



Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
Republic of Latvia

FOREIGN MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

on Latvia's Foreign Policy and
European Union Affairs in 2025



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Our investments in security and defence, the presence of NATO allies, as well as close cooperation with NATO and EU Member States, and partners around the world, lay the foundation for Latvia's security in the present and future. NATO is united in fulfilling its deterrence and defence tasks. Allies have agreed on increasing defence investment, strengthening the eastern flank, providing additional support to Ukraine, and investing in an industrial-technological leap. The EU has taken important decisions to strengthen security and defence. At present, Latvia faces no direct threat of military attack. However, the international environment is unstable, and violations of the fundamental principles of international law and the UN Charter are becoming more frequent. Russia poses a long-term threat to Euro-Atlantic security, international order, and global stability.

For the fourth consecutive year, Russia has been carrying out open and brutal aggression against Ukraine, unsuccessfully attempting to crush the Ukrainian people's desire to live in a free, independent country, and to decide their own future. Russia endangers international security, openly supports authoritarian regimes around the world, and attempts to undermine allied and global support for Ukraine by organising acts of sabotage, violating airspace, carrying out cyberattacks, interfering in elections, and conducting hostile information operations to intimidate, polarise, and divide societies.

Latvia, together with its allies and partners, will continue to support Ukraine's heroic resistance, as well as its path to EU and NATO membership. Latvia supports a just peace in Ukraine and participates in the efforts of international partners to achieve this. In international organisations, Latvia strongly opposes Russia's malign attempts to use international legal instruments to justify its aggressive foreign policy. In several cases before the European Court of Human Rights, Latvia has successfully defended positions that are important to our identity and national security.

The global security environment is rapidly deteriorating. This is evidenced by the simultaneous escalation and overlap of conflicts – both the war started by Russia in Ukraine and the conflicts it supports elsewhere, as well as conflicts in the Middle East, Asia, Sudan, and the Sahel region. Rising transnational threats, i.e. terrorism, organised crime, mass migration and the instrumentalisation of migration, drug trafficking, and others, endanger people, societies, and countries. Belarus, North Korea, and Iran are directly aiding Russia's aggression against Ukraine, while China is enabling it with supplies of dual-use goods, technology, and economic assistance.

Efforts to weaken and fragment the global system based on international law and institutions are not in line with Latvia's interests. We face a period of responsibility as we serve on the UN Security Council over the next two years.

In the current complex geopolitical environment, Transatlantic relations are of special importance.

The military presence of the United States and Canada in Latvia and elsewhere in Europe, as well as a united and capable NATO alliance, ensure security and stability, and deter Russia. Cooperation with our strategic partner, the United States, strengthens Latvia's defence capabilities, ensures joint military exercises and opportunities to purchase the most modern military equipment, and promotes energy independence.

NATO and EU Member States, as well as like-minded countries around the world, must individually and collectively invest more in their security and defence, support Ukraine's self-defence capabilities, and weaken Russia's ability to wage war. Europe, as one of the wealthiest regions in the world, must set an example of responsible action. In order to be able to make decisions quickly and be ready to act in various situations, Europe must develop its strategic capabilities in domains where we currently rely on one ally.

Global geopolitical uncertainty, as well as rising protectionism and tariff policies, increase risks for Latvia's economy. An open, rules-based, and predictable trade environment is essential for the development of the economy of Latvia and the entire Europe. Europe has enormous potential in artificial intelligence, robotics, aerospace, quantum technology, biomedicine and other fields, but it lags behind in technological development and the speed at which innovations are adopted. Simplifying regulation, advancing the EU Single Market, eliminating unfair competition, EU enlargement, and ratifying and concluding new free trade agreements are necessary to boost Europe's competitiveness. Economic security measures, including energy independence and the use of alternative energy sources, are necessary to improve both security and competitiveness.

Latvia's foreign policy is uniform, and it is implemented in close cooperation with the President, the Saeima, the Prime Minister, ministries, local governments, social partners, civil society, entrepreneurs, and researchers. Continuity is maintained in foreign policy. In 2025, all those involved in shaping foreign policy worked to make Latvia more resilient and secure, promote Latvia's economic development, maintain constant contact with our people around the world and help them in emergency situations abroad.

An essential prerequisite for accomplishing these tasks is a highly professional and motivated foreign service, a sufficient network of embassies and representations, and resources commensurate with the challenges of the future. Foreign service employees work under high-intensity and high-stress conditions, and unfortunately, staff turnover is increasing. It is essential to strengthen the resilience of the foreign service.

In 2025, Latvia's foreign service managed to achieve positive developments in almost all areas of work highlighted in the annual report of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on foreign policy and the European Union affairs in 2024. The outcomes are described in detail in the expanded section of this document. **In 2026, the foreign service will continue its efforts to make Latvia safer and stronger, particularly focusing on the following priorities:**

- ▣ **strengthening Latvia's security and defence;**
- ▣ **economic and social growth, promoting the EU's influence and competitiveness;**
- ▣ **public involvement in foreign policy, support for Latvian nationals abroad, and harnessing the potential of the diaspora.**

LATVIA'S FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR 2026



Strengthening the security of Latvia and the rules-based international order

Strengthening our own and Euro-Atlantic security

- ▣ Strengthening and expanding the presence, interoperability, and capabilities of NATO allied forces in Latvia and on NATO's eastern flank.
- ▣ Strengthening Transatlantic unity and cooperation in the field of security, promoting a more equitable distribution of defence investments in the Transatlantic space, including by strengthening the external borders of NATO and the EU.
- ▣ Enhancing national and NATO deterrence and defence capabilities, including by promoting the integration of new technologies in defence.
- ▣ Strengthening and deepening cooperation with Transatlantic partners in the areas of security, economy, and technology.
- ▣ Developing cooperation between NATO and EU countries in the Baltic Sea region in the areas of security and economy, strengthening cooperation between the Baltic and Nordic countries.
- ▣ Using EU defence-strengthening initiatives to promote the military industry and economic growth in Latvia and Europe.
- ▣ Defending Latvia's interests in international human rights mechanisms – the European Court of Human Rights and UN formats.

Support for Ukraine

- ▣ Continuing comprehensive support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia's aggression. Continuing to implement the agreement between Latvia and Ukraine on long-term support and security commitments. Supporting Ukraine's integration into the EU and NATO.
- ▣ Using Latvia's membership in the UN Security Council to strengthen the role of international law and the rules-based international order, as well as actively working in international organisations and with international partners on issues important to Ukraine.
- ▣ Promoting accountability for violations of international law by supporting initiatives to document Russia's violations of international law and crimes, and to bring these crimes to international justice.

- ▣ Continuing to contain and isolate Russia globally, taking international action against Russia's aggression in Ukraine – strengthening sanctions and restricting Russia's "shadow fleet".



Advancing economic growth and resilience, raising the EU's global influence and competitiveness

- ▣ Continuing to support EU initiatives to strengthen security, competitiveness, and the protection of the interests of citizens.
- ▣ In negotiations on the new EU multiannual financial framework for 2028–2034, advocating for adequate funding for Latvia's security and defence, cohesion and agriculture, industrial transformation, Rail Baltica, as well as favourable conditions for Latvian entrepreneurs to compete for EU funding.
- ▣ Supporting a merit-based EU enlargement process, and sharing the reform experience of European integration with candidate countries.
- ▣ Preparing for Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2028.
- ▣ Supporting international cooperation in research, knowledge transfer, innovation, and scientific commercialisation. Deepening relations with Latvian universities and civil society, especially in preparation for Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the EU.
- ▣ Supporting exporters and promoting the attraction of foreign investment. In cooperation with the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, maintaining regular dialogue with entrepreneurs and non-governmental organisations representing the sector.
- ▣ Deepening economic ties with European countries, as well as developing cooperation with Transatlantic partners and like-minded partners in other regions.
- ▣ Continuing to strengthen presence in priority and emerging markets, especially in Asia and the Gulf region. Helping our entrepreneurs to establish partnerships in the markets of African and Latin American countries.
- ▣ Supporting the expansion of the EU's free trade agreement and partnership network in order to respond effectively to rapidly changing geopolitical and economic realities.
- ▣ Promoting the international connectivity of Latvia and the region by developing new aviation route connections, including direct connections to North America.



Public involvement in foreign policy making, protection of the interests of Latvian nationals, cooperation with the diaspora

- ▣ Proactively informing Latvian nationals about current security risks abroad and providing support in crisis situations.
- ▣ Continuing to pursue a unified diaspora policy by leading the Diaspora Advisory Council and its working groups.
- ▣ Promoting and supporting the civic and political participation of the diaspora in Latvia and in global socio-political processes, especially participation in the Saeima elections. Involving the diaspora in strategic communication and the fight against disinformation in their countries of residence.
- ▣ Stimulating the contribution of the diaspora to Latvia's economy and growth. Promoting the preservation of the Latvian language and culture, remigration and mobility, thereby fostering the growth of human capital and strengthening thereof in Latvia.
- ▣ In public diplomacy, introducing Latvia's achievements and representing Latvia as a reliable and responsible international partner that strengthens the rules-based international order. Building cooperation with influential think-tanks and opinion leaders.
- ▣ Communicating with the public about current EU issues, and engaging the public in dialogue on the development of the EU and its policy directions.
- ▣ Strengthening dialogue with civil society on foreign policy developments, as well as strengthening strategic communication and explaining the work of the foreign service, thereby increasing public understanding and awareness of the importance of its involvement.
- ▣ Supporting and attracting high-level international events to Latvia. Supporting the preparation and holding of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Riga.

STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY OF LATVIA AND THE RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER

STRENGTHENING NATO AND THE ALLIED PRESENCE



The presence of allies in the Baltic region, including Latvia, is an indispensable cornerstone of deterrence and defence for the collective security of Latvia, Europe, and NATO. Latvia supports increasing the presence of allied land, sea, and air forces.

Given the ongoing long-term threat posed by Russia, the Canadian-led NATO Multinational Brigade in Latvia continued to expand and enhance its combat capabilities in 2025.

The Multinational Brigade is composed of 14 countries, approximately 4,000 military personnel and various military assets.



Albania



Czechia



Denmark



Iceland



Italy



Canada



Latvia



Montenegro



Poland



Slovakia



Slovenia



Spain



North Macedonia



Sweden

The addition of the Swedish battalion in early 2025 significantly reinforced the brigade. The brigade is expected to reach full combat capability in 2026. Latvia highly appreciates the Canadian government's decision to extend the mandate of the Canadian Armed Forces in Latvia until 2029.

Latvia continues to expand bilateral cooperation in the field of security and defence with the US administration and the US military command in Europe, strengthening the US military presence in Latvia and participation in military exercises in the region. This enhances the interoperability

and readiness of our military forces. Latvia will increase host country support and investments in the development of military infrastructure. In cooperation with our allies, we are creating the largest military training area in the Baltic region, Selonia Military Training Area. It will be possible to host brigade-size manoeuvres, as well as to test the latest generations of drone technology and other innovations.

In response to damage to critical underwater infrastructure in the Baltic Sea, as well as Russia's violations of NATO countries' airspace, Latvia, together with its regional allies in the EU and NATO, insisted on joint allied contributions and initiatives to strengthen the eastern flank, and advocated for the development of effective and proactive capabilities to prevent and deter hybrid threats. As a result, the NATO presence in the Baltic Sea was expanded with the enhanced deterrence activity, Baltic Sentry, in which the Latvian Navy also participates. Baltic Sentry is an effective deterrent mechanism, as there have been no new incidents since its inception. Eastern Sentry, an enhanced deterrence mission, has been launched to protect the Alliance's airspace in the Arctic, Baltic, and Black Sea regions.

The decisions taken at the Hague Summit and the commitment of European countries to significantly increase defence investment will ensure the further strengthening of the Alliance's defence capabilities and, at the same time, open up wider opportunities for allied defence industrial cooperation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is seeking to expand close military cooperation with the countries of the Multinational Brigade in Latvia to other areas and sectors, including promoting economic cooperation.

NATO AND EU CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT



Russia is a long-term threat to Euro-Atlantic security. NATO allies in Europe, EU Member States, and partners around the world must significantly increase their defence investment in order to develop military capabilities and the defence industry.

Latvia is among the leaders of NATO and EU eastern flank countries in strengthening deterrence and defence capabilities by increasing investment in defence. In 2025, Latvia's defence budget reached 3.78% of GDP. Latvia is committed to reaching 5% of GDP for defence in the coming years, moving towards the set capability targets and the tasks set at the national level.



In 2026, Latvia will allocate 4.9% of GDP to achieving NATO capability targets, confirming Latvia's strategic commitment to strengthening collective security and defence capabilities in the region.

At the 2025 **NATO Summit in The Hague**, Latvia and its allies demonstrated unity, solidarity, and the importance of Transatlantic ties. The summit expressed **strong support for Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and support for Ukraine** in its fight against Russia's aggression. The allies reaffirmed their shared understanding of Russia as a direct and long-term threat to the security of the Euro-Atlantic area. NATO Member States have agreed to significantly increase defence investment, setting a target of 5% of GDP for defence by 2035. At least 3.5% of GDP will be allocated to defence investment and up to 1.5% of GDP for investments in areas that strengthen defence capabilities and resilience.

The EU also called on Member States to increase defence investment. The European Commission's (EC) **Defence Readiness 2030 Roadmap** provides for a range of new financing instruments to strengthen defence capabilities to achieve a higher level of defence readiness over the next five years. Latvia is taking the opportunity offered by the EU financing instrument Security Action for Europe (SAFE) to apply for an EU loan to promote investment in the development of national defence capabilities. On 28 November 2025, Latvia submitted a SAFE funding request to the European Commission for EUR 3.497 billion, attaching the EU defence industry investment plans jointly developed by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior. Latvia has consistently advocated for cooperation with third countries in strengthening EU defence capabilities, and we therefore welcome the agreement reached on Canada's participation in the Security Action for Europe instrument. Latvia will participate in the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP). This will enable Latvia to implement projects that are in line with Europe's common defence interests. Both these and other EU instruments will enable Latvia to strengthen its eastern border more successfully, promote military mobility, and develop its defence industry. In 2025, Latvia received EUR 16 million in EU co-financing for the construction of a 60 km section of the Latvian-Russian border using modern technological solutions. It is important that EU initiatives to strengthen defence are implemented in close coordination with NATO and by drawing on the military industrial capabilities of allies and partners outside of the EU.

In 2025, NATO and the EU worked on comprehensive **resilience building and countered hybrid threats** by implementing interlinked strategies, including the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, the EU Cybersecurity Strategy, and others. Latvia agreed with other EU Member States on a plan for countering hybrid and conventional threats posed by Russia in the coming years.

At the NATO Summit in The Hague, allies reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate the **development of the Transatlantic defence industry**, ensuring the Alliance's armed forces are equipped with military capabilities of adequate volume, quality, and timeliness to meet today's threat, while also supporting sustained military assistance to Ukraine.

In order to achieve these goals, the Transatlantic defence industry must focus on increasing production volumes while ensuring reasonable costs.

In 2025, Latvia has proactively developed its defence industry, as well as promoted closer cooperation between foreign defence companies and local manufacturers. Particular attention has been paid to innovations such as drones, autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence (AI), and the improvement of testing infrastructure. Continuing the successful cooperation with NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT), this year, the Digital Backbone Experimentation (DiBaX) activity took place at Ādaži Military Base, focusing on the use of unmanned systems in complex

operational environments, as well as on the use of AI in target identification and situational awareness tasks. Work continues on the construction of a modular powder charge assembly plant, which will begin operations in 2026. In order to increase industrial capacity in the region, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the German company Rheinmetall and the LLC State Defence Corporation, which provides for the establishment of another ammunition production facility in Latvia in 2027. Latvia and Ukraine signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of defence to strengthen military industrial cooperation between the two countries, including soldier training, research projects, and the transfer of military technology and experience. Meanwhile, in 2025, SIA Latvijas Mobilais Telefons received EUR 10 million in funding from the European Defence Fund for the VANTAGE project to develop next-generation tactical drones.

