



Conference of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers
BORDERS OF DIPLOMACY AND DIPLOMACY BEYOND BORDERS
 9 May 2025, Riga (Latvia)

Friday, 9 May	
09:15-11:00	Registration
09:30	<i>Opening of the exhibition of artworks created by political prisoners in Belarusian prisons</i> “Belarus. Art from Behind Bars”
10:15-10:30	Opening Session of the Conference <i>Chaired by Mr Jānis Vucāns, President of the Baltic Assembly</i> — H.E. Ms Daiga Mieriņa , Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia — H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs , President of the Republic of Latvia
10:30-12:30	<i>Moderator of the Session: Mr Andrejs Pildegovičs, Ambassador-at-Large, Head of the Secretariat for Latvia’s Candidacy to the UN Security Council</i> Session 1 Joining the Baltic Voices: Executing United Foreign Policy to Tackle Regional Challenges This Session brings together individuals from the Baltic States and beyond engaged in parliamentary diplomacy alongside the government representatives who can benefit from the collaborative efforts of parliamentarians in addressing pressing regional challenges. It offers a platform for the legislators and government representatives of the Baltic States to explore synergies, exchange ideas, and discuss strategies to tackle issues impacting the region, such as ensuring continued support to Ukraine and strengthening the military capabilities of Europe. The goal of the Session is to enhance mutual understanding, foster partnerships, and strengthen collective actions to advance regional stability, development, and resilience. Questions to be answered during the discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — How can parliamentary diplomacy of the Baltic States play a role in de-escalating conflicts involving major global powers? — How can the Baltic States strengthen international cooperation to ensure peaceful conflict resolution? — How do external influences affect the balance of power and stability in the contested regions and what is the role of the Baltic States? — How can the Baltic States better coordinate their policies and responses to enhance regional security and achieve greater diplomatic impact? Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mr Artjoms Uršluškis, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Latvia — H.E. Mr Eerik Marmeļ, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Estonia to Latvia

	<p>— H.E. Mr Valdas Lastauskas, <i>Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lithuania to Latvia</i></p> <p>— Mr Jānis Vucāns, <i>President of the Baltic Assembly</i></p> <p>— Mr Timo Suslov, <i>Vice President of the Baltic Assembly</i></p> <p>— Mr Giedrius Drukteinis, <i>Vice President of the Baltic Assembly</i></p> <p>Q&A Discussions</p>
12:30-12:45	Family photo and “Handshake for Europe” - celebrating Europe Day
13:30-15:00	<p><i>Moderator of the Session: Mr Jānis Vucāns, President of the Baltic Assembly</i></p> <p>Session 2 Strengthening Regional Partnerships: Advancing Cooperation Between the Baltic Assembly and its International Partners Throughout the years, the Baltic Assembly has surrounded itself with close partners across Europe and beyond. These partnerships have helped the Baltic Assembly address both regional challenges and opportunities. By engaging with its partners, the Baltic Assembly has not only amplified the voice of the Baltic States but has also contributed to shaping policies that affect broader European and global interests. This Session aims to share best practices for parliamentary diplomacy and strengthening cooperation on political, economic, and security issues, but also discuss concrete ideas for improving cooperation between the organisations.</p> <p>Questions to be answered during the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — How have the partnerships enhanced our ability to address regional challenges and shape broader European and global policies? — What best practices for parliamentary diplomacy can be applied to strengthen cooperation on political, economic, and security issues among the partners? — What concrete steps can be taken to improve collaboration between the Baltic Assembly and other organizations to achieve shared objectives? <p>Keynote speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, <i>Leader of Democratic Forces of Belarus and Head of United Transitional Cabinet</i> — Prof Zlatko Šabič, <i>Professor of International Relations at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Chair of International Relations, Senior Researcher at the Centre of International Relations, International Relations Adviser to the President of the Republic of Slovenia</i> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mr Alfons Röblom, <i>President of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference</i> — Ms Heléne Björklund, <i>President of the Nordic Council</i> — Mr Pim van Ballekom, <i>Vice President of the Benelux Parliament</i> <p>Q&A Discussions Conclusions by Mr Jānis Vucāns, <i>President of the Baltic Assembly</i></p>
	Departure of the delegations

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