



## **A Dream Fulfilled: Freedom and Independence**

**Conference dedicated to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Restoration of the Independent State of Latvia**

**23–24 August 2021, Riga**

**Day 1  
23 August 2021**

*Venue: National Library of Latvia, Ziedonis Hall*

*In compliance with epidemiological safety requirements, all participants will be asked to present a valid digital COVID-19 certificate confirming vaccination or recovery from the disease and a personal identification document.*

**From 9:00 Registration**

**9:30 Opening addresses**

*Video Restoration of the Independent State 30*

**H.E. Ināra Mūrniece**, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

**H.E. Krišjānis Kariņš**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia

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

**Mr Andris Vilks**, Director of the National Library of Latvia

**10:00** Address by **Mr Anatolijs Gorbunovs**, Speaker of the Supreme Council  
(read by **Mr Dainis Īvāns**, first Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia)

**10:05** Video address by **H.E. Egils Levits**, President of the Republic of Latvia

**10:20** Presentation by **Ms Ineta Ziemele**, judge of the European Court of Human Rights:  
*The Path Towards the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutional Law  
(Restoration of Independence) From an International Perspective*

**10:40 Panel discussion. Dream of Independence and Paths to Its Fulfilment**

*Moderated by Ms Sarmīte Ēlerte*, Adviser to the President of Latvia on Cultural Policy

*Discussion participants:*

**Ms Una Bergmane**, researcher at the University of Helsinki

**Ms Daina Bleiere**, Researcher at the Institute of Latvian History, University of Latvia

**Mr Mārtiņš Kaprāns**, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia

**Mr Gatis Krūmiņš**, Rector and Senior Researcher at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

**11:50** Lunch

**12:50** Presentation by **Mr Dainis Īvāns**, first Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia: *From a Popular Movement to Parliament*

**13:00** Presentation by **Mr Jānis Dinevičs**, Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia parliamentary group of the Supreme Council: *The Transformation of the Popular Front of Latvia Parliamentary Group at the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia as a Transitional Parliament*

**13:15** **Panel discussion. From Declaration to Independence: the Supreme Council as Transitional Parliament**

*Moderated by Mr Arvīds Dravnieks*, Director of the Public Law Institute

*Discussion participants:*

**Mr Jānis Dinevičs**, Member of the Supreme Council, Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia parliamentary group (1990–1991)

**Mr Ivars Godmanis**, Member of the Supreme Council, Chair of the Council of Ministers (1990–1993)

**Mr Dainis Īvāns**, Member of the Supreme Council, Deputy Chair of the Supreme Council (1990–1992)

**Mr Jānis Vaivads**, Member of the Supreme Council, Chair of the Satversme (Constitution) parliamentary group (1991–1993)

**14:30** Coffee break

**15:00** **Panel discussion. From Soviet Constitution back to Satversme**

*Moderated by Mr Jānis Pleps*, Assistant Professor at the University of Latvia, Legal Policy Adviser to the President of Latvia

*Participants of the discussion:*

**Ms Ilma Čepāne**, Member of the Supreme Council, Doctor of Law

**Mr Gunārs Kusiņš**, Justice of the Constitutional Court of Latvia

**Mr Mārtiņš Pāparinskis**, Associate Professor at University College London

**Mr Edgars Pastars**, Attorney at Law

**16:20** **Panel discussion. Can We Imagine a Different Past?"**

*Moderated by Mr Gatis Krūmiņš*, Rector and Senior Researcher at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

*Discussion participants – children of the MPs who voted in favour of restoring the independence of Latvia:*

**Mr Andris Felss**, Financial Controller at AS TWINO

**Ms Laima Karlsonē**, Erasmus Mundus scholarship recipient for the International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies

**Mr Ēriks Kehris**, Owner of SIA K kubā

**Ms Lauma Paegļkalna**, Acting Judge of the Department of Administrative Cases, Senate of the Supreme Court of Latvia

**17:30 Concluding remarks for Day 1**

**Mr Gatis Krūmiņš**, Rector and Senior Researcher at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

**Day 2**  
**24 August 2021**

**Foreign Policy Aspects of the Restoration of the Statehood of Latvia and  
Renewal of the Diplomatic Service**

*Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, K. Valdemāra iela 3, Riga  
(Working languages: Latvian, English, Russian)*