There is a rise in threats in cyberspace, including cyberattacks and their increasing complexity, both in Latvia and internationally. In response, the authorities are strengthening cyber defence capabilities and enhancing cooperation with international partners. Latvia has approved criteria and procedures for attributing cyberattacks, aimed at identifying and holding responsible the individuals or groups behind them, to strengthen deterrence and prevention. Latvia has expressed solidarity with the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, and Germany regarding cyberattacks against their institutions, and will continue to use all instruments at its disposal, both nationally and internationally, to promote responsible behaviour in cyberspace.

Artificial intelligence (AI) in the military domain presents both risks and challenges, as well as new opportunities. The use of AI can significantly strengthen the defensive and offensive capabilities of national armed forces, improve the safety of civilians and civilian objects in the event of armed conflict, and contribute to peacekeeping operations. Latvia must continue to identify and test the potential of AI in the military domain, both at the national level and in cooperation with partners. International efforts to promote a common understanding of the responsible and safe use of AI in the military field must continue.

The unprecedented interference in the parliamentary elections in Moldova shows that **Russia is increasingly focusing on using disinformation and propaganda in combination with other hybrid methods to carry out influence operations and undermine democratic processes**. Latvia engages in cooperation formats with like-minded countries to identify and expose Russian information manipulation and strengthen public resilience against it. Latvia promotes discussions on information integrity and shares its experience in this field. Latvian representatives have publicly countered Russian disinformation narratives at the UN and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Latvian civil society and academia are also joining the fight against propaganda, including the Baltic Centre for Media Excellence, which is participating in the European Digital Media Observatory project. The University of Latvia is leading an international project to develop AI tools for countering disinformation. Supported by Latvian funding, the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence has launched an Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, which will strengthen both our own and allied information space.

NATO considers terrorism to be the most direct asymmetric threat to the security of the alliance, international peace, and prosperity. It is an essential part of NATO's comprehensive 360-degree approach to security, wherein it is important to develop allied cooperation to promote

resilience, defence, as well as crisis prevention and response capabilities. Raising awareness about the seriousness of the terrorist threat, in 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support of the National Armed Forces Joint Headquarters, the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, and other Latvian institutions, organised the first-ever visit of NATO Political Committee counter-terrorism experts to Latvia (*in the NATO Political Committee, experts from allied countries discuss and develop NATO policies, including in the field of counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation*). We introduced our allies to Latvia's achievements and accumulated experience in the field of terrorism prevention.

TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION



Transatlantic relations are one of the cornerstones of Latvia's foreign policy, as the security of our region, the sustainability of support for Ukraine, the overcoming of international challenges, as well as EU-US economic cooperation and trade depend on Transatlantic unity. The year 2025 was a busy year in this area.

The political, military, and economic presence of the United States forms the basis for the security and stability of the European continent. US political engagement and military industrial capacity are critical to Ukraine's self-defence and to ensuring a just and sustainable peace in Ukraine. The US military presence and the Canadian-led NATO Multinational Brigade in Latvia significantly strengthen the security of Latvia and the Baltic region, and strategically complement NATO's deterrence and defence architecture. The intensive work of the foreign service to strengthen political dialogue with the US and Canada, both bilaterally and in EU and NATO formats, also directly contributes to the stability of the economic environment and the exploitation of its potential.

Latvia proactively engaged in dialogue and cooperation with the administration of US President Donald Trump in the areas of security and defence, as well as economic cooperation. The Cabinet of Ministers approved an action plan for sectoral ministries with specific proposals for cooperation with the US in their areas of responsibility. Over the next two years, Latvia will have an additional framework for maintaining Transatlantic dialogue with the US, working together in the UN Security Council.

Latvian officials, including members of parliament, engaged in a multifaceted dialogue with partners in the US, strengthening the understanding of Latvia and the Baltic states as reliable and determined allies, as well as the need to maintain and expand the US military presence in Latvia. Intensive work, including several visits by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the US and talks with representatives of the US administration, members of the US Congress and senators, strengthens bilateral and Transatlantic dialogue and increases US colleagues' understanding of Latvia's security, European security, and Ukraine's role in this regard. In order to expand mutually beneficial cooperation, new points of collaboration were sought in the defence industry, new technologies, and the energy sector. Latvia will continue to cooperate with the US on the latest energy production and transformation solutions. Cooperation with influential US think-tanks and universities has been expanded, including the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Stanford University Libraries.



Canada continued its contribution to Latvia's security as the lead nation of the multinational contingent. In Riga, in August 2025, the Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, announced the extension of the Canadian Armed Forces' Operation REASSURANCE and the continuation of Canada's leadership of the NATO Multinational Brigade in Latvia until at least 2029. This announcement confirms a firm commitment to guarantee the allied presence in the Baltic region.

The US has provided significant support to strengthen Latvia's defence capabilities through the Baltic Security Initiative and the Foreign Military Financing programme. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Saeima, and the Joint Baltic American National Committee have coordinated their efforts to explain to Congress and the administration the need to continue funding the Baltic Security Initiative. As a result, the initiative, which is included in the 2026 US National Defence Authorisation Act, received overwhelming support from the administration and both parties in both houses of Congress.

Advancing economic collaboration is important to forging stronger Transatlantic ties. Since 2020, trade in goods and services between Latvia and the US, as well as between Latvia and Canada, has grown significantly, reaching EUR 1.63 billion in 2024 (an increase of 114.9%), of which EUR 1.13 billion is exports. Investments by US and Canadian companies in Latvia have more than doubled since 2020, reaching EUR 429 million in the third quarter of 2025. Latvian companies are increasingly active in the US and Canadian markets, including through the establishment of offices and production facilities.

In 2025, Latvia, together with like-minded European partners, supported the strengthening of EU relations with the US and Canada, focusing on a positive and mutually beneficial agenda, particularly in the areas of security and trade. EU-US relations faced certain challenges and tensions; however, both sides were able to reach beneficial solutions in the areas of mutual trade, technology, and energy. Meanwhile, the Security and Defence Partnership concluded in June 2025, opens up new opportunities for cooperation between the EU and Canada. The increase in trade with Canada has already been facilitated by the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which has been in force since 2017, with Latvian exports reaching a 166% increase in 2023 compared to the volume before the agreement.

REGIONAL COOPERATION FORMATS

Cooperation in the Baltic Sea region



Close regional cooperation promotes the security and stability of Latvia and the Baltic Sea region.

The agenda of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation (NB8) format in 2025 was dominated by regional security and defence issues, including increasing national defence investment, protecting critical infrastructure in the Baltic Sea region, and airspace security. There was active coordination among NB8 and NB8++ countries in terms of sanctions against Russia and combating Russia's

“shadow fleet” to make more effective use of existing regulations for the protection of critical underwater infrastructure.

A consistent priority for the NB8 in 2025 was to provide comprehensive support to Ukraine. The Baltic and Nordic countries are among the largest providers of support to Ukraine, ranking second behind the US in terms of military support. The NB8 regularly expresses its strong political support for Ukraine. Since 2024, an NB8 high-level expert group has been working to support the Ukrainian government in promoting Ukraine’s integration into the EU. The NB8 launched a joint project to promote the institutional resilience of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Moldova. In UN human rights formats, the NB8 countries jointly prepared and presented more than 100 statements defending common regional values, advocating for justice and accountability for crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine, human rights violations in Russia, Belarus, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, and other regions of the world, as well as gender equality, the rule of law, and media freedom.

Alongside cooperation between NB8 parliaments, ministers, and experts, NB8 cooperation at the level of heads of state and government increased in 2025. Several joint visits by NB8 countries took place, including visits by NB8 parliamentary speakers to Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, promoting partner countries’ understanding of the NB8 position. In 2026, Estonia will coordinate Baltic trilateral cooperation – the Baltic Council of Ministers, the Baltic Assembly, and the NB8. This cooperation will enable Latvia to implement its key priorities – providing support to Ukraine, sanctions, restricting the “shadow fleet” and its “ecosystem”, and strengthening regional security and resilience.

In 2025, Latvia successfully held the presidency of the **Baltic Council of Ministers** and the Baltic Assembly. The Baltic states worked together to improve security and defence capabilities, strengthen the Baltic Defence Line, and develop cooperation in civil protection. Regional evacuation planning was improved, as was cooperation between the three Baltic capitals in civil protection. Healthcare systems were improved to ensure the continuous operation of medical institutions and the availability of critical medicines in crisis situations. The border guard services of the Baltic states and Finland provided mutual support to stem the pressure of illegal migration on the Latvian-Belarusian border. The Baltic states, together with other partners in the region, promoted cross-border digital services. In 2025, the Vilnius–Riga–Tallinn railway connection was restored. Latvia promoted active 3+ format political dialogue, including parliamentary dialogue, with the US, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Germany, Türkiye, Poland, and other countries.

For Latvia, it is important that like-minded countries in the Baltic Sea region, united by common interests in democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and regional security, work together closely. This collaboration covers joint proposals for sanctions, countering Russia’s “shadow fleet,” safeguarding critical infrastructure, reinforcing the eastern flank border, enhancing civil protection coordination, and holding joint military exercises, including within NATO and the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF). **The Council of the Baltic Sea States** can play an important role here. **There are plans to reorganise** its work is planned to be reformed so that the organisation can respond more effectively to security challenges, including hybrid threats relevant to the Baltic Sea region.

Relations with the United Kingdom

Latvia is interested in deepening cooperation with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, both bilaterally and within NATO, EU, and regional cooperation formats, as well as in preparation for work on the UN Security Council. **The United Kingdom is one of Latvia's closest allies** in the field of security and defence, as well as one of its most important partners in providing comprehensive support to Ukraine, including in the Coalition of the Willing and jointly leading the Drone Coalition. The first Drone summit, held in Riga in May 2025, was a significant step in the development of drone capabilities in support of Ukraine.

As the lead nation of NATO's Multinational Battlegroup in Estonia, the United Kingdom makes a significant contribution to strengthening deterrence and defence in the Baltic region. Under British leadership, the Joint Expeditionary Force regularly conducts military exercises in the Northern European region, including the Baltic states, thereby strengthening the ability of 10 countries to cooperate in various combat missions. Latvia is interested in deepening its involvement in the initiative. In September and October 2025, the most ambitious Joint Expeditionary Force exercise, TARASSIS, was held, demonstrating strong solidarity and sending a clear message about the collective defence and security of the eastern flank. Latvia has taken advantage of opportunities for cooperation with the United Kingdom in the Nordic-Baltic format (NB8), paying particular attention to security and defence issues.

Latvia supports closer cooperation between the EU and the United Kingdom, based on shared interests in foreign policy, security, and economics. The EU-UK summit held in London in May 2025 marked a significant step in deepening relations between the two sides, strengthening cooperation in addressing current global challenges. The summit resulted in an agreement on closer partnership in security and defence issues, which is in line with Latvia's interests.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE AND COUNTERING RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION

Russia's unwillingness to engage constructively in the peace process, but, on the contrary, its intensification of military attacks against Ukraine and aggressive provocations and hybrid threats against NATO countries, confirms that Russia's goals have not changed. **Russia is seeking to destroy Ukraine, undermine the unity of the Transatlantic community, diminish the influence of the US in the world, and gain influence in the European security architecture.** Russia's actions pose a long-term threat, not only to Ukraine but also to Europe, Euro-Atlantic security, and global stability. Latvia supports US President Donald Trump's peace efforts and his "peace through strength" approach, emphasising that a just and sustainable peace can be achieved by strengthening Ukraine and continuing to increase pressure on Russia.

Latvia's support to Ukraine



Latvia's position remains unchanged – comprehensive support for Ukraine must continue. European countries must take the lead and increase their contribution to Ukraine's support to at least 0.25% of their GDP.

In international organisations and bilateral dialogue with countries in other regions of the world, Latvia defends Ukraine's right to self-defence against aggression, and calls for all forms of support for Ukraine as well as for increased political, military, economic, and diplomatic pressure on Russia and the countries that enable its aggression. Latvian officials maintain an active dialogue with Ukraine and make regular visits to Ukraine. Significant work has been done in the Coalition of the Willing, working with allies on post-war security guarantees for Ukraine. Latvia is involved in an international initiative aimed at helping Ukrainian children who were criminally deported by Russia to return home.



Latvia provides support to Ukraine in two main areas – political and diplomatic support, as well as practical assistance, including military, humanitarian, financial, reconstruction, and development assistance. The total amount of practical support provided to Ukraine since the start of the war has already reached almost one billion euros (see the annex for details). Based on the agreement signed in April 2024 between Latvia and Ukraine on long-term support and security commitments, Latvia is providing Ukraine with military support amounting to 0.25% of GDP and EUR 15 million in reconstruction support from 2024 to 2026. Latvia's military support to Ukraine in 2025 included purchases from the Latvian military industry, contributions to coalitions supporting Ukraine, including Latvia's leadership of the Drone Coalition, as well as military training for Ukrainian soldiers. It is important to agree on future funding in the next mandate of the Saeima.

In 2025, Latvia joined NATO's Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List (PURL) initiative, allocating EUR 7.2 million to it. Latvian experts contribute to NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU), which coordinates the delivery of military equipment and training for its use to Ukraine by NATO Member States and partner countries. We have also joined the NATO Renovator initiative, in which our experts will contribute to the modernisation of Ukraine's military medical and rehabilitation systems.

Ukraine spends about 60% of its budget on military expenditures, so special attention is being paid to Ukraine's financial needs.

Latvia actively participated in negotiations on EU support for Ukraine for 2026–2027 to cover Ukraine's needs until the next EU multiannual budget (2028–2034), lobbying for the transfer of Russian Central Bank assets to stabilise Ukraine's fiscal situation and rebuild the country. In December 2025, EU Member States agreed to freeze the Russian Central Bank's immobilised funds for an indefinite period, with the European Council in December deciding in favour of an EU borrowing solution to provide funding for Ukraine for the next two years.

Implementation of sanctions policy



The sanctions are effective, as evidenced by both the decline of the Russian economy and Russia's attempts to have them lifted or weakened. Therefore, Latvia actively advocates the further strengthening of EU sanctions against Russia.

The pressure of sanctions must be maintained and strengthened until Russia stops its aggression, fully restores Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, and compensates Ukraine for the damage caused. Latvia actively coordinates cooperation with the responsible institutions in Latvia and the allied countries to continue strengthening EU sanctions against Russia and its co-aggressors. Latvia supports the extension of the EU sanctions already adopted against Russia and opposes attempts to weaken them by removing politically motivated individuals from the sanctions list.

The sanctions are primarily targeted at the energy sector, which continues to bring money into the Russian budget for the continuation of war. In 2025, various import and export bans were imposed, including sanctions against 485 so-called "shadow fleet" vessels. The EU will stop importing liquefied natural gas from Russia on 1 January 2027. EU sanctions in 2025 will impose new restrictions on imports of liquefied petroleum gas from Russia. The oil price cap is reduced to USD 47.6 per barrel, with the possibility of regular reviews.

Sanctions have also been strengthened in other areas, including the financial sector and trade, with a ban on EU imports of aluminium from Russia. In 2025, 155 companies from various countries were sanctioned for their involvement in circumventing sanctions and supporting Russia's military-industrial sector.

In 2025, individual sanctions were imposed on 276 natural and legal persons. Latvia is one of the few EU Member States that has submitted proposals for each round of sanctions.

Coordinating sanctions policy with EU partners – the US, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, and Australia – makes sanctions significantly more effective. Sanctions are coordinated in various international formats – NATO, G7 – as well as in regional formats of like-minded countries. Latvia, together with other partners, continues to actively explain the significance of sanctions to countries that continue economic cooperation with Russia, or that assist or are used to circumvent sanctions.

In order to strengthen the sanctions policy against Russia, on 12 September 2025, the Latvian government approved the regulations prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the **imposition of national sanctions by the Republic of Latvia** against entities associated with the Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine (*Cabinet Regulation No. 547, Regulations Regarding the Imposition of National Sanctions by the Republic of Latvia against Entities Associated with the Russian Federation's Military Aggression against Ukraine*). This is an additional tool to EU sanctions to counter threats to Latvia's national security caused by Russia's aggression. The regulations form the legal framework for the national sanctions regime and set out the criteria on the basis of which the Cabinet of Ministers will be able to impose national sanctions on specific entities, including financial and entry restrictions on specific individuals. National sanctions may be imposed on natural and legal persons.

Russia uses its citizens and officials for activities that undermine the independence, territorial integrity, and democracy of other countries. Therefore, in July 2025, Latvia stopped accepting and issuing new visas and first-time residence permits to Russian citizens who do not have a Russian Federation passport with biometric data, in order to strengthen national security and prevent unconventional threats.

