



“New Challenges for NATO Members and Its Partners”

**Reval Hotel Latvia, Riga
April 21, 2009**

This conference will be an important occasion for looking back at NATO's 60 years and Latvia's 5 years of NATO membership. Representatives from state institutions, non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, as well as guests from other NATO member states will be encouraged to take part in high level discussions about Latvia's 5 years experience in NATO and most important NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, which is perceived as a serious test for NATO and its future.

PROGRAMME:

09:00-09:30 Registration, morning coffee

09:30-09:40 Welcoming Remarks:

Mr. Sandis Sraders, Secretary General of the Latvian Transatlantic organisation
Mr. Hermann Bünz, Coordinator Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Baltic

09:40-10:40 PANEL DISCUSSION I

"Latvia's 5 Years of Membership in Transformed and Enlarged NATO: Achievements and Drawbacks"

NATO is often coined as the most successful military alliance ever created. It was established at the beginning of the Cold War as a necessary counterbalance to the Soviet Union. In the aftermath of the Cold War the decision was made to keep the alliance. NATO enlargement has been widely regarded as a success story, and its internal transformation has also received positive evaluations. However, after 60 years, it is time to reflect not only on NATO's successes, but also to discuss opportunities that were not made to the full and goals that were not achieved. Looking back to the Latvia's integration to NATO it is possible to indicate the success story of Latvia fulfilling all the necessary criteria for the membership as well as to understand what the membership has brought to NATO. Therefore the speakers will be asked to discuss both NATO's achievements and drawbacks as they see them as well as to reveal the process of the NATO integration to indicate the necessary steps NATO member has to take adjusting Alliance to the new challenges in a changing international environment.

Mr. Andris Teikmanis, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia (tbc)
Ms. Heather Conley, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs of the US Department of State
Dr. Olaf Osica, Senior Research Fellow from European Centre Natolin

Moderator: **Dr. Andris Sprūds**, Director of Latvian Institute of International Affairs

10:40-11:10 Coffee break

11:10-12:40 PANEL DISCUSSION II

“NATO’s mission in Afghanistan: A New Strategy?”

In Afghanistan NATO is involved in its most challenging mission to date, which is perceived as a serious test for the Alliance and its future. After initial success in 2002 transforming Afghanistan has not been as successful as expected. Therefore it became clear that the new strategy for Afghanistan is crucially needed. It is necessary to have honest discussions about the current pace of stabilization in Afghanistan, the limits of military’s role and what the new US military strategy will be. But success in Afghanistan is unlikely unless its neighbours become involved in stabilizing this country, therefore this panel will also deal with perspectives from Pakistan on Afghanistan. This discussion would allow to compare perspectives from NATO, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, with regard to preconditions for developing a common approach towards Afghanistan.

Mr. Bruce Rogers, Charge d’Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Latvia, former director for Provincial Reconstruction and Local Governance in Kabul

Mr. Jānis Sārts, State Secretary, Ministry of Defence of Republic of Latvia

H.E. Mr. Jawed Ludin, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Island

Amb. Karl Harbo, Senior Fellow at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program, Former head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Afghanistan

Mrs. Simbal Adnan Khan, Acting Research Director, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad

Moderator: **Dr. Atis Lejiņš**, Chairman of the Freedom and Solidarity Foundation (confirmed)

12:40-13:30 Lunch

14:00-15:00 “Debt to Afghanistan”, documentary
Venue Cinema “RIGA”

15:00-16:30 Refreshments served

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