LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS SAEIMA

Eiropas Komisija

Conference

Is Gain from Giving Acquired Forever?
10 years of Latvia's membership in the European Union

Saeima, Red Room, Jēkaba iela 11
1 May 2014

9:15 – 10:00 **Registration**

10:00 – 10:30 **Opening of the conference**

Solvita Āboltiņa, Speaker of the Parliament of Latvia (Saeima)

Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia

Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Latvia (Saeima)

10:30 – 12:00 **Panel discussion - Is Gain from Giving Acquired Forever?**

In the course of 10 years, Latvia has become a European Union Member State that is reckoned with and that is now being presented as an example for other Member States because of its experience in implementing reforms. In looking back at Latvia's membership in the European Union during the last 10 years, is it possible to say that the words by the famous Latvian poet Rainis on the close correlation between giving and getting are still relevant for Latvia as a Member State of the European Union? Do we give the European Union more than we get back from it? What is the balance of Latvia's 10-year membership in the European Union, and what do we expect from the next decade? Or is it that gains and losses from membership in the European Union cannot be measured in terms of an accounting equation?

Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia (1999–2007)

Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia

Dominic Hannigan, Chairman of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs of the Parliament of Ireland (Houses of the Oireachtas)

Sandra Kalniete, Member of the European Parliament, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia (2002–2004)

Anders Paalzow, Rector of the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga

Moderator: **Pauls Raudseps**

12:00 – 12:15 **Conclusion of the conference**

12:20 **Reception hosted by Solvita Āboltiņa, Speaker of the Parliament of Latvia**