In September 2025, Latvia imposed an obligation on accredited Russian diplomats, technical staff, and their family members in the Republic of Latvia to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of any planned trips outside Riga and its surrounding areas. In October, the EU approved a 19th round of sanctions against Russia, requiring Russian diplomats to give advance notice of their travel to EU Member States other than their country of residence. All these decisions strengthen Latvia's security.

Since 2020, **the EU has adopted eight rounds of sanctions against Belarus**, continuing to align sanctions against Russia and Belarus, particularly in the area of trade restrictions, and approving new individual sanctions against supporters of the Lukashenko regime. The EU has imposed sanctions on 310 natural persons and 46 legal persons in Belarus.

Sanctions against Russia and its ally Belarus must continue to be strengthened. As third countries are involved in circumventing the sanctions imposed on Russia, businesses must take the risks of doing business into account and assess their partners in order to avoid violating the sanctions.

Holding Russia and Belarus accountable

Latvia advocates for an international law-based order in international organisations and supports holding violators of international law accountable. Ending impunity is a prerequisite for a just and sustainable peace. In order to hold Russia accountable, Latvia supports and has participated in the development of mechanisms established within international organisations to ensure the documentation and investigation of human rights violations.

Latvia has made contributions to the work of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Ukraine, which monitors the human rights situation in the conflict zone and in the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine. Latvia has supported the establishment and extension of several special mandates of the UN Human Rights Council. Mariana Katzarova, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Russia, and Dr Nils Muižnieks, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, have prepared several reports for the UN Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly, in which they analyse the deterioration of the human rights situation and human rights violations committed by the authorities.

Latvia supported the activation of the so-called Moscow Mechanism of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2024 to document Russia's arbitrary detention and imprisonment of Ukrainian civilians (one of the authors of the report was Latvian expert Dr Elīna Šteinerte), and in 2025, to document Russia's violations against Ukrainian prisoners of war.

Latvia has joined the UN International Court of Justice **case Ukraine v. Russian Federation** "Allegations of Genocide Under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" as a third party.

Latvia is one of the countries that helped establish the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe and supported the authorisation of the Secretary General to sign the statutes and agreement on the establishment of the Special Tribunal. Latvia plans to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement.

Latvia actively supported the establishment of the **International Claims Commission for Ukraine**, which was concluded on 16 December with the signing of the Convention. The Commission's task is to assess the claims submitted to the Register of Damage for losses caused by Russia's aggression and to determine the amount of compensation. In order for the International Claims Commission to begin its work, the signatory states, including Latvia, are expected to ratify the Convention speedily. Latvia will work to ensure that the fund from which the compensation will be paid is established as soon as possible.

Latvia, together with 25 Member States of the Council of Europe, joined the European Court of Human Rights case Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia. Latvia argued that Russia, by invading Ukraine, had exercised jurisdiction and is responsible for a series of human rights violations. The European Court of Human Rights agreed with this view, concluding in July 2025 that Russia has been responsible for massive human rights violations in Ukraine since 2014.

Belarus continues to openly support Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine by allowing the use of its territory and infrastructure and by participating in Russia's illegal deportations of Ukrainian children from their homeland. The regime, led by Alexander Lukashenko, carries out unconventional attacks on neighbouring countries, both by violating their airspace and by instrumentalising migrants and conducting massive disinformation campaigns.

The European Court of Human Rights is currently examining several cases directly related to Belarus' hybrid attacks on the EU's external borders, instrumentalising migrants on the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Polish borders with Belarus. In these cases, Latvia argues that Russia and Belarus are responsible for the hybrid attack and that international human rights instruments must not be used contrary to their objectives. **Latvia will continue to advocate in various formats for Belarus to be held accountable for its illegal actions.**

The Lukashenko regime continues its repression of civil society. Although several political prisoners have been released since July 2024, politically motivated repression and trials continue in Belarus, and each release of prisoners is followed by new arrests – with more new detainees than those released. In June 2025, with the active involvement of the US, Belarus released 16 political prisoners, including two Latvian citizens; in September, 52 prisoners were released, including two more Latvian citizens; and in December, another 123 political prisoners were released, including one Latvian citizen. Currently, there is information about 1110 political prisoners in Belarus. Civil society has been practically destroyed, and social media is controlled.



Latvia continues to maintain its stance that the current regime is illegitimate. Latvia is working to strengthen EU sanctions against Belarus and to increase the regime's international isolation.

Latvia supports the Belarusian democratic forces led by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and the Belarusian opposition in exile. Latvia has financially supported international support initiatives, including a platform for documenting regime crimes and the rehabilitation of released political prisoners.

Latvia, together with like-minded countries, continued to work to isolate Russia and Belarus in international organisations. As a result, Russia and Belarus were not elected to a number of international organisations and their structures. For example, both countries were not elected to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), Russia was not elected to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Postal Operations Council and Administrative Council, International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council, UN Educational, the Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Executive Board, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council.

STRENGTHENING THE RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER

The UN and the UN Security Council



On 1 January 2026, Latvia begins its first ever term on the UN Security Council. Latvia's foreign policy voice will become stronger and louder on the global stage.

Latvia's election to the UN Security Council has been one of Latvia's long-term foreign policy goals since 2011, when Latvia announced its candidacy for the UN Security Council for 2026–2027. The lobbying campaign carried out by the foreign service ensured Latvia's election to the UN Security Council with resounding 178 votes (129 votes were required), which gives Latvia a strong mandate to implement its priorities in the UN Security Council. In a strategic and intensive campaign, we addressed both existing allies and new partners in Asia, the Pacific region, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, promoting Latvia's recognition and creating the conditions for **expanding bilateral relations with partners around the world, strengthening our security, and promoting economic growth.**

In 2026, Latvia will be on the UN Security Council alongside five permanent members – the US, the United Kingdom, China, France, and Russia – as well as nine elected non-permanent members – Denmark, Greece, Panama, Colombia, Bahrain, Pakistan, Liberia, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In November 2026, Latvia will hold the presidency of the UN Security Council. This is an opportunity to shape the UN Security Council's agenda for a month, promoting issues that are important to Latvia.



Latvia's priorities in the UN Security Council are based on Latvia's national security and foreign policy interests.

- ▣ **Latvia will advocate for the protection of the rules-based international order, which is critical for the security of Latvia and our region, as well as for ensuring a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.** We will consistently expose Russia's crimes, counter the aggressor's disinformation, and promote accountability for crimes.
- ▣ **Latvia will promote gender equality, oppose sexual violence in armed conflicts, and support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiative.**
- ▣ **Latvia will work to address current security challenges, such as hybrid threats, cyberattacks, security risks related to artificial intelligence, disinformation, and poor media literacy.**

The UN Security Council has more than 60 issues on its agenda, covering not only specific conflicts, one country, or region, but also thematic issues – sanctions, the threat of illegal financing, non-proliferation, humanitarian aid and migration, climate security, resource management, and sustainable development. As the range of topics is much broader than foreign policy, it will be necessary to involve and provide expertise, not only to diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our representations abroad but also to experts from sectoral ministries, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, and academia.

Representing Latvia's interests at the European Court of Human Rights

In 2025, the foreign service continued to advocate for issues important to Latvia's national security and constitutional identity in cases before the European Court of Human Rights. Three achievements are particularly noteworthy.

In the Grand Chamber case of **H. M. M. and Others v. Latvia** concerning the situation on the Latvian-Belarusian border, Latvia, together with Lithuania, Poland, and Finland, demonstrated a united position. Specifically that, in a hybrid threat situation, countries have the right to take self-defence measures, international human rights mechanisms cannot be used in bad faith, and Belarus and Russia must take responsibility for the instrumentalisation of migrants. Thanks to the work of the foreign service, nine member states of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms joined Latvia as third parties in supporting a similar view on these issues.

In the case of **Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia, in which Latvia was involved as a third party**, the European Court of Human Rights took the arguments of Latvia and other like-minded countries into account and unanimously concluded that Russia, by launching full-scale aggression against Ukraine, was responsible for a series of massive human rights violations in Ukraine. Furthermore, in this judgment, the European Court of Human Rights refers to Russia's

aggressive rhetoric and foreign policy in a broader context, attributing Russia's territorial ambitions to other countries as well – Poland, Moldova, and the Baltic states. In its judgment in the case of **Rodina and Borisova v. Latvia**, the European Court of Human Rights upheld Latvia's position, stressing that considerations of national security justify restrictions on holding meetings and marches that are contrary to the values of a democratic state, denigrate the status of Latvian as the only state language, and emphasise the superiority of Russia and Russians, as well as support illegitimate separatist entities in eastern Ukraine. The European Court of Human Rights noted Latvia's sensitive geopolitical situation and historical context and agreed that measures aimed at spreading such rhetoric have no place in a democratic society.

A significant development in Latvia's judicial cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights is the **ratification of Protocol No. 16 on 25 November 2025** to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Latvia's accession to this protocol will enable the Supreme Court of Latvia and the Constitutional Court to engage in more effective dialogue with the European Court of Human Rights, by providing their assessment of legal issues that are important to Latvia and Europe and receiving responses from the European Court of Human Rights to complex and previously unaddressed questions regarding the interpretation and application of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, while also engaging in dialogue on Latvia's historical situation, the geopolitical context, and the approach to resolving various complex human rights issues.

Review of Latvia's report at the UN Human Rights Committee

In July 2025, the UN Human Rights Committee reviewed Latvia's report on the implementation of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Latvia since 2014. Thanks to the information and explanations provided by the Latvian delegation on Latvia's geopolitical context, the UN Human Rights Committee highly appreciated several measures taken by Latvia in its conclusions, such as:

- the law "On the Termination of the Granting of the Status of a Non-citizen to Children",
- Media Policy Guidelines of Latvia and the Safety Plan for Journalists and Other Media Professionals,
- Latvia's measures to investigate and punish hate crimes, promote gender equality, eliminate violence against women, develop the judicial system, and protect the rule of law.

This assessment greatly disappointed Russian official propagandists, who described the conclusions of the Human Rights Committee, formulated as a result of constructive dialogue between Latvian institutions and the Human Rights Committee, as toothless and too mild, as they refuted Russian disinformation about Latvia.

Participation in international operations and missions

International missions and operations are one of the most important instruments for resolving external conflicts and crises. Participation in them is a significant instrument of Latvia's foreign and security policy. The security of Latvia and Europe is significantly affected by Russia's war in Ukraine, instability and military action in the Middle East and Africa, and prolonged tensions in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus.

In 2025, Latvia participated in five EU international missions – in Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Iraq – sending 23 civilian experts. This was Latvia's first involvement in missions in Moldova and Iraq.

- ▣ **EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine).** In 2025, the number of Latvian civilian experts has increased to six: Deputy Head of the National Security Section, Senior Advisor on EU Integration Issues, Advisor on Strategic Reforms, Advisor on Parliamentary Cooperation, Assistant to the Deputy Head of Mission, and Senior Advisor on Police Issues. Initially, the mission's objective was to support the Ukrainian authorities in developing and implementing a reform strategy for the civil security sector and to advise the Ukrainian security services on their reorganisation and restructuring. Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine initiated by Russia, the mission's experts are also providing support in the following areas:
 - documenting and investigating Russian war crimes in Ukraine;
 - stabilisation measures in Liberated and Adjacent Territories (LAT);
 - restricting the spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW), integrated border control, and maritime border management.
- ▣ Three experts from Latvia are participating in the **EU Mission in Armenia (EUM Armenia)** – press and public information experts, as well as an observer.
- ▣ Twelve Latvian experts continue their work in the **EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia)** in the positions of observer group leaders, operations planners, hotline operators, and observers.
- ▣ In the **EU Partnership Mission in Moldova (EUPM Moldova)**, a Latvian expert is working in the field of risk management assessment and operational centralisation in Moldova to improve the resilience of Moldova's security sector to security threats, particularly hybrid threats, cyberattacks, and disinformation.
- ▣ In the **EU Advisory Mission in Iraq (EUAM Iraq)**, to support the Iraqi authorities in developing a strategy for reforming the civilian security sector and implementing related reforms, the Latvian expert is the senior strategic advisor on border management issues and provides advice to the Iraqi border guard forces.

In 2025, Latvia participated in three EU, two NATO, and two UN peacekeeping missions, as well as continued its participation in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIL in the military operation, Inherent Resolve.

- ▣ **Latvia participates in the EU Military Assistance Mission of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine)**, training soldiers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. EUMAM is the first EU-organised military training initiative to take place on EU territory. Since EUMAM began in 2022, nearly 85,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been trained as part of the mission.
- ▣ **Since 2020, Latvia has been participating in the EU military operation in the Mediterranean region (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI)**, which helps to enforce the arms embargo on Libya set out in UN Security Council resolutions, using the operation's military air, satellite, and maritime resources in the Mediterranean.
- ▣ **Since 2024, Latvia has been participating in the EU maritime security operation to protect freedom of navigation in the Red Sea against attacks by Houthi militants on ships (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES)**.
- ▣ **Latvia participates in the NATO-led international peacekeeping operation in Kosovo (KFOR)**, which is currently Latvia's most significant contribution to international military missions in terms of numbers. In November 2025, the Saeima supported the extension of Latvia's mandate in KFOR until 31 December 2027. Latvia's participation in the operation demonstrates solidarity with NATO allies and contributes to promoting peace and stability in Kosovo and throughout the Balkan region.
- ▣ **Since 2020, Latvia has been participating in the NATO Mission in Iraq (NMI)**. NMI is a training and advisory mission that supports the strengthening of the capabilities of Iraqi security institutions and armed forces.
- ▣ **Latvia participates in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)** in the Middle East. UNTSO monitors compliance with the truce and agreements, including preventing incidents from escalating.
- ▣ **Since 2023, Latvian soldiers have been participating in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)**, helping the Lebanese Armed Forces maintain control in the south of the country.

Arms control



Arms control is an important set of tools for reducing military risks. At the same time, it must not limit the possibilities for developing national and collective deterrence and defence capabilities.

Russia is contributing to the erosion of arms control instruments by violating its own commitments and deliberately increasing the risks of escalation. Russia's aggressive nuclear rhetoric and decisions to suspend participation in the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, withdraw from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, revoke the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and use strategic weapons systems on the battlefield, threaten strategic stability. Russia's announcements about the deployment of nuclear weapons in Belarus violate the provisions of the Budapest Memorandum and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The actions of other countries are also contributing to negative trends in the field of arms control. For example, North Korea is pursuing its nuclear programme, increasing the number of missile tests, and continuing its aggressive nuclear rhetoric in disregard for the binding decisions of the UN Security Council. The recent decision by the UN Security Council to renew sanctions against Iran is a direct consequence of Iran's continued efforts to avoid its obligations in the field of nuclear non-proliferation.

However, a positive development in arms control is the restoration of access to Syria by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which will enable the previous regime's chemical weapons violations to be addressed and the remaining stockpiles of weapons to be destroyed. Latvia has made an additional voluntary contribution to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for this work. Together with like-minded countries, we will continue to emphasise China's responsibility as a nuclear power to engage with arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms, as well as to ensure transparency in the development of its strategic weapons systems.

In order to strengthen international legal norms against the militarisation of space and the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in space, Latvia became a member of the Outer Space Treaty in May 2025.

Latvia supports existing measures promoting conventional arms control within the framework of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, while drawing attention to the fact that Russia and Belarus are not complying with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's commitments.

Given the threat posed by Russia to the Baltic Sea region, strengthening national defence capabilities is a priority. Following a military assessment by the National Armed Forces, in 2025, Latvia, together with Estonia, Lithuania, Finland, and Poland, decided to withdraw from the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, or the **Ottawa Treaty**. The decision was closely coordinated with other countries in the Baltic Sea region, as well as with international partners and allies. Withdrawal from the Ottawa Treaty gives the National Armed Forces the flexibility to use various weapon systems and solutions to strengthen their defence capabilities against Russia and effectively protect NATO and EU external borders.

Latvia continues to support global demining efforts for humanitarian purposes and has been involved in demining activities in Ukraine since 2023.

