

Latvia's membership benefits both Latvia and the Alliance

Latvia's membership enables more confident relations with neighbors

Latvia's membership in the Alliance creates a basis for a more confident relationship with neighboring countries. The inclusion of Latvia in NATO does away with past injustices. As the US President G.W. Bush put it, there will be no more Munichs, no more Yaltas. Membership provides a realistic chance of overcoming the past difficulties in the Balts' relations with Russia and improving the state of bilateral affairs for the future.

Projects further stability

Latvia's success in becoming part of the NATO Alliance will serve as an example to the CIS and Balkan countries that are also pursuing the path of reform. It will demonstrate that vigorous reform policy can pay off in full membership in Western institutions. Further democratic reforms in these countries will make Europe a more secure and more stable place.

Provides added dynamism

Being a country which espouses the benefits of speedy reform and reaps the benefits of high economic growth, Latvia, together with other Baltic states will add more dynamism to the whole North Atlantic area. We often manage in months what otherwise takes years.

Brings new contribution to European security

Latvia is able and willing to contribute to NATO objectives. Latvia continues to develop defense assets, including niche capabilities such as de-miners, that are already used in NATO operations. Latvia has built a record of political support towards Allied undertakings in crisis management, including Kosovo and Afghanistan.



A member of Baltic Battalion participating at the International Training "Baltic Eagle 2002", 18.09.2003 /Photo: Baltic Eagle 02/