

**Declaration
of the Intended Activities of the Government
Headed by Evika Siliņa**

15 September 2023

Latvia is a prosperous, safe and inclusive European country with its own ethnic identity. Latvia will develop sustainably during demographic, climate, technological and digital change.

The people of Latvia are our country's main asset.

In the midst of global geopolitical shocks, we have joined efforts to strengthen Latvia's security, common development of society, prosperity and sustainability for present and future generations.

Freedom, democracy, the rule of law and the Latvian cultural space are the fundamental values of the state, which mainstream every decision. We will ensure equal and fair opportunities for everyone in Latvia to live a dignified life and achieve one's goals by involving society and promoting lifelong learning.

In the interest of Latvia's future and competitiveness, we will build a sustainable state by improving the quality of life of families, balancing social, economic and environmental policy dimensions.

I Safe Latvia

We will strengthen Latvia's security in a rapidly changing world by maintaining the Euro-Atlantic foreign policy course. We will further support Ukraine in its fight against Russia's aggression and Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration. Security, national defence and self-defending democracy are a prerequisite for country's sustainable development. We commit to continue the work undertaken to increase the funding for national defence, public order and security and to strengthen the capacity of these sectors.

1. The Euro-Atlantic foreign policy course of Latvia, external and internal security are common priorities that we commit to implement by providing the national defence budget of 3 % of GDP by 2027 and the funding for public order and security of 2.5 % of GDP by 2026.
2. We will establish a comprehensive national defence system by enhancing public preparedness for crisis and situations of threat to national security, as well as strengthening societal resilience and resistance to disinformation. We will support the growth of Latvia's defence industry.
3. We will complete the construction of the fence on the border with Belarus and Russia by the end of 2024. We will invest in smart border control and human resources that carry out border control.
4. On Latvia's eastern border, we will develop targeted support programmes for investment, integration, mobility and improvement of quality of life.
5. We will ensure the country's energy independence by reducing the role of fossil energy sources, increasing the use of renewable energy and promoting energy efficiency while pursuing competitive energy costs in the region. We will ensure energy independence from Russia. We will synchronise the Baltic electricity grids with European countries in February 2025.
6. We will expand the strategic role of the media in promoting security, incl. by moving towards a balanced and economically justified public media.
7. We will strengthen judicial independence and the ability to administer justice legally and fairly not only in the letter but also in the spirit of the law in order to enhance fairness throughout society. We will develop the system of law enforcement authorities and invest

in their human resources and education, creating a legally secure living and investment environment, as well as the preconditions for more effective conduct of criminal proceedings, administration of justice and the fight against corruption.

II Inclusive Latvia with its own ethnic identity

Latvia is a safe home to all people who constitute a united political nation of Latvia because they love and respect the statehood, independence and security of Latvia, the Latvian language and the values enshrined in the Constitution of Latvia. We will identify and implement outcome-oriented meaningful changes in public governance in the long-term by addressing everyday challenges. Joint work to improve education, health, the Green Deal, human rights and business outcomes are the steps to be taken to increase the sense of belonging and overall prosperity of the country. Today's demographic challenges need to be addressed by investing in the future of children, caring for families and their housing and providing opportunities for high-quality education from childhood to old age, as well as important health and social services that prolong the years of quality life.

8. We will support the acquisition of the Latvian language that forms the basis of a cohesive society and will fully switch to general education in the official language by 2025. We will provide a unified framework that offers every adult an opportunity to learn Latvian.
9. We will support the research and preservation of Latvian culture, traditions and cultural heritage, as well as the provision of contemporary development. We will promote creativity and international recognition of Latvian art.
10. We will address the challenges posed by demographic changes by expanding support for families with children, providing children with access to educational, social and health care services.
11. We will strengthen the family environment and outside the family care system and contribute to increasing the autonomy of life for people with disabilities.
12. We will ensure the sustainability of the social budget and security for ageing in dignity. We will introduce a minimum basket of social services and reduce the poverty risk through targeted social support.
13. We will develop a patient-centred healthcare system, ensuring wider access to primary healthcare, which significantly improves early diagnosis and the ability to treat patients with high mortality rates effectively.
14. We will introduce a sustainable health financing model covering all citizens of Latvia along with effective e-government data solutions. We will ensure public funding for health sector of at least 12 % of the expenditure of the main functions of the state budget of Latvia, excluding investments financed outside the fiscal space.
15. We will achieve an increase in Healthy Life Years for the people of Latvia, incl. by promoting an active lifestyle. We will modernise the sport sector by offering a funding model for sport education that offers more opportunities for children and young people, as well as an opportunity to develop a system of professional clubs in line with international trends. We will support high-achievement sports, incl. the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, in accordance to clear and transparent criteria.
16. We will raise public awareness and responsibility for its safety, duty to ensure safety at both national and individual level at home, in society and mutual contacts, incl. road traffic safety, labour protection measures, accident prevention and maintenance of a safe environment.

17. In 2025 and 2026, we will continue raising the minimum wage by developing a clear mechanism for setting it to cover the increase in the cost of living and reduce income inequalities and poverty risks.
18. We will improve the availability of housing by increasing investment in housing construction and renovation, including rental housing, in various regions of Latvia.
19. We will implement a unified national information and communication technology policy and improve public services to ensure that private data providers can quickly and easily adapt to changes in the systems.
20. We will stand up for a modern framework on fundamental human rights, by reinforcing in law the elimination of all forms of violence, hate crimes and the couples' cohabitation regulation.
21. We will foster the participation of citizens, entrepreneurs and non-governmental organisations in social and political processes and the cohesion of society, develop social and civil dialogue, increase funding for public benefit initiatives and cohesion.