The joint Russian-Belarusian strategic military exercise ZAPAD in the autumn of 2025 did not pose a direct military threat to Latvia or any other EU or NATO Member State. At the same time, it should be noted that Russia and Belarus trained their offensive capabilities during these exercises and attempted to spread escalatory messages in the information space through a disinformation campaign, pretending to demonstrate greater Russian military capabilities than it is currently able to deploy. Latvia and its allies will continue to monitor and assess Russia's military manoeuvres and capability development, as well as their impact on international peace and security.

ADVANCING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RESILIENCE, RAISING THE EU'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS

EU COMPETITIVENESS

The European Commission's (EC) programme for 2026 and the EU Leaders' Agenda clearly outline a course for **competitiveness and economic growth in the EU** in order to increase the EU's economic resilience and global competitiveness.

It is in Latvia's interest to achieve a fully functioning EU Single Market and remove internal trade barriers while maintaining fair competition. Based on the new strategy, the EC plans to present a Single Market Roadmap in 2026.

In 2025, the EC **simplified EU regulations** to facilitate the business environment and promote EU competitiveness. The EU's simplification policy aims to reduce the administrative burden by 25% overall and by 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises. Discussions have resulted in an agreement to give businesses more time to implement EU requirements. Latvia's priority areas for reducing the administrative burden are the defence industry, agriculture, and technology.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also working to reduce the administrative burden and improve the business environment. For example, as of 2025:

- ▣ **Latvian carriers no longer need a licence for the transit of goods of strategic importance;**
- ▣ **restrictions on the involvement of the Latvian academic sector in military goods research have been lifted;**
- ▣ **a separate licence is no longer required for merchants with a valid permit to transport civilian firearms within the EU.**

Competition in the field of new technologies has become one of the central elements of geopolitics. This poses two challenges for Europe – to rapidly strengthen its technological excellence and to influence global technological development in line with its values.

Europe's sovereignty, security, economic development, and global influence will depend on the EU's ability to become a leader in artificial intelligence alongside the US and China. The EU is a leader in quantum science and 5G, but often lags behind in commercialising science and scaling up start-ups. Latvia has achieved EU-level recognition for its successes in AI and quantum technology, which is why Latvia advocates for the improvement of the EU Single Market and the simplification of regulations, including by speeding up decision-making processes

and increasing the predictability of decisions. By supporting the EU's open digital sovereignty, Latvia wants to strengthen bilateral and European-level cooperation with the US in the field of technology.

Europe advocates for sustainable, secure, and democratic values-based **technological development**. Thanks to the efforts of European countries, including Latvia, this vision has been incorporated into UN decisions and processes; however, China and like-minded countries are promoting an alternative model of digital authoritarianism in international organisations and bilaterally. It is based on the use of new technologies, especially AI, to expand internet censorship, mass surveillance, and manipulating mind. Europe's response is both to defend its normative approach and to offer the countries of the Global South attractive partnerships that support their technological and economic development. In the UN Security Council, Latvia will promote discussion on the impact of AI on peace and security, emphasising both its great potential and the risks it poses. Latvia is already using its achievements in the field of technology to participate in projects in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, and Tanzania.

In 2025, the EC presented an **AI Continent Action Plan**, which sets out the EU's future priorities in the field of AI in order to promote the EU's competitiveness on a global scale, as well as to modernise and strengthen its computing infrastructure. **The action plan provides for greater opportunities for entrepreneurs and researchers in EU Member States to access large-scale AI computing infrastructure, which is essential for Latvian scientists.**

A MORE RESILIENT AND EFFICIENT EU

The year 2026 will be a significant year for reaching an agreement on the **EU's multiannual budget** for 2028–2034. In the proposal published by the EC in 2025, **Latvia identified the following as priority areas for EU funding:**



Safety and
Security



Cohesion



Common
Agricultural Policy



Funding for Rail
Baltica

Latvia advocates for an increase in the overall EU budget. **This will be the first EU budget in which security is highlighted as one of the central priorities, which is in line with Latvia's security strengthening needs.**

Border security is a priority for Latvia. Latvia is strengthening the eastern external border of the EU and NATO in cooperation with the countries of the region and EU institutions, and receiving the necessary technical and financial support from the EU. Since 2022, the EU has invested EUR 945 million in strengthening its eastern external border. The new EU multiannual budget proposal provides for significantly increased funding for border security, with total funding for migration and border security amounting to approximately EUR 34.2 billion. Latvia advocates for continued EU support for strengthening the protection of external borders.

Latvia continues to face targeted hybrid attacks supported by Russia and Belarus, including the use of migration as a weapon and violations of Latvian airspace with weather balloons used for smuggling. In 2025, almost 12,000 attempts to cross the Latvian border with Belarus were prevented – twice as many as in 2024. The Baltic states, Poland, and Finland consistently keep the issue of migrant instrumentalisation high on the EU agenda, promoting awareness and support among other Member States in the fight against these hybrid attacks.

Latvia, together with other Member States, continues to implement the **Pact on Migration and Asylum** adopted in 2024 to ensure transparent and high-quality migration management at the EU level. The Pact will enter into force in June 2026. Latvia maintains a firm position – the Solidarity Mechanism proposal put forward by the EC does not reflect the contribution that Latvia makes in combating the instrumentalisation of migration at the EU's external borders. We continue our dialogue with the EC to ensure that this element is reflected in the creation of the solidarity reserve. Given the national situation, Latvia can only participate in the solidarity reserve with alternative support measures.



Strengthening resilience is a priority for Latvia and the entire EU. In spring 2025, the EC presented the EU Preparedness Union Strategy and the European Internal Security Strategy.

Both strategies aim to improve the EU's ability to foresee and manage risks and threats, ensure the protection of citizens, and provide more effective tools for strengthening resilience and internal security, closer cooperation, and improved information flow among Member States.



The strategies include an integrated approach that is particularly important for Latvia, covering all threats and providing for the involvement of the whole of society and all levels of government in strengthening resilience and internal security.

In 2025, the first phase of the **digital euro** project was completed, preparing the conditions for the practical implementation of the digital euro, including the development of payment scheme rules and the selection of a payment infrastructure provider, as well as the refinement of the digital euro design. The next phase involves the development of the digital euro infrastructure so that the first digital euro payments can be tested in 2027. It is in Latvia's interest to approve the digital euro regulation as soon as possible to ensure its timely issuance. Together with other interested EU Member States, Latvia calls for particular attention to the functionality of the digital euro in order to ensure its continuous use, even in crisis situations, while strengthening the security of the payment infrastructure.

The EU is a union of values, so all Member States must implement the highest **standards of**

democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. In the 2025 EC Rule of Law Report, **the rule of law situation in Latvia was assessed as generally good** in terms of media and journalist safety, the judiciary, and the fight against corruption. Particular emphasis was placed on progress in the regulation of interest representation and the creation of the transparency register. The EC provides recommendations to all EU Member States; Latvia was recommended to eliminate political influence in the appointment of Supreme Court judges and to adopt regulations on lobbying, including the creation of a temporary lobby register.

Enlargement

EU enlargement is one of the EU's most powerful strategic geopolitical instruments. Future membership in the EU encourages candidate countries to implement reforms that strengthen security, prosperity, and the protection of individual rights. The EU provides support and monitors the progress of reforms in candidate countries during the EU integration process. When assessing progress towards full EU membership, Latvia evaluates each candidate country's individual performance in meeting the criteria. It is important for Latvia that candidate countries adhere to EU principles and fundamental values. Their compliance with the Common Foreign and Security Policy is also important, especially compliance with sanctions against Russia.

Ukraine is persistently implementing reforms despite Russia's war and is demonstrating a strong commitment to joining the EU. Latvia is working with Ukraine, EU institutions, and Member States to facilitate Ukraine's European integration process, and is providing support for the implementation of reforms. High-level anti-corruption investigations confirm progress in this area, clearly demonstrating the strengthening of the capacity and independence of the competent authorities in this field. Latvia will continue to support Ukraine's reform efforts and will advocate for the immediate start of EU accession negotiations with Ukraine, which requires the unanimous consent of EU Member States.

The parliamentary elections in Moldova in September 2025 confirmed the clear choice of voters for Moldova's future in Europe. Latvia supports the earliest possible start of EU accession negotiations with Moldova and Ukraine. Latvia continued to support Moldova, particularly in its fight against Russian hybrid activities, providing financial support to resolve the energy crisis, as well as implementing development cooperation projects to promote EU integration, strengthen good governance, protect children's rights, and strengthen Moldova's information technology and cyber security. In 2025, Latvia appointed its first civilian expert to work in the EU Partnership Mission in Moldova. Latvian cybersecurity experts provided support to strengthen Moldova's cyberspace before and during the parliamentary elections. Latvia was one of the countries that initiated the adoption of EU sanctions against seven individuals and three companies on 15 July 2025 for destabilising the situation in Moldova.

Latvia supports the EU integration process of the Western Balkan countries, and calls for the necessary reforms and respect for EU values. We are pleased with the progress of reforms in Albania and Montenegro, as a result of which Albania has opened all EU accession negotiation chapters, while Montenegro has closed five negotiation chapters. Latvia shares its experience in implementing the reforms necessary for European integration with the countries of the region. Since 2015, Latvian experts have shared their experience through 125 Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) projects in the Western Balkan countries. In 2025,

Latvian experts participated in 10 activities to share their experience to the Western Balkan countries. Since 2014, 90 representatives from the Western Balkans region have graduated from the Riga Graduate School of Law's Intensive Programme in European Union Law and Economics. In 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded the training of participants from five Western Balkan countries.

Since 2024, Georgia's European integration process has been de facto suspended. In 2025, Georgia's ruling party continues its repression of civil society, independent media, and the opposition, consolidating power in its own hands. Latvia has suspended high-level contacts and significantly reduced cooperation with Georgia. On 1 August 2025, the Latvian government's decision to suspend the intergovernmental agreement on the abolition of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and service passports entered into force. In response to human rights violations in Georgia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia has included 99 Georgian citizens on the list of undesirable persons. Latvia continued to support Georgian civil society in its fight for democracy.

Türkiye is an important partner and candidate country for the EU. We support the deepening of EU-Türkiye relations in areas of common interest, including foreign policy, security policy, and the fight against illegal migration. We value cooperation with Türkiye both in bilateral dialogue and within NATO, the UN, and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We particularly commend Türkiye's contribution to strengthening NATO's eastern flank, including airspace patrols.

EU energy and climate policy

EU energy policy is not only about energy prices for households but also about competitiveness and security. On 8 February 2025, the Baltic states successfully disconnected from the Russian and Belarusian electricity network (BRELL) and synchronised with the continental European network, ensuring energy independence from Russia. The project cost the three Baltic states and Poland a total of EUR 2 billion, with approximately 75% covered by the EU, mainly from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). In order to stabilise frequencies and balance capacities, the necessary equipment is being built to ensure additional security and stability for the energy system, using EU co-financing from the EU's Recovery and Resilience Plan (REPowerEU) and the CEF.

In line with the REPowerEU plan, the EU continued to reduce its energy dependence on Russian fossil fuels. The goal is to completely end imports of Russian fossil fuels into the EU by 2027. In response to proposals from Latvia and other Member States to specify a timeframe for reducing the EU's energy dependence, in May 2025, the EC presented a Roadmap towards ending Russian energy imports. It contains new REPowerEU legislative proposals to restrict imports of natural gas and nuclear fuel. Latvia has called on other Member States to completely reject Russian energy resources, as Latvia has already done. 26 September 2025 marked 1000 days since Latvia stopped importing Russian natural gas.

In recent years, especially after Russia started the war in Ukraine, the policies implemented to strengthen energy independence have promoted the transition to the even wider use of renewable energy resources, thereby strengthening energy independence and ensuring price stability.

The geopolitical situation affects the level of energy prices for households. The Action Plan for Affordable Energy, published by the EC, outlined further steps to structurally reduce energy bills for citizens, strengthen energy systems, and reduce price volatility overall. Interconnections with other European countries play an important role in ensuring the security of electricity supply and price stability in the Baltic Sea region. **In 2026, it will be important to continue developing broader green energy opportunities and interconnections that would reduce energy prices and strengthen the resilience of energy infrastructure.**

In 2025, increased attention will be paid to climate policy and the green transition at the EU level, as EU Member States, including Latvia, have decided to submit the agreement on the 2040 climate target for consideration at the highest political level – the European Council. In order to more successfully achieve the climate neutrality target set for 2050, the EU has set a new interim target in the amendments to the European Climate Law – to reduce carbon (CO₂) emissions by 90% by 2040. The amendments include references that are important to Latvia's interests, balancing the green transition with economic interests, in particular, with regard to the impact of geopolitics and the importance of bioenergy in achieving climate goals. Active implementation of the 2030 climate targets continued in accordance with the European Climate Law and the National Energy and Climate Plan. In 2026, an even greater link between environmental and economic policies is expected, both in discussions on simplifying environmental requirements and in connection with the implementation of the Social Climate Fund (2026–2032).

Traditional sectors, including agriculture, are also affected by geopolitical tensions, **climate change, and challenges related to the sustainable use of resources**. In 2025, special attention was paid to promoting the sustainable use of resources in Latvia, focusing on the practical implementation of the circular economy, in line with strengthening competitiveness. At the same time, Latvia actively represents its interests in discussions on the future of EU agriculture after 2027.

In November, in Belém, Brazil, at the 30th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30), countries reported on their nationally determined actions in the field of climate change until 2035. EU Member States agreed to achieve a reduction in carbon emissions by at least 66.25%.

Preparations for Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union



Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union (hereinafter – Presidency), in the second half of 2028, is not only a duty that each EU Member State must assume once every 14 years but also an opportunity to shape the EU agenda and showcase Latvia as an investment-friendly, innovative, and modern country.

Given the many events at various levels in Latvia and the participation of thousands of representatives of EU Member States and industries, the Presidency will also bring direct economic benefits, especially in the hospitality sector. In 2026, **a mutually beneficial model of**

cooperation between the public administration and the non-governmental sector must be agreed upon for the preparation and implementation of the Presidency. Close cooperation with the academic sector is important in organising events, promoting Latvia's achievements, and setting Latvia's priorities for the EU agenda.

In 2025, the Secretariat of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union began its work, ensuring the unified, professional, and timely preparation and implementation of Latvia's Presidency.

The Secretariat coordinates the programme of events, communications, public diplomacy activities, as well as administrative, logistical, and financial processes in Latvia and abroad.

The Secretariat has begun developing a training concept for Presidency staff in order to prepare public administration employees for the Presidency and, in the long term, to strengthen the competence of the public administration and its ability to promote Latvia's interests in the EU. During 2026, the Secretariat, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Latvian School of Public Administration, will agree on the precise content of the training.

LATVIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS

 **It is in Latvia's interests to maintain unanimity as the basic principle for decisions on matters of Common Foreign and Security Policy.**

Unanimously adopted decisions ensure greater chances that Member States will implement them in a unified manner, which in turn increases the effectiveness of EU foreign policy. In certain areas, such as the interim stages of EU enlargement negotiations, Latvia may support the use of qualified majority voting to speed up the process, but we want to maintain unanimity on the most important decisions, such as the opening or closing of negotiations.

Global partners

 Latvia cooperates with the EU's Global Partners both within the EU and bilaterally. As a member of the UN Security Council, Latvia closely monitors conflicts and developments in various regions of the world.

In 2025, Latvia strengthened its political and security dialogue with like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific region. In May, during the visit of the President of Latvia to Japan, a strategic partnership with **Japan** was concluded. In September, during the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Japan, concrete steps were outlined in the field of security and economic cooperation. Latvia's participation in EXPO 2025 in Osaka provided an additional opportunity to develop specific cooperation projects in the fields of economy, culture, and education. **In May, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea visited Latvia, and political consultations were held with Japan, Australia, India, and Thailand.**

Latvia maintains constructive bilateral dialogue with **India and China**. In March 2025, the first resident Ambassador of India to Latvia was accredited, and a meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both countries took place in Delhi, India. In November, bilateral consultations were held, and the Embassy of India in Riga was officially opened. High-level contacts with China

have taken place at the EU level this year – the 25th EU-China Summit was held in Beijing in July.

