

Media draft
programme
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2010

The Small Guild, Rīga Old Town
September 10-11, 2010

The 5th Riga Conference aims to kick-off high level international discussions on foreign and security policy issues before entering the intensive policy making season in the fall of 2010. The conference has become a gathering of some of the most respected world thinkers, academics, commentators, journalists, and politicians, providing a platform for a broad intellectual exchange on the current international agenda.

Day 1 **Friday, September 10**

14:30 – 16:00 Registration

15:15 – 16:00 **Coffee with Prime Minister Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Venue: Press Room, Small Guild**

16:00 – 17.30 Opening discussion: **What Does the World Economic and Financial Crisis Mean for Security in the West?**

(On the record. Session is open for press coverage)

What does the world expect from the EU? The economic crisis has become a turning point not only in European relationships but also in activities and thinking at a Transatlantic level. Europe and U.S. have been the closest partners while addressing international challenges. Will the expectations and capabilities on the both sides of the Atlantic meet the requirements of diverse international challenges in pressing economic conditions?

Prof. Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, Vice-chair of the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe in 2020-2030 Time Horizon **Confirmed**

Prof. Michel Foucher, Director of Studies at the Institute for Higher National Defence Studies **Confirmed**

Mr. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Chairman of Baltic Development Forum **Confirmed**

Dr. Simon Serfaty, Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Senior Adviser, Europe Program **Confirmed**

Moderator: **Mr. Robert Cottrell**, Editor of TheBrowser.com **Confirmed**

Supported by the European Commission Representation in Latvia

17:30 – 18:00 **Press availability - Panelists. Venue: Press room, Small Guild**

17:30 – 18:00 Coffee break

18:00 – 19:00 Discussion: **Baltic Sea Region after Crises: What Next?**

(On the record. Session is closed for press coverage)

Returning stability and economic growth are the aspects that characterize Baltic countries and Poland while parts of the world are struggling with the economic crises. How to use growing potential for economic development, how to move on with cross-border energy projects and interact with vague Russia?

H.E. Mr. Valdis Zatlers, President of the Republic of Latvia [Confirmed](#)

H.E. Mr. Bronisław Komorowski, President of the Republic of Poland [Confirmed](#)

H.E. Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania [Confirmed](#)

H.E. Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia [Confirmed](#)

Moderator:

Mr. Toms Baumanis, Chairman of the Board, Latvian Transatlantic Organization [Confirmed](#)

19:00 – 19:30 **Press availability - Presidents. Venue: Press room, Small Guild** tbc

21:00 – 22:30 Night Owl Session I: **The Renaissance of Geopolitics in the Search for Energy Resources**

(Off the record. Session is closed for press coverage)

The depletion of fossil fuels, out of date transportation infrastructure, complicated relationships between the energy transportation and producing states and energy security are driving forces for the renaissance of geopolitics while ensuring the interests of individual states. Do the biggest consumers ignore common regional and the EU interests while securing national needs?

Mr. Bruce Jackson, President of the Project on Transitional Democracies [Confirmed](#)

Dr. Alan Riley, The City Law School, City University London [Confirmed](#)

Dr. Vladimir Milov, Head of the Independent Institute of Energy Policy in Moscow [Confirmed](#)

Mr. Vladimir Socor, Senior Fellow, The Jamestown Foundation [Confirmed](#)

Moderator:

Mr. Edward Lucas, Deputy Editor, Central and Eastern Europe Correspondent for the Economist [Confirmed](#)

Supported by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

21:00 – 22:30 Night Owl Session II: **A new Strategic Concept: Green Light for Reforms**

(Off the record. Session is closed for press coverage)

The New NATO Strategic Concept will outline the tasks of the Alliance in the face of new security challenges. The Alliance or the 'club of the willing' has been seen as the most effective collective security organization while acting on consensus principles. Will the new strategic concept be the basis for consensus among member states while addressing persisting and arising threats?

