



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS
SAEIMA

SEMINAR–DISCUSSION
REPRESENTING DIASPORA INTERESTS IN THEIR
HOMELANDS

30 SEPTEMBER 2013, 10:00–13:45

MEETING ROOM OF THE ECONOMIC, AGRICULTURAL,
ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE
SAEIMA (ROOM 409), JĒKABA IELA 10/12

GOAL OF THE SEMINAR:

To learn about models used by other countries for representing the interests of diasporas in their homelands in order to consider their applicability for representing the interests of the Latvian diaspora and strengthening its ties with Latvia

AGENDA

Moderator: *Valdis Liepiņš*, Deputy Chairman of the Social Cohesion Committee of the Saeima

10.00 **Opening remarks:** *Ojārs Ēriks Kalniņš*, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima

10.10 – 11.30 **Representing diaspora interests in their respective homelands**

Moderator: *Daunis Auers*, Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia

Presentations

French Republic – *Jacques Legendre*, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Education and Communication of the Senate, Chairman of the senatorial friendship group with Latvia

Republic of Estonia – *Liisa Pakosta*, member of the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu

Ireland – *Aidan Kirwan*, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ireland

Republic of Lithuania – *Kęstas Pikūnas*, President of the World Lithuanian Youth Association

Republic of Finland – *Tina Nordqvist*, Parliament Secretary of Finnish Expatriate Parliament

11.30 – 11.45 **Coffee break**

11.45 – 13.15 Round table – appropriate models for representing the interests of the Latvian diaspora

Moderator: *Valdis Liepiņš*, Deputy Chairman of the Social Cohesion Committee of the Saeima

Participants of the round table

Jānis Kukainis, Chairman of the Board of the World Federation of Free Latvians

Aldis Austers, Chairman of the European Latvian Association

Arvils Ašeradens, MP

Rolands Lappuķe, Ambassador-at-Large for Diaspora Matters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

Jānis Citskovskis, Deputy Head of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs

Arnīs Cimdars, Chairman of the Central Election Commission

Dace Akule, Director of the Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS

13.15 – 13.30 Discussion

13.30 – 13.45 Concluding remarks: *Ilmārs Latkovskis*, Chairman of the Social Cohesion Committee of the Saeima

Organisers: Social Cohesion Committee of the Saeima, Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima

Working languages: Latvian and English

We express our appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, World Federation of Free Latvians, European Latvian Association, as well as the embassies of Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland and Lithuania.