Latvia is following the strengthening of China and India's relations with Russia, the most striking example of which was the joint meeting of the leaders of the three countries in September at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in China. We have responded to information that Chinese companies are supporting Russia's military industry, thereby also supporting Russia's war in Ukraine. The EU has responded to these actions by including Chinese individuals and companies, including two Chinese banks, in the latest round of EU sanctions. India and China's continued willingness to purchase cheap Russian energy resources provides Russia with stable income and allows it to continue its war in Ukraine. At both the Latvian and EU levels, these issues are being discussed more and more actively in contacts with these countries, emphasising the global negative consequences of Russia's aggression and the need to put pressure on Russia to achieve its constructive involvement in the peace process. Similarly, in bilateral and EU-level contacts with India, we have reflected on its participation in the joint Russian-Belarusian military exercises, ZAPAD.

The participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in important regional forums – the Raisina Dialogue conference in New Delhi, India, and the Shangri-La Dialogue summit in Singapore – in the spring of 2025, provided an opportunity to address officials from countries in the region and explain Latvia's position on Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

Latvia maintains active political dialogue and cooperation with Central Asian countries, paying particular attention to strengthening economic relations and development cooperation. Latvia supports the modernisation and reforms of Central Asian countries. In 2025, eight bilateral development cooperation projects were implemented in Uzbekistan. Latvian experts participated in projects financed by the EU and other international donors. For example, the Latvian State Border Guard continued to lead the EU Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA), and the Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA) participated in the EU regional project Digital Connectivity in Central Asia. In its political dialogue with these countries, Latvia called for support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia's aggression and for a world order based on the UN Charter and international law. Latvia particularly emphasises the importance of sanctions imposed on Russia, calling for their effective implementation and the prevention of circumvention.

Latvia supported the deepening of EU-Central Asia relations by strengthening the EU's role in the region and practical cooperation between the regions, as well as balancing the influence of Russia and China. In April, the first EU-Central Asia Summit took place in Samarkand, where a decision was made to upgrade relations to the level of a strategic partnership. Latvia supported the signing of the EU-Uzbekistan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which also opens up new opportunities for bilateral economic cooperation between Latvia and Uzbekistan. The EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Latvian diplomat Eduards Stiprais, has been doing important work in bringing the EU and Central Asian countries closer together since his appointment on 1 March.

The initialling of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace agreement in Washington on 8 August 2025 is a major step towards sustainable peace in the region. The agreement on President Trump's Route for International Peace and Prosperity opens up opportunities for regional

connectivity and economic growth. Latvia maintains constructive relations with both countries and is strengthening political dialogue, including through meetings between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In 2025, finding a solution to the Middle East crisis was one of the main priorities of the EU's external relations. Latvia maintained dialogue with officials from both the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority – in 2025, Latvia was visited by the President of Israel, as well as the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Israel and Palestine. The agreement signed on 13 October between Israel and Hamas on the implementation of the first phase of US President Donald Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza led to the release of all hostages held by Hamas, achieved a ceasefire in Gaza, and gave new impetus to the Middle East peace process. In EU discussions on involvement in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it is in Latvia's interest to maintain as much EU unity as possible, strengthening the EU's global role. Latvia advocates for maintaining dialogue with Israel on all aspects of relations, including issues on which positions differ. It is essential to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza without delay. In March, Latvia increased its contingent in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to 36 soldiers.

Given the direct impact of global conflicts on European security and economic development, the EU is actively developing relations with African countries. At the EU level, in 2025, special attention was paid to the conflict in Sudan, which has caused the world's largest humanitarian crisis, as well as to strengthening the EU's presence in the Sahel region. Latvia participated in the EU's dialogue with African countries and hosted bilateral visits by the President of Guinea-Bissau and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda. In October, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt visited Latvia. For the second year in a row, the Latvia-Africa Forum was held, bringing together around 100 participants from Latvia and 12 participants from African countries, as well as representatives of 29 Latvian companies and business associations. **These contacts provided an opportunity to strengthen bilateral dialogue, deepen business contacts with representatives of African countries, and raise awareness of Russia's aggressive policies and imperialist goals.**

The importance of Latin America and the Caribbean region is growing on the EU's agenda. Latvia is also taking advantage of opportunities to promote bilateral political and economic cooperation issues. For example, the President visited Brazil with a business delegation, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the EU-LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) Ministerial Meeting in Brussels and held bilateral talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica during the high-level week of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Development cooperation



LATDEV

Latvia implements bilateral development cooperation projects to strengthen the growth of partner countries and the stability of their regions, while promoting Latvia's security and economic interests. Partnerships and the use of Latvian expertise increase our influence and visibility. For this purpose, Latvia's development cooperation policy brand, LATDEV, was introduced in 2025.

A wide range of partners are involved in Latvia's development cooperation projects – 31 organisations from the public, non-governmental, and private sectors participate in both policy planning and project implementation.

In 2025, 41 projects were implemented with co-financing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- ▣ Special attention was paid to Ukraine, with 16 projects implemented – the majority of which support the accession of Ukraine to the EU, good governance, and the health sector (for more information on support for Ukraine, see the Annex);
- ▣ 10 projects in Central Asia;
- ▣ 9 projects in Africa. Since 2022, when Latvia began implementing development cooperation projects in Africa, Latvian project implementers (non-governmental organisations, entrepreneurs) have shown growing interest in involvement in African countries, particularly in the areas of digitalisation and agriculture.

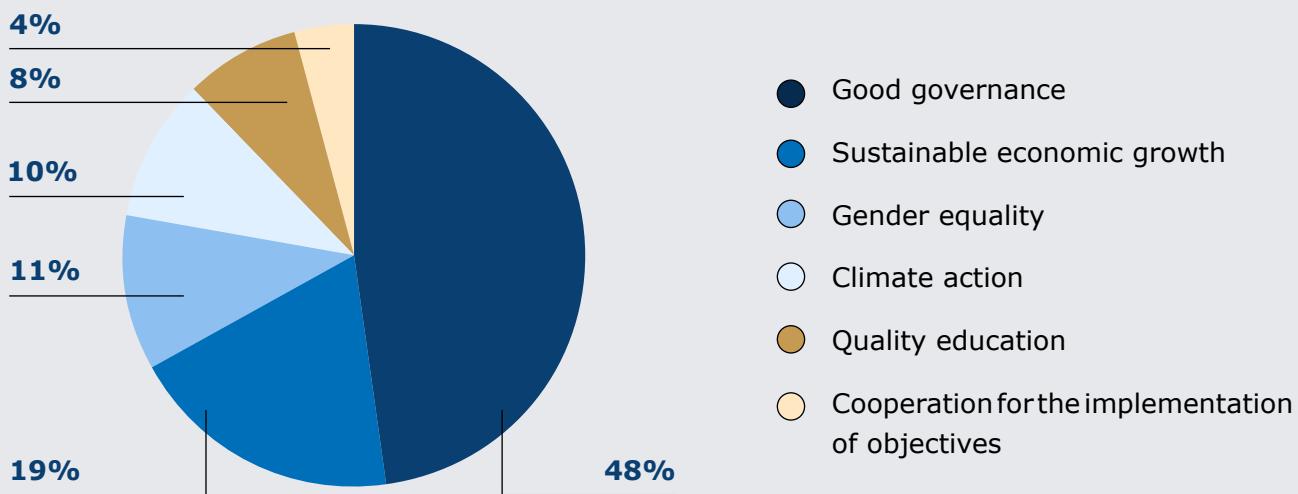
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS

Region	Country / territory	Number of projects*	Thematic priorities
EU Eastern neighbours	Ukraine	16	Good governance, EU integration, healthcare, economic development, psychological support and support to local communities
	Moldova	6	Good governance, EU integration, digitalisation
	Armenia	3	Good governance
	Georgia**	2	
	Azerbaijan	1	Good governance
Central Asia	Uzbekistan	8	Good governance, economic development, climate action, quality education, gender equality
	Tajikistan	3	Good governance, economic development, gender equality, quality education
	Kyrgyzstan	2	Good governance
	Kazakhstan	1	Good governance
	Turkmenistan	1	Good governance
	Egypt	2	Good governance, digitalisation, gender equality
Africa	Tanzania	1	Digitalisation, gender equality
	Rwanda	1	Economic development
	Rwanda	1	Climate action, digitalisation
	Zimbabwe	1	Gender equality, quality education
	Namibia	1	Gender equality, economic development
	Uganda	1	Climate action, digitalisation
Balkan countries	Albania	1	Good governance, EU integration
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	Good governance, EU integration
	Kosovo	1	Good governance, EU integration
	Montenegro	1	Good governance, EU integration
	North Macedonia	1	Good governance, EU integration
	Serbia	1	Good governance, EU integration
Middle East	Jordan	1	Good governance
	Palestine	1	Good governance

* For each country, both bilateral and regional projects are reflected in the count; therefore, the total number in the table exceeds the actual number of projects implemented (41)

** Projects are implemented exclusively to support civil society and independent media

Project implementation areas



In implementing development cooperation projects, the foreign service:

- ▣ promotes Latvia's visibility in the world,
- ▣ attracts international funding for Latvia's development cooperation projects,
- ▣ implements the export of Latvia's knowledge and services, particularly in the field of digitalisation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' bilateral development cooperation budget, as "seed money", has made it possible to participate in projects supported by international aid donors, especially the EU, and has increased opportunities for Latvian project implementers.

The foreign service and the CFCA, as Latvia's development cooperation agency, worked purposefully to attract co-financing, attracting more than EUR 6.4 million in 2025, which is the largest amount of funding attracted by the Agency to date. The Agency began implementing two EU-funded projects – in the field of cybersecurity and AI, as well as women's leadership in ICT. Irish funding was also attracted for a Latvian project in Ukraine to support resilience centres. In December, two more project agreements were signed – in the fields of agriculture, as well as market surveillance and consumer rights protection. Negotiations on a project agreement in the field of border management are continuing.

The CFCA also continues to implement an EC-funded project on the introduction of anti-corruption measures in Uzbekistan and one regional project in the field of digital connectivity in Central Asia.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

It is in Latvia's interests to strengthen the rules-based international trading environment, for which the WTO is an important pillar and forum for developing rules. It is important for the EU and Latvia that the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cameroon in March 2026 approves strategic guidelines and sets clear tasks for the implementation of WTO reforms over the next two years. This will enable the creation of a fairer, more effective organisation that is better prepared for current challenges. In 2025, the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies entered into force (*concluded at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2022 after more than 20 years of negotiations*). It is expected to significantly reduce overfishing, ensure sustainable fisheries and promote better practices for coastal communities around the world. The WTO Fish Fund has also been activated to help developing and the least developed countries implement the agreement and improve sustainability.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Countries outside the EU often view Latvia through the prism of OECD studies and ratings, which is why the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working to ensure that our country's achievements are noticed by the organisation and fully reflected in its assessments. One successful example of these efforts is the participation of OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann in the Techtritory Forum 2025 in Riga in October 2025.

Latvia participates in OECD bilateral projects and contributes to OECD reviews, studies, and model policy initiatives. The greatest added value of the OECD is its policy recommendations and evidence-based analysis. For example, the recent OECD report Rethinking Regional Attractiveness in Latgale, Latvia provides an in-depth insight into Latgale's strengths and challenges, as well as offers internationally comparable data and specific recommendations for the region's development.

Latvia participated in the implementation of the OECD Global Relations Strategy, highlighting issues of importance to Latvia at both the global and regional levels, including the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme, which covers Latvia's priority EU Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries. **Ambassador of Latvia to the OECD Andris Pelšs chairs the OECD Friends of Ukraine Group and, since February 2025, has also held the position of Chair of the Eurasia Advisory Council.** We support closer OECD cooperation with Moldova and a deeper partnership with Ukraine, and we also express our support for granting Ukraine OECD candidate status.

In March 2025, Latvia became a member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC); this allows Latvia to work with the largest development cooperation donors to decide on international development cooperation policy and statistical standards, highlight Latvia's priorities, particularly in supporting Ukraine and Moldova, as well as build new partnerships and improve the quality and effectiveness of Latvia's development cooperation system.

EU EXTERNAL TRADE POLICY



International trade continued to experience various shocks in 2025. The change in US trade policy, including tariff increases for all trading partners, and the associated unprecedented uncertainty contributed to fluctuations in economic activity and reinforced protectionist tendencies globally. **At the same time, it was an incentive for both the EU and other countries around the world to diversify trade, stepping up work on bilateral and regional trade agreements, as well as more focused strategic and sectoral partnerships in raw materials, clean energy, sustainable investment, digital trade, etc.** The EU-US political agreement on trade issues reached in the second half of the year provides some predictability in Transatlantic trade relations. Overall, increased uncertainty about trade flows remains, and global trade growth in 2026 is projected to be lower than in 2025 (World Trade Organisation, Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Update: October 2025).

The US is the EU's most important trading partner. In 2025, Transatlantic trade relations underwent a significant transformation: in August, in response to US President Donald Trump's announcements on tariff increases, the **European Commission agreed with the US on a framework for mutual trade and investment**, restoring stability and predictability to EU-US economic cooperation. This is also important for Latvian businesses operating in international markets. **Under the terms of the agreement, the US reduced or eliminated tariff increases on a wide range of EU exports, setting a maximum tariff rate for the EU at 15%.** In turn, the EU established duty-free trade for US industrial goods and favourable tariffs for a range of non-sensitive US agricultural goods, supplemented by specific EU commitments to promote cooperation with the US in the fields of energy and technology.

The EC took action to protect the EU internal market from the negative economic consequences caused by changes in the international trade environment, including the US-China trade dispute and the possible shift of trade flows from third countries to the EU. In order to protect EU industry, the EC proposed a 47% reduction in steel imports from third countries.

Latvia participated in defining the EU's interests, emphasising the importance of cooperation with the US in a broader context, in particular, strengthening cooperation in security and defence. The foreign service worked closely with business organisations and the largest companies exporting to the US to formulate Latvia's position.



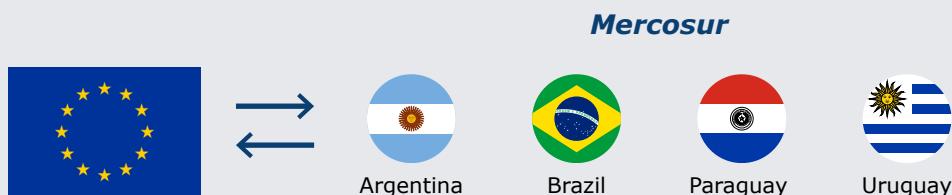
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs lobbied for more favourable trade conditions for Latvia's main export sectors, such as the timber industry. As a result, our products now face significantly lower customs duties in the US than our competitors. More favourable conditions have also been achieved in other sectors, giving Latvian exporters an advantage.

The EC will work on establishing a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Joint Statement. At the same time, the EC is gathering information on the interests of Member States for further negotiations with the US; Latvia is actively involved in this process and is cooperating with economic sectors in defining interests. The EU is committed to promoting energy purchases from the US. **Latvia is significantly increasing its purchases of liquefied natural gas from the US, which is making a significant contribution to the implementation of the EU-US agreement.**

 **Expanding the EU's network of free trade agreements (FTAs) and closer cooperation with like-minded partners are essential for strengthening Latvia's economic security.**

In 2025, the foreign service, together with industry and business organisations, defined Latvia's interests and represented them in the EU FTA negotiations. In 2025, trade conditions with Ukraine and Moldova were reviewed, liberalising trade and accelerating the reduction or elimination of customs duties stipulated in the association agreements. It is important that Ukraine and Moldova commit to implementing EU production standards on their path to EU accession.

Preparations are currently underway for the signing of a partnership agreement between the EU and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay). This is a significant step towards broad regional integration, promoting an increase in the trade of goods and services and attracting investment.



 **This will be one of the largest free trade agreements in the world, with Mercosur countries removing import tariffs on 91% of EU products, while also providing protection for the EU agricultural sector.**

In 2025, political negotiations were concluded on:

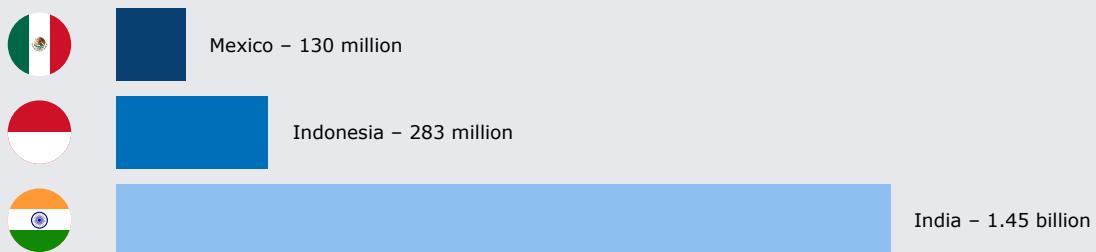
- a modernised global cooperation agreement with Mexico;
- a comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia;
- a digital trade agreement with the Republic of Korea, covering the trade of both goods and services.

