

The Latvian Transatlantic Organisation

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

Phone: (+371) 67322883

E-mail: lato@lato.lv

www.rigaconference.lv

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



2011

The Blackheads' House, Riga Old Town

September 16-17, 2011

The Riga Conference has become a leading foreign and security policy forum in Northern Europe, providing a meeting place for world renowned political, intellectual and business leaders to debate on the most acute challenges of the current international agenda. The 6th season of the conference aims to provide an international intellectual platform for further decision-making across the Atlantic.

Day 1 Friday, September 16

15:20 – 15:55 Registration

16:00 – 17.15 Opening discussion: *What can we do with less for economic growth and security in the EU and NATO? On the record*

Despite the signs of a recovery, overcoming the challenges of the financial crisis is still a number one priority at the core of the policy making agenda in the Baltic States, leaving governments to struggle with yet more austerity measures and the need to decrease public spending. Despite the crisis having brought a huge strain to social security, the crisis has, on the other hand, also worked as a catalyst for governments to accomplish long awaiting reforms. More so, it has become a compelling factor to bring our efforts together across the region, to deal with the new security challenges that both the EU and NATO face. It is time for bold and effective political decisions, and it is time to bring regional cooperation to a new level.

H.E. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Prime Minister of Latvia

H.E. Mr. Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Poland

H.E. Mr. Andrus Ansip, Prime Minister of Estonia

H.E. Mr. Andrius Kubilius, Prime Minister of Lithuania

H.E. Mr. Jyrki Katainen, Prime Minister of Finland

Moderator: **Mr. John Peet**, Europe editor, the Economist

DISCUSSION IS SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN LATVIA

17:15 – 17:40 Coffee break



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Konrad
Adenauer
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17:45 – 19:00 Discussion: **Where will Western commitments in the Middle East and North Africa lead to?**
On the record

There is a perception that Americans come from Mars and that Europeans come from Venus, of which exists due to the imbalance in military spending between Europe and the U.S. The financial turmoil has contributed to this perception, with European governments having announced new defence cuts. However, the active engagement of European Allies in a military operation in Libya might alter this perception. Arab uprisings – from the revolt in Tunisia, revolution in Egypt to civil war in Libya – seriously undermine the overall security and stability in the entire Greater Middle East. The departures of leaders of the Arab regimes do not necessarily signal an end to the revolutionary process. How willing are Western nations ready to engage, and what's next?

Mr. Valdis Zatlers, former President of Latvia

Dr. Fraser Cameron, Senior Advisor at the European Policy Centre

Mr. Anas El-Gomati, Libyan Political Analyst

Amb. Kurt Volker, Managing Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations, J.Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington DC

Amb. Hüseyin Diriöz, Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning, NATO

Moderator: **Mr. Craig Kennedy**, President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States

19:30 – 21:25 Opening dinner hosted by the Mayor of the Riga City (for participants only)

Welcome by **Mr. Nils Ušakovs**, Mayor of the Riga City

Venue: Small Guild, 3/5 Amatu str.

21:30 – 23:00 Night Owl Session I: **National industry leaders affecting EU energy market liberalization?**
Off the record

Venue: Small Guild, 3/5 Amatu str.

Energy market liberalization has been described as a quest for better prices, improved energy security and an option to diversify resources and suppliers if there are better deals available in the market. Market principles and changes in the existing “exclusive rights to deliver and produce” will lead to more flexible and convenient bargains for consumers. The key question here is whether “national champions” in the energy sector are interested in this liberalization process? What are the relationships between governments, national champions and consumers when introducing market reforms?

Prof. Emeritus Rudolf Dolzer, Member of Steering Group of the German-Russian-Forum on Raw Materials, Germany

Mr. Edward C. Chow, Senior Fellow on Energy and National Security Program, Centre for Strategic and International Studies



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Prof. Alan Riley, the City Law School, City University London

Mr. Uldis Bariss, Member of the Management Board, Latvenergo AS

Moderator: Mr. Mark C. Fischer, Director of Major Conferences, German Marshall Fund of the United States

DISCUSSION IS SUPPORTED BY THE **LATVENERGO AS**

21:30 – 23:00 Night Owl Session II: **Global balance shift: China, United States, Europe, and Russia**

Off the record

Venue: Small Guild, 3/5 Amatu str.

The global power balance has been in constant flux, with the rise and fall of nations. Today we have a multi-polar world where no one can claim leadership, although this does not necessarily also mean the same for tomorrow. The growing economic wealth and military power of China may radically change this situation. While the U.S. is still the leading economy of the world, its dependence on China makes it vulnerable. Meanwhile the EU is lagging behind, and Russia as a resurgent power on the international stage currently partners with the West. The recent economic crisis, once again, has sparked a debate on the necessary reforms required by the existing world institutions to match the global economic power balance developing amongst the newly emerging great powers. With the rapidly growing economic and political clout of China, should we expect the imminent change of the “Westernized” political world order when the global power balance is to shift again?

Dr. Simon Serfaty, Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geopolitics

Prof. Marek Dąbrowski, Professor of Economics, former President of the CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research in Warsaw

Prof. Jia Qingguo, Associate Dean of the School of International Studies, Beijing University (Beida)

Dr. Bruno Tertrais, Senior Research Fellow, Foundation for Strategic Research, France

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Rob de Wijk, Director of the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies

21:30 – 23:00 Night Owl Session III: **Quo vadis Belarus? Off the record**

Venue: Large Guild, 6 Amatu str.

