

**Declaration on the Intended Activities
of the Cabinet of Ministers Headed by
Laimdota Straujuma**

Rīga, November, 2014,

Introduction

The party "Unity", the "Greens' and the Farmers' Union" and the national alliance "All for Latvia!" – "For Fatherland and Freedom/LNNK" have agreed to form the government that will continue the policy commenced by the previous government, which is based on principles of economic growth, fiscal responsibility and macroeconomic stability, sustainability, social and territorial solidarity, as well as principles of cooperation among the sectors, ensuring a regular dialogue with social partners and civil society.

The government's priorities are directed towards the Latvian population's resolution to jointly promote national development in order to achieve the objectives set forth in the Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030 (Latvia 2030) and in the National Development Plan of Latvia for 2014 –2020 (NDP 2020).

The overarching objective of the government's work is to improve well-being of every family and resident and the sense of belonging to Latvia to ensure that Latvian wisdom of existence becomes an essential part of daily life. We will achieve it through rapid, but sustainable economic growth rooted in more extensive employment and improved productivity of everyone. We will build Latvia as a family-friendly and child-friendly country.

The government's priorities – growth of national economy, quality of life of a family and an individual, as well as national security are oriented towards the resolution of the people of Latvia to jointly develop the country, looking forward to celebrating the centenary of Latvia in the prosperous country of active, healthy, educated and responsible citizens.

The government is committed to strengthen national security that is an essential guarantee of the stability, prosperity and development of the country. We ourselves are the shapers of our country's future. We have to ensure security in our country not only in crisis situations, but also on daily basis, by providing stability and social security for everyone. We will strive for cohesion of society that is based on common values, with particular attention to integration of society.

Starting the work on the 2015 - 2017 budget frameworks, the budgetary investments will be made in the government's priorities, while maintaining a fiscally responsible budget policy and macroeconomic stability.

We commit ourselves to working to ensure that the NDP2020 indicators are achieved, including:

- The average annual GDP growth per capita for next three years will reach 5%; the government is committed to achieve annual GDP growth at 5%.
- We will progress towards achieving a positive value of natural growth of population in 2020.
- Income inequality will decrease, the income inequality index S80/S20 will reach 5.4 in 2017.
- The employment level will increase, in 2017 reaching 73% in the population group aged 20 to 64 years.
- Labour productivity in manufacturing per employee will reach 24 thousand euro in 2017, at current prices.
- Investment in R&D in 2017 will reach 1.2% of GDP.

- The proportion of students in vocational education programs after the acquisition of basic education in 2017 will reach 45%.
- The productivity of use of natural resources in 2017 will increase up to 540 euro per tonne of resources.
- At-risk-of-poverty index in families with three and more children in 2017 will reduce to 30%.
- The number of healthy life years for people in Latvia in 2017 will reach 56 for men and 60 for women.

I DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ECONOMY

We will ensure growth of national economy for wellbeing and competitiveness of every resident of Latvia, by agreeing on key objectives, issues related to budget, taxation, employment, entrepreneurship, investment attraction, digital technology, education and use of natural resources.

National development, macroeconomic stability, fiscal policy

1. We will ensure an increase in chargeability of taxes, by progressing towards tax revenue amount of 1/3 against gross domestic product.
2. In the coming years, we will implement the structural deficit targets set out within the framework of the medium-term budget. We will continue to follow the fiscal policy aimed at progress towards implementing a budget balanced over the economic cycle.
3. We will ensure the development of a predictable tax policy.
4. We will implement the measures to combat shadow economy and actively combat tax evasion, with a particular focus on combating smuggling, the value-added tax fraud, "envelope wages" and illegal employment.
5. We will ensure the development of a stable, efficiently regulated and supervised financial sector into an innovative, internationally competitive national economy sector that renders high quality financial services to residents and companies, incl. attracts investment to entrepreneurship.
6. To improve the micro-enterprise tax regulation, we will make a comprehensive assessment, taking into account the impact of tax regulation on the state budget, shadow economy, social protection of the employed and business start-ups.
7. Based on the analysis of market failures and by supplementing the commercial sector's offer, we will develop new support programs by expanding the activities of the development finance institution. To strengthen the companies' competitiveness, we will approve the program for raising companies' capital, for improving access to funding and promoting investment in innovations and science-intensive projects.
8. We will promote attraction of long-term resources to national economy, including in new instruments, using the assets of pension and investment plans.
9. We will ensure the formation and development of the funding that is an alternative to bank loans, using the financial instruments in co-operative sector.
10. In cooperation with local-governments, we will support the development of a financial system, incl. by encouraging merger of residents and local governments in cooperative credit unions with the aim to manage their own financial resources, providing access to funding as close to the place of residence of people as possible.