Mr. Jānis Sārts, State Secretary, Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Latvia [Confirmed](#)

Amb. Dr. Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz, German Representative in the Group of Experts for Drafting NATO's New Strategic Concept [Confirmed](#)

Mr. Kurt Volker, Managing Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations, J.Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington DC [Confirmed](#)

Moderator: **Dr. Julian Lindley-French**, Member of the Strategic Advisors Group, Atlantic Council and Professor at the Royal Military Academy of the Netherlands [Confirmed](#)

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Day 2 **Saturday, September 11**

09:30 – 11:00 Morning discussion: **A Strategy towards Europe's Contested Neighborhood**

(On the record. Session is open for press coverage)

The inability of the EU member states to speak with a single voice and react in a coordinated manner towards protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus and Moldova has revealed the lack of consensus in the EU regarding the implementation of the joint strategy towards its contested Eastern neighborhood. Diverse interests and arising threats put the question on both sides of the EU and NATO common external border: what do we expect from the neighboring region and what will be the common action towards it?

H.E. Mr. Māris Riekstiņš, Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Latvia [Confirmed](#)

H.E. Mr. Grigol Vashadze, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Georgia [Confirmed](#)

H.E. Mr. Iurie Leancă, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova [Confirmed](#)

Mr. Henryk Litwin, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland [Confirmed](#)

Dr. Dimitris Triantaphyllou, Director General of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies [Confirmed](#)

Dr. Alexander Pivovarsky, Senior Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [Confirmed](#)

Moderator: **Mr. Nils Muižnieks**, Director of Advanced Social and Political Research Institute, University of Latvia [Confirmed](#)

11:00 – 11:30 **Press availability - Panelists. Venue: Press room, Small Guild**

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Discussion: **Russia: Has Reset Succeeded?**

(On the record. Session is open for press coverage)

New Transatlantic policy trends and President Obama's administration in the U.S. call for extensive cooperation with Russia to jointly address challenges in Afghanistan, Iran and elsewhere. Do expectations meet the realities? Is Europe a third tango partner?

Mr. Mikhail Margelov, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation [Confirmed](#)

Mr. Mark Leonard, Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations [Confirmed](#)

Mr. Jeremy Shapiro, Special Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia Affairs at the Department of State [Confirmed](#)

Mr. Konstantin von Eggert, Carnegie Moscow Center, Member of the Advisory Board of „Pro et Contra” Journal [Confirmed](#)

Dr. Bobo Lo, Independent Scholar and Consultant [Confirmed](#)

Moderator: **Mr. Tomas Valasek**, Director of Foreign Policy and Defense, Centre for European Reform [Confirmed](#)

13:00 – 13:30 **Press availability - Panelists. Venue: Press room, Small Guild**

14:30 – 16:00 Afternoon discussion: **What is NATO's Exit Strategy in Afghanistan?**

(On the record. Session is open for press coverage)

The mission in Afghanistan has been the top priority for NATO, displaying the solidarity and common action of the member states in the stabilization and state building process. The current situation however confirms that the military cannot be the only means for success in Afghanistan. Are regional cooperation, emphasis on the civilian missions, and engagement of the Taliban the key aspects of the success story in Afghanistan?

General Abdul Rahim Wardak, Minister of Defence of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan **Confirmed**

Mr. Imants Viesturs Lieģis, Defense Minister of the Republic of Latvia **Confirmed**

Mr. Bogdan Klich, Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Poland **Confirmed**

Mr. Vygaudas Ušackas, EU Special Representative in Afghanistan **Invited**

Mr. Alexandr Vondra, Defence Minister of the Czech Republic **Invited**

Dr. Edgar Buckley, Senior Vice-President for EU, NATO and European Cooperation, Thales Group **Confirmed**

Moderator: **Prof. Dr. Michael Stürmer**, Chief Correspondent, Welt-Gruppe, Berlin **Confirmed**

16:00 – 16:30 **Press availability - Panelists. Venue: Press room**

For additional interview slots with panelists and to register for the Breakfast with the Prime Minister (taking place on September 11, 8:30am), please contact Rīga Conference 2010 press coordinator: **Inese Loce** (inese@lato.lv or +371 259 22 334)