FTA negotiations with India are nearing completion, balancing the interests of European

companies in greater access to the Indian market with India's different approach to environmental, sustainability, and labour standards.

The FTAs concluded by the EU open up vast trade opportunities for Latvian exporting companies, as they will provide access to a significant number of new consumers and contribute to the reduction and elimination of non-tariff barriers.

Population:



BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Geopolitical challenges and disruptions in international trade are causing uncertainty in global markets. They affect our economy both directly and indirectly, in particular through our main export markets. **Currently, market protection mechanisms are being used more widely on a global scale, and internal competition in our partner countries' markets is increasing. Therefore, it is important for Latvian entrepreneurs to be able to diversify their export markets and offer innovative solutions in both traditional and new markets.**

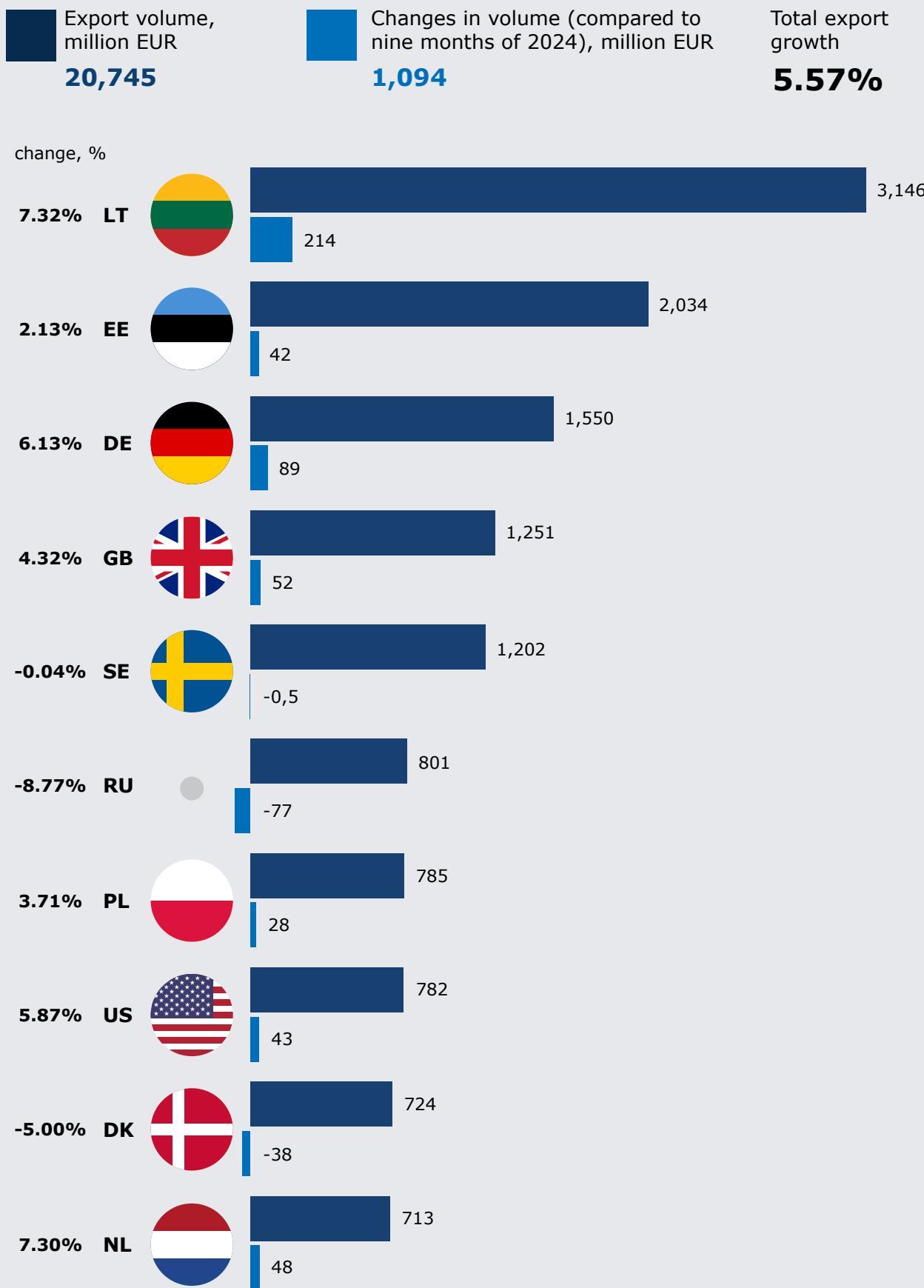


In the first nine months of 2025, Latvia's exports of goods and services grew by 5.6%. Foreign investors have rated Latvia as the most attractive investment environment in the Baltics, and according to data from the Foreign Investors Council, half of existing investors plan to continue investing in Latvia. A 2025 Ernst & Young study confirms that Latvia is the leader in attracting foreign investment in the Baltics, with 33 large investment projects (Lithuania – 26, Estonia – 8).



This reflects joint efforts by entrepreneurs and public administration. **In times of uncertainty, the foreign service plays a particularly important role in convincing partners that Latvia is a safe environment for investment and that Latvia is a reliable and flexible partner that can provide critical supply chain elements for the needs of partner countries.**

Exports of goods and services in the first nine months of 2025



Foreign direct investment in Latvia in September 2025

■ Balance of foreign direct investment, million EUR
26,502

■ Changes in the balance of foreign direct investment since the beginning of the year, million EUR
295

Changes in the balance of foreign direct investment since the beginning of the year, %
1.13%

change since the beginning of the year, %

-8.00%	SE		7,528
9.67%	EE		3,754
12.01%	LT		2,564
3.33%	DE		1,583
-1.15%	NL		1,378
0.32%	CY		1,245
9.60%	DK		1,073
32.54%	LU		1,006
-19.90%	RU		829
9.47%	NO		555

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In matters of attracting investment and promoting exports, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA) continue to deepen their cooperation in order to make the most of the business support instruments available to both institutions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the LIAA cooperate with sectoral ministries, local governments, academic circles, as well as organisations and associations representing entrepreneurs. The Coordination Council for Large and Strategically Important Investment Projects, chaired by the Prime Minister, provides opportunities to identify the best solutions for both specific investment projects and horizontal challenges.

With the involvement of the LIAA, 26 new investment projects worth EUR 873 million were launched in Latvia in 2025. Investment projects worth EUR 17.5 billion are currently in the development stage. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also provided support for this work.



In 2025, one of the priorities was to attract investment to the defence industry. Increased funding for the defence sector and concerns among countries in our region about the security of supply chains have created new opportunities that have been purposefully exploited in specific investment projects. For example:

- ▣ The foreign service, especially the Embassy in Germany, has provided significant support in developing the Rheinmetall project and attracting investment. The State Defence Corporation and Germany's Rheinmetall AG have signed a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of an artillery ammunition production facility in Latvia, with more than EUR 200 million in investments planned for the project.
- ▣ A contract worth EUR 50 million has been signed with Dynamit Nobel Defence GmbH, which provides for the extensive involvement of national industry.
- ▣ With the support of the Embassy in Norway, the Latvian-Norwegian Defence Industry Forum organised during the visit of the President of Latvia on 27 March resulted in new cooperation agreements worth more than EUR 80 million.
- ▣ 84 HUNTER infantry fighting vehicles (worth EUR 760 million) have been ordered for the Latvian Army in Spain, and at least 30% of local industry is expected to be involved in fulfilling the order.

The Latvian-UK-led Drone Coalition and the creation of a supporting ecosystem in Latvia, through cooperation between entrepreneurs, the academic sector and the Ministry of Defence, has created new opportunities for Latvian defence industry companies and manufacturers of dual-use items. New-generation drone manufacturers from like-minded countries are showing increasing interest in the ecosystem and testing opportunities created in Latvia. One of the priorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to attract investment in new technologies, as well as EU and NATO support funding.

- ▣ At the Techritory Forum 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a meeting between defence industry companies and the NATO Deputy Secretary General to discuss the availability of NATO funds for the implementation and commercialisation of technologies developed by Latvian companies.

Examples of attracting investment in other sectors:

- ▣ US-based B2B digital marketing start-up 7 Knots Digital has chosen Latvia as its entry point into the European market. In 2026, the company plans to create 10 new jobs in Riga and develop cooperation with universities and start-ups. The idea to expand the business came about during the Latvian Trade Mission in Toronto, Canada.
- ▣ Turkish chemical company UNICHEM, which produces organic dyes for leather products, has decided to establish a company/production facility in Latvia. The products are planned to be mainly exported to Italy.
- ▣ The Danish green energy company European Energy has decided to invest in Latvian solar and wind energy parks.

The Latvian embassy network provides practical support to Latvian entrepreneurs abroad. The embassies, in cooperation with LIAA representative offices, perform several tasks:

- ▣ Provide consultations and analysis on business opportunities in the local market, inform about potential cooperation partners, and support the successful conduct of business delegations' visits. Our ambassadors work on "opening doors" with high-level officials and managers of large companies.
 - In June 2025, representatives of more than 90 Latvian companies met with Latvian embassy staff and LIAA representatives abroad from more than 30 countries in a contact exchange format, receiving individual consultations on export promotion opportunities and support in foreign markets. The contacts and cooperation established are already beginning to bear fruit.
 - In 2025, Latvian diplomatic missions (in the US, Australia, Belgium, France, Estonia, Japan, the United Kingdom, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Finland, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Germany, Sweden, etc.) organised roundtable discussions, business seminars, Latvian Days, presentations of business opportunities for entrepreneurs, as well as events to attract investors. Latvian ambassadors abroad have made 80 regional visits, a series of bilateral meetings of an economic nature have taken place, Latvia and our companies have been represented with stands at 77 international exhibitions, and embassies have organised or attended 275 other types of events that have been useful for promoting our country's economic interests.
- ▣ Provide solutions and support for cooperation with state institutions and organisations in order to resolve market access issues, particularly in the field of food and pharmaceutical product certification.
 - It has been agreed that, from July 2025, the State Agency of Medicines and the Food and Veterinary Service will be included in the lists of Canadian regulatory authorities, based on the EU-Canada agreement on the mutual recognition of compliance and enforcement programmes in relation to good manufacturing practices for medicines. This will ensure easier access to the Canadian market for Latvian pharmaceutical and food products.

- The pharmaceutical company AS Olpha has received an Uzbekistan medicine registration certificate. The Latvian company is the first among the Baltic states and one of the first in Europe to receive such a certificate. This will ensure the continuity of the company's existing exports, as well as new opportunities in the Uzbek market.
- As a result of targeted actions, since February 2025, the Food Safety Agency of Azerbaijan has abolished the requirement for additional certification and inspections for Latvian food producers who export animal products to Azerbaijan, thus allowing exports to Azerbaijan to be maintained, particularly in the dairy sector.
- The Embassy in the Republic of Korea is working to resolve the certification issue for Latvian poultry meat producers and exporters.

▣ Engage representatives of the diaspora and a network of honorary consuls to support Latvian companies.

- In cooperation with the Honorary Consul of Latvia, a company registered in Western Australia, CiTech Europe, will open a production facility in Liepāja, where it will manufacture quick-deployment intelligence and communications tower platforms suitable for NATO's needs. Initial investment – EUR 6 million.
- Thanks to the involvement of the Honorary Consul of Latvia in Türkiye, several Turkish investment projects are being implemented in Latvia.
- During the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Japan, a high-profile business seminar was organised in cooperation with the Honorary Consul of Latvia in Nagoya, which was attended by more than 50 high-level Japanese businesspeople.
- During the visit of the President of Latvia to Brazil, with the support of the Honorary Consul of Latvia in São Paulo, a high-quality visit programme was prepared with a series of economic meetings, allowing the delegation members to establish valuable business contacts in Brazil.

Foreign visits by Latvia's highest officials provide an opportunity to draw the attention of partner countries and their entrepreneurs to the achievements of Latvian companies. For companies, these visits provide opportunities to strengthen existing cooperation and establish new contacts. Embassies play an important role in successfully preparing visits and implementing agreements in their daily work. For example:

▣ the Embassy of Latvia in Japan provided support for the successful operation of the Baltic Pavilion at EXPO Osaka 2025; visits by high-ranking officials and 10 trade missions increased Latvia's global visibility within the framework of EXPO 2025;

▣ the Embassy in Germany ensured a successful visit to Hamburg and Rostock in 2025 by the Prime Minister, and the largest ever business delegation.

During visits by the Minister of Foreign Affairs abroad and visits by foreign officials to Latvia, promoting economic cooperation is an essential element. The most notable visits in 2025 included trips to India, Japan, Germany, Denmark, and Luxembourg. Latvian companies accompanied the ministers on some of these visits.

New technologies and commercialisation of innovation



Science and technology are the foundation of Latvia's competitiveness and prosperity, as well as its sovereignty and security.

Science and technology have become an important topic of discussion at every meeting with senior officials from like-minded countries, as these areas are important for both defence and economic cooperation. In 2025, interest in cooperation with Latvia in the field of science and innovation was successfully promoted in Denmark, Luxembourg, Japan, and the USA.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in close cooperation with the academic and private sectors, advocated in April 2025 for the need to lift the export and use restrictions imposed by the previous US administration at the beginning of 2025 on US-developed high-performance artificial intelligence computing technologies (including graphics processors, large language model parameters, and their training capabilities), which would hinder Latvia's technological development. In May, the US regulations were lifted. Latvia, along with the other Baltic states, received recognition that their arguments had been useful in the US administration's argument for lifting the AI restrictions. In order to maintain Latvia's academic and private sector access to significant AI computing power, Latvia must continue to improve its export control mechanisms in the field of critical technologies.

The foreign service supports economic sectors with high added value. Latvia's exports of computer and information technology services grew by EUR 144 million or 19.9% in the first three quarters of 2025 compared to the first three quarters of 2024, reaching EUR 869 million. There has been significant growth in the telecommunications services sector, where exports of services reached EUR 298 million in the first three quarters of 2025, an increase of 16%.

- During the visit of the Prime Minister to Dubai, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the United Arab Emirates on cooperation in research, the digitisation of the healthcare sector, the production and export offerings of companies from both sides, and the exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of healthcare.
- With the involvement of the Embassy in Germany, a memorandum of understanding was signed between SIA Latvijas Mobilais Telefons, Riga Freeport, the Port of Hamburg, SIA Elektroniskie sakari, the Port of Hamburg Fleet, and SIA LVR Flote on cooperation in the development of digital innovations in marine technology.
- With the support of the Embassy in Germany, this year, for the first time, Techritory 2025 managed to attract an official partner region – Hamburg – with a large delegation of entrepreneurs.

The ability to transform research results into products and services with high added value will directly impact Latvia's growth and development. Latvia has internationally proven its achievements in the fields of autonomous vehicles (for civil and military use), AI, quantum technology, and space. However, targeted additional measures are needed to promote commercialisation and create a collaborative ecosystem. The Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted these issues when chairing the External Economic Policy Coordination Council in August 2025. The foreign service has set international cooperation in science and commercialisation as a priority for external economic cooperation.

- In October 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs discussed cooperation in the quantum sector with the head of the Niels Bohr Institute in Denmark, which led to the signing of a memorandum between Riga Technical University and the Niels Bohr Institute.
- In October 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs met with the space solutions company SES S.A. in Luxembourg and provided information about the solutions developed by Latvian space industry companies and offers for cooperation.
- In March 2025, during the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to India, cooperation between Latvian space industry companies and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was initiated.

Projects implemented by Latvian scientists strengthen the EU's technological sovereignty and help NATO achieve its goals in the field of innovation.



For several years now, the foreign service has been working closely with the Techritory Forum to introduce a wide range of country representatives to Latvia's achievements and opportunities in the digital field.