Recent developments in Belarus, in the context of the economic crisis have caused a foreign policy struggle. This test to foreign policy has the potential to become “the never ending story” of conflicting rationale, wishful-thinking and a challenge to the values that stand at the core of the Transatlantic community. The effectiveness of economic sanctions imposed against Belarus has been subjected to a debate discussing whether these measures have the potential to forcefully lead Belarus down the route of European democratic norms and economic growth, or not. While very few doubted that the West was obliged to react to the events of December 19, the calls for justice from political prisoners of the regime could not be ignored. With the economic crisis shaking Minsk what is the right way out of the “business-as-usual” in Belarus?



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Dr. Alexei Pikulik, Analyst of the Belarus Institute of Strategic Studies

Dr. Peter Doran, Senior Policy Analyst of the Center for European Policy Analyses

Dr. Andrew Wilson, Senior Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations

Amb. Karel Kovanda, Deputy Director-General (ret.), External Relations, European Commission

Moderator: **Ms. Nathalie Vogel**, East Europe Editor, World Security Network Foundation

Day 2 **Saturday, September 17**

09:30 - 11:00 Morning discussion: **Can Turkey bridge a gap between Asia and Europe? On the record**

Turkey has been knocking on the EU's door, to no avail, for too long. Have recent events in North Africa and the Middle East forced Europeans to take a different look at Turkey? The country has become an important regional player and with its model of development – also a potential trendsetter for other Muslim countries. The West now faces a window of opportunity for Turkey to become an agent of change and a stabilizing force in the region. But is the EU really ready to embrace Turkey and use its potential to bridge the Islamic world with the West?

Dr. Artis Pabriks, Deputy Prime Minister for EU Presidency, Defense Minister of Latvia

H.E. Mr. Yaşar Yakış, former Foreign Minister of Turkey

Mr. Christian Schmidt, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Defense, Germany

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

Moderator: **Dr. Dimitris Triantaphyllou**, Kadir Has University, Istanbul

11:00 – 11:25 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Discussion: **Russian modernization: is society ready and will it bring Russia closer to the West? On the record**

During its history Russia has faced several attempts to modernize its economy and political structure. The recent announcement by the Government to start a new modernization project has been hailed by the West and has also raised the interest of potential investors. Still, Russia's political system is unable to create the conditions so necessary for the modernization of economics without increased political competition. A dilemma amongst the Russian political, business and social groups over the means and aims of modernization is present. Western businesses are invited to invest capital and know-how to modernize Russia's economy. However, will they buy the story without the evidence of political reforms and, thus, are we going to see another "Potemkin" village?

Mr. Andris Teikmanis, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia



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Prof. Dr. Horst Teltschik, former Foreign Policy Adviser to the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl
Dr. James Sherr, Senior Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Program at the Royal Institute of International Affairs

Mr. Kurt Volker, Managing Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations, J.Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington DC

Mr. Arkady Moshes, Programme Director, Finland institute of International Affairs

Moderator: **Mr. Konstantin von Eggert**, International Affairs Commentator, Kommersant FM Radio, Moscow

13:30 – 14:30 Buffet lunch hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia H.E. Mr. Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis (for participants only)

Venue: Museum of Foreign Art, historical building of Riga Stock Exchange at Dome Square 6

15:00 – 16:30 Discussion: **Power politics in Central Asia and Afghanistan** **On the record**

For several decades Afghanistan has been cut off from the outside world, being labeled as the “end of the Earth”. The fall of the Taliban regime returned Afghanistan to the world’s map, and once again has brought to light the ancient trade routes on the Eurasian continent. However, it has been long debated, exclusively through the *military* exit strategy that there is a necessity to develop a *regional economic* strategy to enhance the region further. Gradual transition of security responsibility from ISAF to Afghan leadership is a step forward to introduce long-lasting peace and stability, but there is also an acute need to come up with an overarching economic strategy to deal with the security problem in Afghanistan. However, in order to avoid another round of the Great Game to occur, the real challenge, now, is to make this strategy truly regional in its scope.

H.E. Mr. Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, Foreign Minister of Latvia

Mrs. Madina Jarbussynova, Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Vygaudas Ušackas, EU Special Representative and the Head of EU mission to Afghanistan

Amb. Manizha Bakhtari, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Nordic Countries

Moderator: **Dr. Žaneta Ozoliņa**, Professor of the University of Latvia

16:30 – 16:55 Coffee break

17.00 – 18.30 Afternoon discussion: **Impact of social media and social networking on political regimes**
On the record

Since the early 1990s the world's Internet population has grown from a few millions to the billions. Arab revolutions suggest that social media can generate a critical mass for wide protests that are able to topple governments. However, in other cases such as communist China, authoritarian Belarus and within the clerical



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rule of Iran, the true potential of social media lies in its role of supporting a platform for civil society in its development. This platform may translate into offline and real changes over the coming years and decades. What is the potential of social media and social networks to further disrupt the security order and bring about political changes?

Ms. Joanne Jacobs, London based Social Media Consultant

Dr. Said Sadek, Professor of Political Sociology, American University in Cairo

Mr. Spencer Boyer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs

Mr. Ojārs Kalniņš, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Latvia

Moderator: Mr. Pauls Raudseps, Political commentator, weekly magazine "IR"

FREE TIME OPTIONS BEFORE THE GALA RECEPTION:

- BOAT RIDE ALONG THE RIGA CANAL (LIMITED SEATS)
- GUIDED TOUR IN THE RIGA OLD TOWN
- TRANSFERS/WALK TO THE HOTELS AND BACK TO THE GALA RECEPTION

20:00 – 22:00 Gala Reception hosted by the Defense Minister of Latvia Dr. Artis Pabriks (for participants only)

Venue: Latvian Society House, 13 Merķeļa str.



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