

The Latvian Transatlantic Organisation

Rūpniecības str. 10, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia

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www.rigaconference.lv

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

Media program September 10, 2010

This is a preview program and as such may be a subject of changes



The Small Guild, Riga Old Town

2010

September 10-11, 2010

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

Day 1 Friday, September 10

14:30 – 16:00 Registration open for press

15:15 – 16:00 Coffee with Prime minister Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis Venue: Press room, Small Guild

16:00 – 17:30 Opening Discussion: **What Does the World Economic and Financial Crisis Mean for Security in the West?** (On the record. Session is open for press coverage)

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

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

Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia

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

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

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

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

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

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17:30 – 18:00 Coffee break

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

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

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

H.E. Mr. Valdis Zatlers, President of the Republic of Latvia

H.E. Mr. Bronisław Komorowski, President of the Republic of Poland

H.E. Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania

H.E. Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia

Moderator: **Mr. Toms Baumanis**, Chairman of the Board, Latvian Transatlantic Organization

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

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

The depletion of fossil fuels, out-dated transportation infrastructure, complicated relationships between the countries that transporting and those producing the energy, are driving the world towards a renaissance of geopolitics. Do the biggest consumers ignore common regional and the EU interests while struggling to meet their national needs?

Mr. Bruce Jackson, President of the Project on Transitional Democracies

Dr. Alan Riley, The City Law School, City University London

Dr. Vladimir Milov, Head of the Independent Institute of Energy Policy in Moscow

Mr. Vladimir Socor, Senior Fellow, The Jamestown Foundation

Moderator: **Mr. Edward Lucas**, Deputy Editor, Central and Eastern Europe Correspondent for the Economist

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Night Owl Session II: ***A new Strategic Concept: Green Light for Reforms***

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

The New NATO Strategic Concept will outline the tasks of the Alliance which is facing the rise of new security challenges. The Alliance as the 'club of the willing' has been seen as the most effective collective security organization that acts on consensus principles. Can the new strategic concept to be expected to strengthen the basis for consensus among member states when addressing persisting or arising threats?

Mr. Jānis Sārts, State Secretary, Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Latvia

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

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Dr. Julian Lindley-French, Member of the Strategic Advisors Group, Atlantic Council and Professor at the Royal Military Academy of the Netherlands

Moderator: **H.E. Mr. Artis Pabriks**, Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

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Day 2

Saturday, September 11

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

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

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

H.E. Mr. Māris Riekstiņš, Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Latvia

H.E. Mr. Grigol Vashadze, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Georgia

Mr. Henryk Litwin, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Dr. Dimitris Triantaphyllou, Director General of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies

Dr. Alexander Pivovarsky, Senior Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Moderator: **Mr. Nils Muižnieks**, Director of Advanced Social and Political Research Institute, University of Latvia

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

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

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

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

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

Mr. Mikhail Margelov, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation

Mr. Mark Leonard, Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations

Mr. Jeremy Shapiro, Special Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia Affairs at the Department of State

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Mr. Konstantin von Eggert, Carnegie Moscow Center, Member of the Advisory Board of „Pro et Contra” Journal

Dr. Bobo Lo, Independent Scholar and Consultant

Moderator: **Mr. Tomas Valasek**, Director of Foreign Policy and Defense, Centre for European Reform

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

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

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

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

Mr. Imants Lieģis, Defense Minister of the Republic of Latvia

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

Mr. Paul H. Chapin, Conference of Defence Associations Institute, Member of the Board

Mr. Abubakar Siddique, Senior Correspondent covering Afghanistan and Pakistan for RFE/RL

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

16:00 – 16:30 Press availability - Panelists. Venue: Press room, Small Guild

For additional interview slots with panelists and to register for the Breakfast with the Prime Minister (taking place on September 11, 8:30am), please contact Rīga Conference 2010 press coordinator:

Inese Loce (inese@lato.lv or +371 259 22 334)