Latvian academic institutions are increasingly successful in attracting EU funding for science and its commercialisation. This has enabled the University of Latvia and Riga Technical University to develop six study programmes in quantum technologies, while the Institute of Solid State Physics at the University of Latvia has been able to set up a clean room for microchip design.



The victory of the **company Tilde in the EC competition Large AI Grand Challenge enabled the creation of the one of the first open-source artificial intelligence large language models for European languages**, TildeOpen LLM. The model is suitable for developing specialised AI applications in European languages, including Latvian, and incorporates solutions for resilience against disinformation.



Latvia's achievements in quantum technologies allow our scientists to participate in the latest EU and NATO quantum technology projects. Latvia is the first Baltic country to establish a national-level quantum-secure communications network.

In October 2025, Latvia was awarded financial support from the EC and the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC Joint Undertaking) for the implementation of the project Artificial Intelligence Factory Antenna – Latvia from 2026 to 2028. The aim of the project is to establish a national competence centre that will strengthen Latvia's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem and connect it to the LUMI AI Factory consortium established in Finland.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN FOREIGN POLICY MAKING, PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF LATVIAN NATIONALS, COOPERATION WITH THE DIASPORA

CONSULAR ASSISTANCE



One of the main areas of focus for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is caring for Latvian people around the world, ensuring the protection of their interests abroad and strengthening the capacities of the consular service.

From October 2025, the **new Consular Register** is available in the State Administration Services Portal, allowing travellers to register their trips abroad more conveniently and enabling the consular service to respond more effectively in crisis situations. Since 9 December, Latvia and other EU Member States have started issuing a new, more forgery-proof model of the EU temporary travel document to Latvian nationals and unrepresented EU citizens who have lost their identity documents abroad.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides support to Latvian nationals in a wide variety of crisis situations abroad. For example, when relations between Israel and Iran escalated in June, the consular service helped 42 Latvian nationals and their family members to safely leave Israel on special flights arranged by other EU Member States. Five Latvian nationals (three of whom were political prisoners) returned to Latvia from Belarus and were provided with consular assistance. These individuals, along with other foreigners, were released from prison in Belarus thanks to the support of the US.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to take preventive measures to inform the public about safe travel and how to act in emergency situations abroad. Last year's Travel Safely campaigns consistently emphasised the call not to visit Russia and Belarus, as Latvian nationals continue to travel to these countries. In the information campaign "Don't let yourself be exploited" or "Work abroad", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned about the risks of labour exploitation, as Latvian nationals seeking work abroad often become victims of organised crime and human trafficking. Campaign materials with recommendations for travellers and job seekers were broadcast on Latvijas Televīzija and Latvijas Radio, as well as in the digital environment, at the Riga airport, Central Bus Station, and elsewhere. In order to explain the risks of human trafficking and the principles of safe travel to young people, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with experts from the Ombudsman's Office, visited more than 10 special education institutions throughout Latvia.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with other institutions, successfully provided consular services abroad. In 2025, approximately EUR 7.3 million was collected for consular services provided by Latvian missions abroad (state fees and consular fees).

The consular service provided around 160,000 paid consular services, most of which – around 42,000 – were for the issuance of passports and identity cards. In order to make it easier for compatriots to obtain identity documents in countries that are geographically distant and where Latvia has no representation, 14 trips were arranged with mobile passport stations. In June, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a trip with mobile passport station to Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. During the trip, 548 people were served, and 1,023 identity documents were issued – 552 passports and 471 identity cards.

Due to geopolitical situation, a relatively small number of visa applications were processed by the consular representations in 2025 – approximately 35,000. **In 2025, a consolidated legal framework was developed for Russian and Belarusian citizens – Cabinet of Ministers Regulations Regarding Restrictions on the Acceptance of Visa Applications and the Entry of Third-country Nationals in the Republic of Latvia.**

DIASPORA POLICY



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with diaspora organisations and state administration institutions to implement a coordinated diaspora policy in accordance with the Diaspora Law and the Plan for Work with the Diaspora 2024–2026. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs chairs the **Diaspora Advisory Council** (hereinafter – DAC), which is convened four times a year. In 2025, the most important topics were the participation of the diaspora in elections and their organisation, study opportunities in Latvia, cooperation between scientists, the expected conscription of the diaspora into the National Defence Service, and remigration issues to simplify the return of the diaspora to Latvia.

In order to strengthen the resilience of the Latvian diaspora and promote its ability to resist information manipulation and disinformation, as well as to convey Latvia's messages to the media and society in their host countries, **a Public Resilience, Strategic Communication and Media Working Group was established in September 2025.** It includes representatives of diaspora organisations, diaspora journalists, and responsible officials from state administration institutions.

In order to implement a research-based diaspora policy, a comprehensive study entitled **Diaspora Investments in Latvia** was conducted in 2025 in collaboration with the Centre for Diaspora and Migration Research at the University of Latvia in four multidimensional investment areas: financial, human capital, social, and symbolic capital investments. The research indicates that the **diaspora attracts EUR 0.94–1.0 billion to Latvia each year**, but most of these resources are absorbed by consumption. Financial investments in entrepreneurship are macroeconomically small but qualitatively significant. By investing in Latvia, the diaspora seeks both financial returns

and a meaningful impact on Latvia. These conclusions generally highlight the need to emphasise the importance of investment for Latvia's diaspora policy, which could be one of the significant accelerators of the country's growth.

In 2026, the size of the diaspora will be studied in-depth, as the previous study conducted in 2020 no longer reflects the current situation.

In order to promote civic and political engagement among the diaspora, ensuring dialogue with the diaspora in decision-making and the representation of opinions that are important to it, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regularly cooperates with the main umbrella organisations of the diaspora – the World Federation of Free Latvians, the European Latvian Association, the American Latvian Association, the South American and Caribbean Latvian Association, the Latvian Association of Australia and New Zealand, the Latvian National Federation in Canada, etc.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs consults with these organisations before making decisions and subsequently explains the decisions taken to the diaspora. At the beginning of the year, the World Federation of Free Latvians actively participated in the work of the Saeima's Public Administration and Local Government Committee, developing amendments to the Saeima Election Law and the Law on Local Government Election Commissions and Polling Station Commissions regarding the organisation of elections in precincts outside Latvia. The Saeima Education, Culture and Science Committee consulted with representatives of the European Latvian Association on amendments to the Education Law regarding distance learning.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented several information campaigns for the diaspora: the registration and use of e-signatures, the organisation of voting stations abroad outside diplomatic and consular missions, study opportunities in Latvia, the conscription of the diaspora into the National Defence Service, etc.

Representatives of the Ministry of Defence participated in youth camps for the diaspora in Latvia – in Nīca and Aglona – as well as in events abroad – in Ireland, Norway, and Sweden. Online seminars were organised for young people in the US, at the Garezers Summer High School, and for a wider audience, with more than 100 participants from Europe, the US, and Australia. Representatives of the European Latvian Association visited the National Armed Forces Air Force Base in Lielvārde, while the board of the World Federation of Free Latvians visited the National Armed Forces Infantry School in Alūksne, which provided an insight into the daily work of the State Defence Service. Informative events should continue in 2026, focusing more on young audiences and developing a regional approach.



In July 2025, Riga hosted the **World Latvian Economics and Innovations Forum**, which brought together outstanding Latvian entrepreneurs, scientists, experts, and policymakers from around the world to strengthen ties with Latvia and promote economic cooperation, investment, and innovation development. The main topics of the forum were security and defence, artificial intelligence, start-up development, human capital potential, and creative industries. The forum was attended by 618 participants in person and 842 participants remotely. Forum visitors had the opportunity to network using a special networking tool called B2Match.

In order to ensure the continuity of the World Latvian Economics and Innovations Forum in 2026, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA), the World Federation of Free Latvians, and diaspora activists, will organise smaller-scale events entitled Latvia in Focus in capital cities outside Latvia – two in Europe, and one outside Europe. The aim is to provide information about current events in Latvia and to promote self-organisation by establishing regional business associations or clubs, thereby seeking opportunities to contribute to Latvia's economy.

In order to promote the transfer of knowledge and experience of Latvian professionals working in international organisations to both public administration and the private sector in Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the association Economic Cooperation and Investment for Latvia, organises an annual **Forum of Latvian Professionals Working for International Organisations**. As a result of the forum, seminars are organised in cooperation with professionals for Latvian entrepreneurs **on opportunities to participate in EU and UN procurement tenders**. Latvian professionals have succeeded in initiating international events in Latvia for the organisations they represent, thereby promoting Latvia's visibility and contributing to the Latvian economy. **In 2026, Riga will host the 35th Annual Meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is expected to attract up to 4000 participants from around the world. Riga was chosen as the venue for the conference by the Latvian representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.**

Latvian professionals want to maintain ties with Latvia and be involved in its development. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with non-governmental organisations – the associations Economic Cooperation and Investment for Latvia, and With Global Experience in Latvia – supports the State Chancellery in developing a roadmap. The roadmap will encourage international professionals to return to work in Latvia in a field and position that matches their career experience. In 2026, the forum will be held for the fifth time and will focus on students and young people.

One of the goals of the Diaspora Law is to ensure favourable conditions for **remigration**. In 2024 (*CSB data for 2025 will be available in June 2026*), **9,621 Latvian nationals left Latvia, but 9,973 returned, of whom 7,907 were of working age – between 15 and 64 years old**. The Remigration Coordination Working Group of the Diaspora Advisory Council, led by a representative of the association, With World Experience in Latvia, is seeking solutions to various issues: obtaining accurate information about work and study opportunities, opportunities to learn the Latvian language, the timely preparation of necessary documents, etc. In order to facilitate this process, a unified information platform is being developed – remigrācija.lv.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has allocated EUR 176,238 in its 2025 budget to strengthen cooperation with the diaspora. Support has been given to large projects, such as the World Latvian Economics and Innovations Forum and the Forum of Latvian Professionals Working for International Organisations, as well as projects submitted by diaspora organisations and groups. These include approximately 50 diaspora organisations with more than 12,000 representatives in nearly 30 countries around the world. In 2025, special support was given to National Day events and diaspora self-organisation activities, as well as other activities in the fields of culture, education, science, and the economy. In 2025, 115 project applications were received. Of these, 73 projects were supported for a total amount of EUR 137,108.

In cooperation with the **State Chancellery** and the portal **Latviesi.com**, a working group on the resilience of the Latvian diaspora community, strategic communication and media was established in 2025 to strengthen the resilience of the diaspora community, promote the diaspora's ability to resist information manipulation and disinformation, and involve the diaspora media in providing accurate information about Latvia to the diaspora and its host countries. Information about Latvia and current events is regularly provided by media outlets, such as the websites **Latviesi.com** and **Baltic-Ireland**, and the newspapers **Brīvā Latvija, Laiks, Latvietis, and Latvija Amerikā**, among others.

The museums **Latvians in the World and The Global Centre for Latvian Art in Cēsis** are important custodians of Latvian diaspora culture and art in Latvia. The executive director of the museum Latvians in the World has been elected to the Diaspora Advisory Council for 2025.

For her contribution to the creation of the European Children and Youth Choir and its participation in the XIII Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Festival, a particular mention goes to **Ilze Atardo**, member of the Presidium of the European Latvian Association, who was named Person of the Year in the Diaspora in 2025.

DIASPORA PROJECTS



Country	Approved projects	Country	Approved projects
United Kingdom	12	Lithuania	2
Norway	9	Belgium	1
Sweden	5	Egypt	1
France (incl. Council of Europe)	4	Georgia	1
Ireland	4	Estonia	1
Germany	4	Iceland	1
Denmark	3	Italy	1
Canada	3	New Zealand	1
Finland	3	Russia	1
USA	2	Luxembourg	1
Australia	2	The Netherlands	1
Austria	2	Spain	1
Brazil	2	TOTAL	68

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN FOREIGN POLICY

Strategic communication – public diplomacy, cooperation with the media, and wider public involvement – is used in shaping Latvia's foreign policy and achieving its foreign policy objectives. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives significant support from representatives of civil society and maintains dialogue with foreign and security policy research centres, social partners, representatives of the academic community, a wide range of experts and non-governmental organisations, as well as journalists.

Public diplomacy



The public diplomacy programme is an important tool for implementing Latvia's foreign policy interests. This is an opportunity to expand international cooperation with partners with whom cooperation is not as intensive on a daily basis as with the EU, NATO, NB8, and other formats – especially with representatives from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific region, which is important in preparation for work on the UN Security Council in 2026–2027.

Over the course of four years, more than 190 events have been organised as part of the public diplomacy programme in support of Latvia's candidacy for the UN Security Council. In 2025, Latvia's diplomatic missions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised 47 public events across Europe, the United States, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Oceania as part of this public diplomacy programme. These events highlighted issues of importance to Latvia on the UN agenda, such as support for Ukraine and the containment of Russia, defending the international legal order, and the promotion of multilateral cooperation.

The seminar organised by Latvia at the UN Headquarters in New York on the creation of a register of damage caused to Ukraine also confirmed to the partners of the Global South that Russia's aggression in Ukraine is not a local European conflict, but an imperialist colonial war that directly affects the entire international order. Latvia countered Russian disinformation and pointed out in this format the need to hold Russia accountable and prosecute its crimes of aggression.

The joint Baltic exhibition on the consequences of World War II for the Baltic states, highlighting occupation and international isolation, was displayed at the UN Headquarters in New York and attracted significant interest. The exhibition challenged Russia's narrative of the Soviet Union as the liberator and peacemaker in Europe.

During the 59th session of the Human Rights Council, Latvia's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva organised a public discussion entitled "Life Behind Bars: Political Repression, the Suppression of Fundamental Freedoms and Human Rights, and the Question of National Survival". The discussion supported non-governmental organisations in Belarus and Ukraine, including the Belarusian democratic opposition human rights centre Viasna, the Belarusian democratic trade

union organisation Salidarnast, and the non-governmental organisation, The Reckoning Project, which collects evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

In the public diplomacy programme, Latvian experts shared their experience in cyber security, combating disinformation and media literacy, as well as arms export control. **In cooperation with Dr Mārtiņš Paparinskis, Professor of International Law, support was provided to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on climate change issues by** organising a series of seminars in Fiji and Australia. Meanwhile, **Valts Ernštreits, a leading researcher at the Livonian Institute of the University of Latvia, raised issues related to the protection of indigenous peoples' rights in the UN format.**



**SIEVIETES,
MIERS UN
DROŠĪBA**

Latvia advocates for women's rights and the promotion of opportunities for women. Latvia's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, in cooperation with the organisation Riga TechGirls, organised an event to promote women's rights and opportunities in information and communication technologies, as well as in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Meanwhile, in Armenia, the Republic of Korea, Finland, and Georgia, discussions were held on the implementation of UN Resolution No. 1325 On Women, Peace and Security in cooperation with the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation and the association Women for Security.

In 2025, the association Women for Security supported various educational events related to the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda. For example, in May 2025, Riga hosted a training session on this topic, jointly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the association Women for Security and the Asia-Europe Foundation, entitled Women, Peace and Security, which was attended by 20 diplomats, government officials, and non-governmental sector employees from 19 Asian and European countries.

In 2025, Latvia's first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for 2020–2025 was completed, and work began on the second plan for 2026–2031. Not only state and local government institutions but also non-governmental organisations are involved in its development: MARTA Centre, Women for Security, Women's NGOs Cooperation Network of Latvia, UN Youth Delegate Programme, the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation, and the Civic Alliance – Latvia. The plan aims to promote public awareness of the role of women in Latvia's security and to break down stereotypes that prevent society from realising its full potential for comprehensive national defence. The report is scheduled to be approved in the first quarter of 2026.

With a view to encouraging Latvian entrepreneurs to develop new export markets and share Latvia's experience in digitalisation issues, in May the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the second international forum, Latvia and Countries in Africa: Advancing Resilience and Development through Digital Solutions. The forum brought together

representatives of the public and private sectors and entrepreneurs from 12 African countries to discuss cooperation.

Providing Latvian expertise on education digitalisation issues, Latvia's Permanent Representation to UNESCO supported a visit by representatives of the companies SIA Tilde and SIA Lielvārds to Mauritius, where experts presented AI-powered language technology solutions in education.

