free

Latvia historically belongs to the Western European cultural sphere. NATO membership demonstrates that Latvia has overcome the legacy of separation and oppression. It will cement western democratic standards and principles in society. Latvia will have a unique opportunity to team up with developed and influential nations, to work and contribute to future security and stability, and promote common values.