*In compliance with epidemiological safety requirements, all participants will be asked to present a valid digital COVID-19 certificate confirming vaccination or recovery from the disease and a personal identification document.*

**From 09:30 Registration**

**10:00 Opening of the conference Day 2, dedicated to foreign policy**

**Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia  
**Mr Georgs Andrejevs**, representative of the 4 May Declaration Club, former  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

**10:20 Panel discussion. Latvia's Road to Freedom Through the Eyes of Its  
International Partners** (discussion in English with simultaneous interpretation)  
*This panel discussion is dedicated to the processes of the restoration of  
statehood that took place in Latvia and the entire Baltic region in the late 1980s  
and early 1990s, and their significance and place within the international arena  
at the time. The participants of the discussion will assess the echoes of these  
events in other countries, the odds and efforts of the USSR government to  
manipulate the attitude of international society toward the Baltic states' road to  
regaining independence, the dynamics of the restoration of statehood prospects,  
and the possible alternative development scenarios at the most crucial moments.  
In conclusion, the experience of Latvia will be assessed.*

*Moderated by Mr Daunis Auers*, Associate Professor at the University of  
Latvia, Chair of the think tank Certus, and President of the Association for the  
Advancement of Baltic Studies, founded in the USA

*Discussion participants:*

**Mr Vytautas Landsbergis**, Chair of the Supreme Council of Lithuania (1990–  
1992)

**Mr Stanislav Shushkevich**, Chair of the Supreme Council of Belarus (1991–  
1994)

**Mr Lech Wałęsa**, President of Poland (1990–1995)

**Mr Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland (1988–  
1995)

**11:35 Coffee break**

**11:50 Panel discussion. From *De Facto* to *De Iure*: Foreign Policy Aspects of the Restoration of the Statehood of Latvia and Renewal of the Diplomatic Service**

*This panel discussion is dedicated to the international aspects of the course of the restoration of Latvia's statehood, the adopted strategy, the measures implemented and instruments applied to reach the objectives. It is also dedicated to an assessment of the challenges related to the renewal of Latvian diplomatic service, and the first steps taken following Latvia's return as a full-fledged subject of international law.*

*Moderated by Ms Sandra Kalniete, Member of the European Parliament, former Deputy Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia and Minister of Foreign Affairs*

*Discussion participants:*

**Mr Māris Riekstiņš**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to the Russian Federation, former Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Mr Alberts Sarkanis**, former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to the Republic of Lithuania, Finland, Kazakhstan, Poland, the Holy See, and the Czech Republic

**Mr Edijs Bošs**, Associate Professor at Rīga Stradiņš University, journalist

**13:05** Message to conference participants by **Mr Jānis Peters**, first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the restored Republic of Latvia to the Russian Federation

(read by **Ms Velta Čebotarenoka**, President of the 4 May Declaration Club)

**13:25 Lunch and screening of the documentary *Atjaunotāji (The Restorers)***

**15:00 Panel discussion. Latvia and the New Global Challenges: A View of the Future**

*We have reached the final part of the centenary cycle of Latvia. Latvia gained its international de iure recognition on 26 January 1921, and the Constitutional Law on the Statehood of the Republic of Latvia, adopted by the Supreme Council on 21 August 1991, provided a political impulse for the international recognition of the restored independence of Latvia. Taking into account the achievements in international politics over the last 30 years, the participants of the discussion will deliberate on the new challenges Latvia will face as a member of the European Union and NATO in protecting the rule of law, human rights, and democratic values.*

*Moderated by Ms Gunda Reire, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia*

*Participants of the discussion:*

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

**H.E. Krišjānis Kariņš**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia

**Mr Dainis Īvāns**, first Chair of the Popular Front of Latvia

**Ms Natālija Knipše**, UN Youth Delegate of Latvia

**16:35 Closing remarks**

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

**16:45**      **Informal reception**

*Conference organisers: the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the 4 May Declaration Club, the National Library of Latvia*

*Conference supporters: Chancery of the President of Latvia, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, State Research Programme “Values in Action”, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Popular Front Museum of the National History Museum of Latvia*