Public diplomacy events promoted awareness among both the Latvian public and international audiences of Latvia's contribution to multilateral diplomacy and its work on the UN Security Council. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have given interviews to national and international media outlets and opinion leaders on current issues – Russia's war in Ukraine, containing Russia and countering its propaganda, the strengthening of EU sanctions against Russia and Belarus, NATO cooperation, the situation in the Middle East, and Latvia's candidacy for the UN Security Council in 2026–2027.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has given more than 100 interviews to representatives of national and international media, and organised more than 30 media briefings.

Public involvement in foreign policy

 **In order to promote the exchange of views and use the resulting solutions in the work of the ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs involves representatives of the public – young people, experts, representatives of non-governmental organisations, social and cooperation partners – in the foreign policy process.**

Non-governmental organisations are involved in various stages of policy planning and implementation, particularly in the areas of development cooperation, human rights, international security, and diaspora policy. Regional events are held in libraries across Latvia, and Open Door Days are organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote active communication with the public. In the autumn of 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised **Open Door Days for young people in the regions of Latvia – in Viļāni, Malta, Daugavpils, Gulbene, Alūksne, Liepāja, and Kuldīga**. Young people met with Latvian foreign affairs experts and learnt more about careers in diplomacy, foreign policy priorities, current security policy issues, and safe travel guidance.

Various forms of cooperation, i.e. advisory boards, working groups, seminars, and webinars for different target groups, as well as the involvement of local and international think tanks, provide channels and platforms for regular cooperation and promote positive public interest in opportunities for engagement in foreign policy processes.

The **Foreign Policy Experts Council**, with its renewed membership, makes a valuable contribution to the work of the Latvia's foreign service. Regular meetings allow experts from various fields to be heard and facilitate in-depth discussions on Latvian foreign policy and current international issues, providing a broader view of global challenges. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its long-standing partner – the Latvian Institute of International Affairs, as well as the Centre for Geopolitical Studies have prepared valuable reports on foreign and security policy issues relevant to Latvia.

Civil society and representatives of non-governmental organisations participated in the Public Diplomacy Programme, representing Latvia and providing expertise at the international level. Their work focused on promoting women's rights and opportunities, including women's participation in international politics and security, information and communication technologies and STEM, experience in preventing violence against women and domestic violence, etc.

Representatives of non-governmental organisations regularly participate in the **Consultative Council for Development Cooperation Policy**. Their opinions are taken into account when the ministry draws up development cooperation policy planning documents, legislative acts, and positions on development cooperation in the EU.

Civil society representatives implement development cooperation projects financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a result of the 2025 project competition, 9 of the 16 approved projects will be implemented by non-governmental organisations. Annual financial support from the Ministry continues for the **Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS) to participate in international non-governmental organisation platforms** and public awareness and global education activities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organises seminars to build the capacity of implementing organisations of development cooperation projects.

As part of efforts to promote external economic relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA), organises informative seminars for entrepreneurs on opportunities for participation in EU agency and UN tenders, as well as seminars on export target countries. **In 2025, the External Economic Policy Coordination Council convened two meetings**. The meetings addressed the commercialisation of science as a potential driver of economic growth, as well as on current developments in the space sector, including cooperation between the private, academic, and public sectors for the development and support of the space industry in Latvia.

Prior to European Council meetings and when developing Latvia's national positions, **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consults with representatives of civil society** (associations, foundations, local governments, and social partners), **presenting Latvia's position on current issues on the EU agenda**. Partners have the opportunity to express their opinions and make recommendations for improving Latvia's position.

The association Women's NGOs Cooperation Network of Latvia nominated the **EU Coordination and Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2025** EU Civil Dialogue Award in the category National administrations involving civil society in EU policy making, and the EU Coordination and Policies Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs won second place. The award aims to recognise good practices and initiatives for the meaningful involvement of civil society organisations in EU policy making.



The recruitment company Instar (Cutting Edge Employer Branding) has nominated the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs as one of the ten most attractive employers in the public sector in 2025. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been awarded an electronic brand management quality mark, which confirms the organisation's strength and reliability as an employer.**

At a conference organised by the think tank Providus entitled "The EU's multiannual financial framework for 2028–2034: does the proposal serve Latvia's interests?", representatives of the state administration, public organisations and experts discussed the compatibility of the new EU multiannual financial framework with Latvia's long-term development interests and societal needs. **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to lead an inclusive process, coordinating and formulating Latvia's position on the EU multiannual financial framework.**

Twice a year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the EC Representation in Latvia, and the European Parliament Liaison Office in Latvia organise **European Union information provider forums** to inform EU information point managers and Europe Direct Information Centre (EDIC) representatives, the European Parliament Ambassador School, as well as representatives of the media and non-governmental organisations, about current EU policy issues. The main topic of the forum on 7 February was security and social resilience, while the forum on 28 November focused on the role of librarians and their contribution to informing the public. Every year, EU information points across the regions mark Europe Day with wide-ranging celebrations.

In cooperation with the EC Directorate-General for Translation, the State Language Centre and the EC Representation in Latvia, in November the Ministry of Foreign Affairs **organised a conference, "Latvian Language in the European Union"**. It was attended by representatives of the EU and Latvian translation industry, academia, public administration, as well as interpreters and translators. Experts discussed issues related to message clarity and data quality, including the fight against disinformation, media monitoring in the digital age, the development of language technology platforms, and the security and reliability of data and information generated by AI.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation (LATO), annually organise **The Riga Conference, the largest security and foreign policy forum** in Northern Europe. This October, the forum took place for the 20th time, focusing on Transatlantic cooperation, support for Ukraine and the containment of Russia, European defence and deterrence, and the role of the UN in international politics. The forum brought together more than 700 high-level participants from around 45 countries, including the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, US Permanent Representative to NATO, Matthew Whitaker, Former Chair of the Military Committee of NATO, Admiral Rob Bauer, European Commission Executive Vice-President and EU economy and Productivity, Implementation and Simplification, Valdis Dombrovskis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Margus Tsahkna, as well as the European Commissioner for Defence and Space, Andrius Kubilius, and many other prominent security and foreign policy experts.

For 10 years now, public interest in foreign policy has been promoted by the LAMPA conversation festival, in which representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regularly participate. Alongside experienced diplomats, a new generation of diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in the Foreign Policy Championship organised by the Latvian Institute of International Affairs at the festival in 2025.



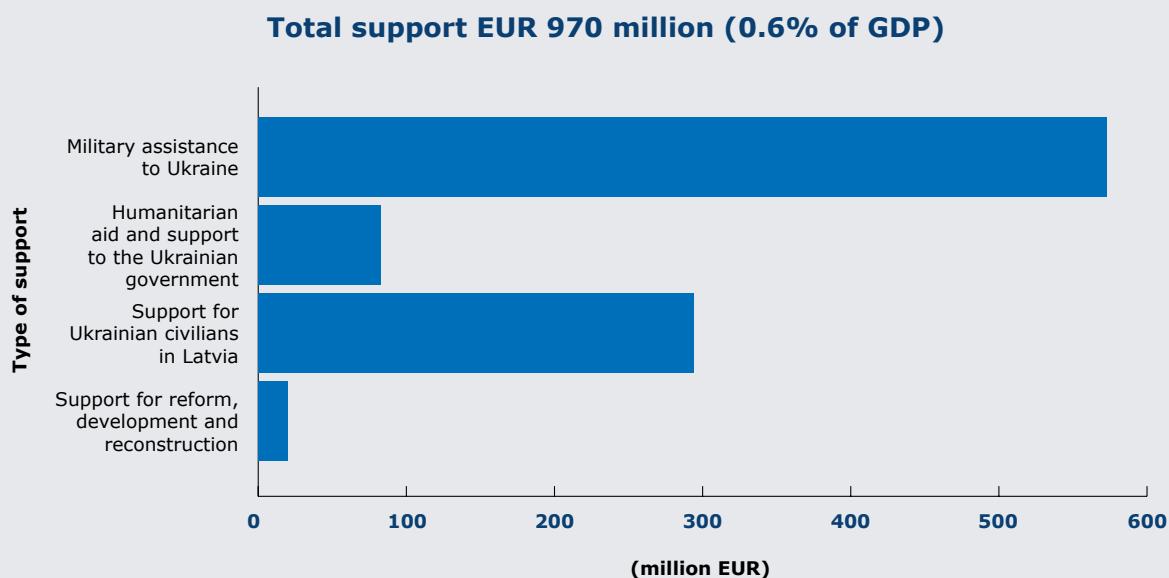
Direct involvement of young people is essential to promoting their understanding of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has supported the activities of the **Latvian UN Youth Delegate Programme** in Latvia and ensured youth representation at UN events.

Every year, the programme, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other partners, organises a process to select the next Latvian UN Youth Delegate, who will represent Latvia at various high-level events. At the UN General Assembly in New York in 2025, young people were represented by and addressed by Nikola Kleinberga, at the COP30 Climate Change Conference in Brazil, Latvia was represented by Rūdolfs Podzis, and Agate Misule was selected as the strongest candidate for the position of Youth Delegate for 2026–2027. Young people from the UN Youth Delegate Programme were actively involved in the Latvian UN Security Council campaign. At the national conference "Who owns tomorrow?", 80 young people discussed important items on the UN agenda, such as security, education, gender equality, climate, and demographic issues.

ANNEX

LATVIA'S SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE IN OVERCOMING RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION

Both the Latvian state and society support Ukraine by providing practical and financial assistance, as well as by sharing expertise. The amount of support since the start of Russia's war of aggression on 24 February 2022 until December 2025 has already reached almost EUR 1 billion, or approximately 0.6% of GDP (2022–2025).



In line with the terms of the 2024 agreement between Latvia and Ukraine on long-term support and security commitments, Latvia will implement reconstruction projects with a total value of EUR 15 million between 2024 and 2026. Support for Ukraine will also remain a priority in the future.

Latvia's expertise, experience, and solutions are deployed in support of Ukraine. In 2025, both non-governmental organisations and the private sector contributed to the exchange of experience and reconstruction efforts, for example, by implementing a development cooperation project in the healthcare sector and developing a translation platform to support Ukraine's integration into the EU.

In order to encourage the Latvian private sector to get involved in Ukraine's reconstruction, including through the use of EU support instruments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the LIAA and the CFCA, organised a webinar in September on private sector involvement in the implementation of the EC Ukraine Facility and export credit guarantees available to Latvian entrepreneurs. In order to strengthen Latvia's opportunities to participate in supporting Ukraine, it would be useful to establish a CFCA representative office in Ukraine in the future.

Healthcare support

In 2025, as part of the CFCA-coordinated reconstruction support for Ukraine, Latvian implementers (the Foundation Entrepreneurs for Peace and the Association Tavi Draugi) participated in the renovation of three hospitals in the Chernihiv region.

Latvia's development cooperation projects in 2025 also helped to strengthen the healthcare sector in Ukraine. Four projects were implemented in the fields of rehabilitation, microsurgery, and oncology. Such training projects are mutually beneficial, as Latvian medical professionals gain experience in treating war-related injuries.

In order to support access to health services for people in severely affected areas of Ukraine, a Latvian-funded modular primary healthcare centre was opened in the Mykolaiv region in June.

Reconstruction projects in hospitals since 2023

Object	Implementer	Stage
Catering block at Chernihiv Regional Children's Hospital	UNDP	Complete
Newborn Surgery Department of Chernihiv Regional Children's Hospital	Entrepreneurs for Peace	Complete
Paediatric ward of Chernihiv District Hospital	Tavi draugi	Complete
Modular primary healthcare clinic in the Mykolaiv region	WHO	Complete
Chernihiv Regional Psychoneurological Hospital	Entrepreneurs for Peace	Under construction
Chernihiv District Hospital Shelter	Tavi draugi	Preparation stage (project registration, preparation of necessary procurements, and the conclusion of contracts)

Support for educational institutions

In 2025, as part of the CFCA-coordinated reconstruction support for Ukraine, the Foundation Entrepreneurs for Peace and the Association Tavi Draugi worked on the restoration of four educational institutions (the Zamglai and Tupichiv lyceums, Novy Bykiv Secondary School, and Chernihiv Polytechnic).

Reconstruction projects in educational institutions since 2023

Object	Implementer	Stage
Staryi Bilous Lyceum	UNDP	Complete
Talalaivka Lyceum	UNDP	Complete
Chernihiv Kindergarten No. 19	UNDP	Complete
Preschool institution Malyatko	UNDP	Complete
Novy Bykiv Secondary School	Tavi draugi	Final stage
Polytechnic University	Entrepreneurs for Peace	Final stage
Zamglai Lyceum	Tavi draugi	Preparation stage (project registration, preparation of procurements, and the conclusion of contracts)
Tupichiv Lyceum	Tavi draugi	Preparation stage (project registration, preparation of procurements, and the conclusion of contracts)

Support for strengthening social resilience

Russia's war of aggression has not only caused physical destruction but has also left a lasting impact on people's lives, causing psychological trauma and leaving vulnerable groups of society in a state of helplessness. In such situations, community support and access to trained psychological support providers are essential. In 2025, Latvia became involved in the establishment and support of Ukraine's resilience centres in the Chernihiv region, implemented by the MARTA Centre.

Reconstruction in cooperation with other donors

Latvia's contribution to Ukraine's recovery is also appreciated by partners. This, in turn, creates opportunities to combine efforts and resources in joint projects. In October 2025, Latvia joined the five-country NATO project, Renovator. In this project, each country takes the lead in renovating one Ukrainian military hospital, purchasing medical equipment, and training medical specialists.

Moreover, in November, Ireland joined Latvia's project to support Ukrainian resilience centres with EUR 400,000 in funding.

Support for integration into the European Union

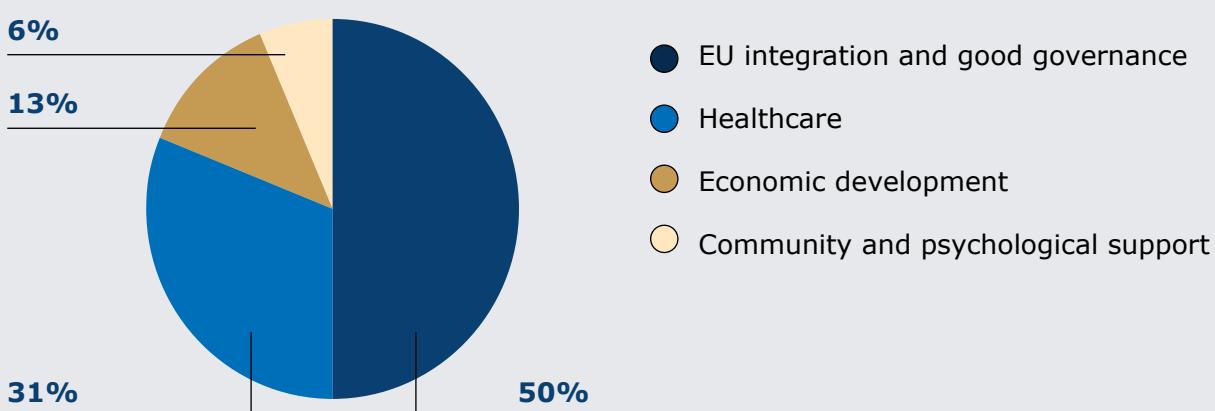
In 2025, Latvia supported Ukraine's integration into the EU, not only politically but also through projects implemented by Latvia. One of the practical challenges Ukraine faces in the EU integration process is the large volume of legislation that needs to be translated. In October, SIA Tilde delivered to Ukraine an AI-based translation platform developed with the support of Latvia. This directly supports Ukraine's needs while highlighting Latvia's capabilities and innovation in AI, information and communication technology solutions. Support has also been provided to Ukraine in harmonising electronic communications, including radio frequency and spectrum policy, with EU standards.

In 2025, the University of Latvia and Riga Graduate School of Law (RGSL) continued their study programmes, enhancing the knowledge of Ukrainian public administration officials and students on EU affairs. Four participants from Ukraine graduated from the RGSL programme in 2025, bringing the total number of graduates from Ukraine since the programme began to 69. A two-year project, implemented by the association Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS, has been launched to support Ukraine in implementing public administration reforms. Five other development cooperation projects implemented in 2025 contributed to Ukraine's integration into the EU in various areas.

Development cooperation in 2025

In 2025, 16 projects were implemented in support of Ukraine, nine of which will continue in 2026.

Areas of development cooperation projects implemented in 2025





Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
Republic of Latvia