III Prosperous Latvia

Latvia's resources are limited, and every investment must therefore be balanced and made responsibly by financing innovation-oriented public services to ensure that future generations live in a contemporary, prosperous and high-quality living environment. Balanced social, environmental and economic policy dimensions constitute the basis for sustainable development of Latvia.

The economic policy objectives are to achieve sustainable GDP growth through a paradigm shift – competitiveness is based on scientific achievements, state-of-the-art skills and ability to use the opportunities provided by technologies, ambitions and entrepreneurship of Latvian people, supported by high-quality and accessible public services and a legally secure investment environment.

22. We will pursue an economic policy that will lead to higher value products and services, and support will be channelled primarily to exporting companies and start-ups.
23. We will build the innovation ecosystem through close cooperation between the public, private, academic and non-governmental sectors.
24. We will develop knowledge-based and sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries to produce higher value products for local markets and exports and contribute to the availability of safe and high-quality food.
25. We will increase the funding for education and science thereby increasing the quality of education and science and the competitiveness of science universities. We will start the transition to an institutional funding model in science universities. We will ensure that vocational education meets the requirements of the labour market and the implementation of a lifelong learning and work-based learning approach.
26. We will increase the competitiveness of Rīga in Northern Europe by providing opportunities to invest in infrastructure of Rīga and creating a unified model of development and management of Rīga metropolis.
27. We will invest in the sustainable development of regions, creating an attractive and high-quality living environment, as well as promoting entrepreneurship, connectivity and mobility of citizens, in line with the development needs of each region. We will support the development of industrial zones in the regions, as well as financially promote the development of municipalities that create new jobs and high-added value.

28. We will build a model for the development and management of sustainable passenger transport and traffic infrastructure by strengthening the railway as the backbone of the system.
29. To advance the development of the labour market, by directing the labour force towards higher value-added sectors, we will promote full participation of different groups in the labour market, reduction of income inequality and re-emigration, as well as increase the availability of labour, including by expanding opportunities for lifelong reskilling and upskilling. We will set up 'silver economy' support programmes. We will implement an immigration policy tailored to support economic growth. We will remove obstacles to young people's participation in the labour market due to unjustified requirements for Russian language skills.
30. We will further develop a capital market competitive with the Baltic States. In order to alienate capital companies of public persons from political influence and attract the necessary capital for investment, we will quote a minority share from the market-oriented capital companies of public persons on the stock exchange, as well as introduce principles of good governance and reduce the representation of civil servants in positions in capital companies.
31. We will ensure a safe, inclusive and unifying educational environment for the acquisition of future skills by switching to funding of educational programmes. We will integrate digital and STEM competences more widely to ensure that Latvia doubles the share of higher education graduates in STEM in the medium term. We will improve the quality of teaching by ensuring regular monitoring of individual learning outcomes.
32. We will ensure the fulfilment of Latvia's commitments to achieve climate and energy, environmental protection and natural resource management goals. We will restore our natural resources to fight climate change and preserve Latvia's natural values and biodiversity for future generations. The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environmental Protection will be responsible for the implementation of these tasks.
33. We will integrate the principles of circular economy more extensively into business in order to preserve the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible and to reduce waste generation.
34. The country's response to market failures will lead to more effective competition between market players for services of public interest.
35. We will reduce bureaucracy and make public administration more flexible. We will trust more in the ability of entrepreneurs, residents and local governments to be guided by the principle of self-declaration and enable standardisation in sectors.
36. We will make significant changes to tax policy once in a four-year cycle. We will improve the competitiveness of the economy, reduce income inequality and increase tax revenues, as well as reduce the shadow economy. We will simplify tax payment by making it less resource intensive and time-consuming.
37. We will change the national budgetary principles by setting clear targets for national budget programmes and regularly evaluating the results.
38. We will implement a fiscal policy in accordance with the current fiscal conditions laid down in the legislation of Latvia and the European Union, and we will adapt it in line with the upcoming amendments to the legal framework for economic governance of the European Union following the adoption of these amendments.
39. We will develop a countercyclical, socially responsible and development-friendly fiscal policy, making the necessary investments, as well as providing support to citizens and entrepreneurs in crisis situations.

40. We will pursue a fiscal policy that maintains general government debt on average at 40 % of GDP over the long term.

Candidate to the Prime Minister's post:	Evika Siliņa
Invited ministers:	
Minister for Defence	Andris Sprūds
Minister for Foreign Affairs	Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš
Minister for Economics	Viktors Valainis
Minister for Finance	Arvils Ašeradens
Minister for the Interior	Rihards Kozlovskis
Minister for Education and Science	Anda Čakša
Minister for Climate and Energy	Kaspars Melnis
Minister for Culture	Agnese Logina
Minister for Welfare	Uldis Augulis
Minister for Transport	Kaspars Briškens
Minister for Justice	Inese Lībiņa-Egnere
Minister for Health	Hosams Abu Meri
Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Inga Bērziņa
Minister for Agriculture	Armands Krauze