



CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RESTORATION OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF LATVIA

A DREAM FULFILLED: FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

DAY 1

23 AUGUST 2021

VENUE: NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LATVIA, ZIEDONIS HALL

In compliance with epidemiological safety requirements, all participants will be asked to present a valid digital COVID-19 certificate confirming vaccination or recovery from the disease and a personal identification document.

- From 9:00** **Registration**
- 9:30** **Opening addresses**
Video – *30th anniversary of the restoration of Latvia`s independence*
- Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia*
Krišjānis Kariņš, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia
Velta Čebotarenoka, President of the 4 May Declaration Club
Andris Vilks, Director of the National Library of Latvia
- 10:00** Address by **Anatolijs Gorbunovs**, Speaker of the Supreme Council
(read by **Dainis Īvāns**, first Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia)
- 10:05** Video address by **Egils Levits**, President of the Republic of Latvia
- 10:20** Presentation by **Ineta Ziemele**, judge of the European Court of Human Rights:
*The Path Towards the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutional Law
from an International Perspective*
- 10:40** **Panel discussion. Dream of Independence and Paths to Its Fulfilment**
*Moderated by Sarmīte Ēlerte, Adviser to the President of Latvia on
Cultural Policy*

Discussion participants:

Una Bergmane, researcher at the University of Helsinki

Daina Bleiere, Researcher at the Institute of Latvian History, University of Latvia

Mārtiņš Kaprāns, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia

Gatis Krūmiņš, Rector and Senior Researcher at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

11:50

Lunch

12:50

Presentation by **Dainis Īvāns**, first Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia: *From a Popular Movement to Parliament*

13:00

Presentation by **Jānis Dinevičs**, Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia parliamentary group of the Supreme Council: *The Transformation of the Popular Front of Latvia Parliamentary Group at the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia as a Transitional Parliament*

13:15

Panel discussion. From Declaration to Independence: the Supreme Council as Transitional Parliament

Moderated by Arvīds Dravnieks, Director of the Public Law Institute

Discussion participants:

Jānis Dinevičs, Member of the Supreme Council, Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia parliamentary group (1990–1991)

Ivars Godmanis, Member of the Supreme Council, Chair of the Council of Ministers (1990–1993)

Dainis Īvāns, Member of the Supreme Council, Deputy Chair of the Supreme Council (1990–1992)

Jānis Vaivads, Member of the Supreme Council, Chair of the Satversme (Constitution) parliamentary group (1991–1993)

14:30

Coffee break

15:00

Panel discussion. From Soviet Constitution back to Satversme

Moderated by Jānis Pleps, Assistant Professor at the University of Latvia, Legal Policy Adviser to the President of Latvia

Participants of the discussion:

Ilma Čepāne, Member of the Supreme Council, Doctor of Law

Gunārs Kusiņš, Justice of the Constitutional Court of Latvia

Mārtiņš Paparinskis, Associate Professor at University College London

Edgars Pastars, Attorney at Law

16:20

Panel discussion. Can We Imagine a Different Past?

*Moderated by **Gatis Krūmiņš**, Rector and Senior Researcher at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences*

Discussion participants – children of the MPs who voted in favour of restoring the independence of Latvia:

***Andris Felss**, Financial Controller at AS TWINO*

***Laima Karlsonē**, Erasmus Mundus scholarship recipient for the International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies*

***Ēriks Kehris**, Owner of SIA K kubā*

***Lauma Paegļkalna**, Acting Judge of the Department of Administrative Cases, Senate of the Supreme Court of Latvia*

17:30

Concluding remarks for Day 1

Gatis Krūmiņš, Rector and Senior Researcher at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

FOREIGN POLICY DAY
FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF THE RESTORATION OF THE
STATEHOOD OF LATVIA AND RENEWAL OF THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE
24 AUGUST 2021

VENUE: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA,
K. VALDEMĀRA IELA 3, RIGA
(WORKING LANGUAGES: LATVIAN, ENGLISH, RUSSIAN)

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From 9:30 Registration

10:00 Opening Session

Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

Georgs Andrejevs, Representative of the 4th of May Club, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

10:20 Panel Discussion: Latvia's path to independence through the eyes of international partners (in English, with simultaneous interpreting)

This discussion will explore developments in Latvia and the Baltics in the 20th century from the end of the 80s through the beginning of the 90s including the processes of the restoration of independence and the place they hold for that particular pivotal time in world history. The participants will evaluate the international resonance of events taking place in Latvia, the intentions of and prospects for the USSR leadership to influence attitudes of the international community with regard to the Baltic States' aspirations for freedom. They will also look at the general dynamic and perspectives in this process of renewal of statehood as well as the scenarios that could have played out in the critical moments. In conclusion, the panellists will analyse Latvia's experience and lessons learned.

Moderated by: Daunis Auers, Associate Professor at the University of Latvia and Chairman of the Board for the think tank "Certus" as well as President of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies

Panellists:

Vytautas Landsbergis, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Lithuania (1990–1992)

Stanislav Shushkevich, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Belarus (1991–1994)

Lech Wałęsa, President of Poland (1990–1995)

Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland (1988–1995)

- 11:35** **Coffee break**
- 11:50** **Panel Discussion: From *de facto* to *de jure* – Restoration of Latvia’s independence and rebuilding of the Latvian Foreign Service**
- This discussion will consider the renewal of Latvia’s independence from an international perspective, the strategy adopted and events which were part of the process of achieving the goals which had been set. Likewise, the challenges faced by those striving for restoration of Latvia’s Foreign Service and their first steps taken on the path of bringing their country back, with the full rights that are accorded to a subject of international law.*
- Moderated by: **Sandra Kalniete**, a member of the European Parliament, former Deputy Head of the Latvian People’s Front and Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Panellists:*
- Māris Riekstiņš**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Latvia to the Russian Federation, former Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Alberts Sarkanis**, former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Latvia to the Republic of Lithuania, Finland, Kazakhstan, Poland, the Holy See, and the Czech Republic
- Edijs Bošs**, Associate Professor at Rīga Stradiņš University, journalist
- 13:05** Message to the participants from **Jānis Peters**, first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of newly independent Latvia to the Russian Federation
- (read by **Velta Čebotarenoka**, President of The 4th of May Club)
- 13:25** **Luncheon** (with a documentary film “Atjaunotāji” – The Restorers)
- 15:00** **Panel Discussion: Latvia and the new global challenges - a view to the future**
- We have reached a culmination in the cycle of events marking Latvia’s centenary which also included Latvia’s recognition de jure on 26 January 1921. The Constitutional Law on the statehood of the Republic of Latvia, which was adopted by the Supreme Council on 21 August 1991, gave a clear political impulse at the beginning of the process of the international recognition of the renewal of independence. With the last three decades as a springboard for conversation, and taking into account Latvia’s achievements in international affairs, the participants will discuss new challenges that Latvia faces and its perspective as a member of the EU and NATO, supporting the rule of law, human rights, and democratic values.*
- Moderated by: **Gunda Reire**, Advisor to the Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Panellists:*
- Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga**, President of the Republic of Latvia (1999–2007)
- Krišjānis Kariņš**, Prime Minister of the Republic Latvia
- Dainis Īvāns**, Chairman of the Latvian People’s Front (1988–1992)
- Natālija Knipše**, Latvia’s Youth Delegate to the UN
- 16:15** **Conclusion of the Conference**
- Velta Čebotarenoka**, President of The 4th of May Club

Organisers

Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, The 4th of May Declaration Club, National Library of Latvia

Supporters

Chancery of the President of Latvia, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, project “Values in Action” under National Research Program, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Popular Front Division of the National History Museum