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LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS
SAEIMA

LATVIJAS NACIONĀLAIS VĒSTURES MUZEJS
1869

Conference dedicated to the 35th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Constitutional Law on the Statehood of the Republic of Latvia

Voices and Echoes of Independence

4 September 2026 at 10:00–14:45
Baltic Hall of the Saeima, Jēkaba iela 6/8, Riga

Working languages: Latvian, English (simultaneous interpretation provided)

from 9:00 **Arrival, registration, coffee**

9:30 *Unveiling of the plaque dedicated to recipients of the Statehood Award*

10:00 **Opening of the conference**

*Conference moderator: **Mr Dainis Īvāns**, Chairman of the Popular Front of Latvia (1988–1990), First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council (1990–1992)*

Remarks

***H.E. Ms Daiga Mieriņa**, Speaker of the Saeima*

***Ms Velta Čebotarenoka**, President of the 4 May Declaration Club*

First panel discussion "An External Perspective"

10:15 **Lecture "The US and the Baltic States in War, in Peace, and in Danger"**

***Mr Daniel Fried**, Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow at the Atlantic Council, a United States think tank*

10:30 **Lecture "Right, right and right again – Latvia and the Kremlin in the eras of Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Putin"**

***Mr Edward Lucas**, Founder and Director of the Baltic International Security Centre (United Kingdom)*

10:45 **Lecture "Creeping recognition"**

***Ms Sandra Kalniete**, Member of the European Parliament, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia (1990-1992)*

11:00 **Discussion**

*Moderator: **Ms Una Bergmane**, Academy Research Fellow at the University of Helsinki*

Participants:

Mr Daniel Fried, Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow at "Atlantic Council", a United States think tank

Mr Edward Lucas, Founder and Director of the Baltic International Security Centre (United Kingdom)

Ms Sandra Kalniete, Member of the European Parliament, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia (1990-1992)

12:00 **Coffee break**

Second panel discussion "State Continuity as the Only Legal Option"

12:45 **Lecture "State Continuity: Understanding, Logic and Consequences"**

***Mr Egils Levits**, President of the Republic of Latvia (2019–2023), Special Representative of Latvia for International Law and State Responsibility*

13:00 **Lecture "Rights and Obligations Arising from the Principle of State Continuity: How We Have Implemented Them"**

***Ms Ineta Ziemele**, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union, Professor at the Riga Graduate School of Law, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences*

13:15 **Comments**

***Mr Andris Teikmanis**, Chairman of the People's Deputy Council of Riga (1989–1994), Member of the Supreme Council (1990–1993)*
***Mr Gunārs Kusiņš**, Lecturer at the University of Latvia, Faculty of Law*

13:25 **Discussion**

*Moderator: **Mr Gatis Krūmiņš**, Leading researcher at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences*

Participants:

Mr Egils Levits, President of the Republic of Latvia (2019–2023), Special Representative of Latvia for International Law and State Responsibility

Ms Ineta Ziemele, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union, Professor at the Riga Graduate School of Law, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Mr Andris Teikmanis, Chairman of the People's Deputy Council of Riga (1989–1994), Member of the Supreme Council (1990–1993)

Mr Gunārs Kusiņš, Lecturer at the University of Latvia, Faculty of Law

14:30 **Closing remarks**

***Mr Dainis Īvāns**, Chairman of the Popular Front of Latvia (1988–1990), First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council (1990–1992)*

Conference participants are invited to attend the launch event of the book "At the Posts in August. Journalists Remember" at 15:00

ORGANISED BY: The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, 4 May Declaration Club and the Popular Front Department of the National History Museum of Latvia
SUPPORTED BY: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia and Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

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The conference will be broadcast live on the Saeima website: *www.saeima.lv*, on the Saeima's *Facebook* account and *Youtube* channel, on the website of the 4 May Declaration Club: *www.4maijs.lv*