11. We will ensure access to credit guarantees for the first housing, by revising the legal framework and launching a state aid program.

Entrepreneurship, employment, investment attraction and support to export

12. We will carry out permanent monitoring of competitiveness and business environment and eliminate shortcomings (in the judicial system, construction processes, etc.) to achieve improvements in *Doing Business* and the *Global Competitiveness Index* rankings.
13. We will develop an appropriate infrastructure for entrepreneurship development and investment attraction. We will ensure investment protection, by facilitating the procedure for resolution of disputes related to commercial activities and by promoting the development of alternative dispute resolution methods. In the judicial system, we will ensure efficient disposal of cases within a reasonable period of time, assess and reduce business risks, specifying the regulation in the area of protection of investors' rights and insolvency.
14. We will create favourable conditions for technological preparedness to enhance knowledge transfer, innovation and their applicability, creation of high value-added technologies and commercialization.
15. We will improve the public procurement system by reducing the impact of shadow economy; we will restrict opportunities for offshore companies to participate in government and local government procurements, as well as for companies where the salary is considerably below the average in the sector. We will increase responsibility for the quality of execution; we will incorporate the principles of 'green procurement' in public procurements.
16. We will create the creative industries' cluster as a creative place for interaction among art, science, education, entrepreneurship and technologies to develop new companies and products and to encourage innovations in economics, in the social and environmental field and in public administration; we will also contribute to export capacity of creative industries in Latvia.
17. We will support export of goods and services and entry into new markets, by strengthening the capacity of embassies and the Latvian Investment and Development Agency and in cooperation with entrepreneurs' organizations and representations of economic interests; we will also provide long-term export credit guarantees.
18. We will create and introduce the support programs, which promote the availability of industrial areas to investors, using the EU funding resources.
19. We will ensure that Latvia as one of the greenest European countries undertakes grounded commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which complies with long-term national economy interest.
20. We will develop a more extensive employment policy, by focusing not only on reducing the unemployment as the main direction in employment policy, but also on improving competence and productivity of every employee, including in risk groups – for youth and senior labour force – ensuring the identification of demand and supply of future labour market and decent work. We will assess the implementation of flexible forms of employment in accordance with labour market trends of the European Union and the Baltic States, subject to the proportionality of employees' and employers' rights.
21. We will provide support (incl. grants) for professional training of companies' employees and technology development to improve competitiveness and work efficiency of companies.

Public administration and public asset management

22. In the programming period of the European Union funds for 2014-2020, we will provide targeted support for local governments and public authorities, as well as businesses and non-governmental organizations to promote national competitiveness and structural adjustment of economy, employment and education, to reduce inequality and promote a balanced territorial development, as well as the efficient use of environmental resources.
23. We will ensure timely, targeted launch of the programming period of the European Union funds for 2014-2020, by developing and accrediting the management and control system in accordance with the effective management and partnership principles, sequentially reducing the number of administrative and control levels of administration and administrative burden at all levels, introducing e-solutions to reduce the document flow of project implementers and by developing effective provisions for implementing the specific support objectives and the project evaluation criteria.
24. Developing a regulatory framework for implementing specific support objectives of the programming period of the European Union funds for 2014-2020, we will analyse the needs, resulting criteria and indicators to be achieved in territorial breakdown.
25. We will introduce targeted governance of state – owned capital companies that meets the principles of better governance to ensure efficient and sustainable development and to improve the financial results of state-owned capital companies.
26. We will ensure that the strategic companies are retained in state ownership.
27. We will continue to build a professional, efficient, modern, results-oriented public administration, by promoting remote work opportunities, by introducing the principles of e-government in delivering public services, thereby making improvements in the *Networked Readiness Index* ranking.
28. We will regularly assess administrative burden and present proposals for reducing it.
29. We will foster a more effective institutional and territorial system of regions in addressing the issues such as public administration and regional development.

Education, science and innovations, sports

30. We will implement measures for the transition to compulsory secondary - general or vocational - education.
31. We will establish a system to ensure that the most knowledgeable and more purposeful people become teachers. We will reorganize the young pedagogues' training programs in pedagogical universities. We will create a motivation system for teachers of schools of general education and implement a model for calculating work pay for young pedagogues.
32. We will pay particular attention to teaching sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry) in order to improve pupils' level of knowledge of sciences. We will create a new career choice motivation system, to encourage young people to study engineering, natural sciences and information and communication technologies.
33. We will improve the attractiveness of the vocational education and work at school, linking it to the needs of the labour market- we will improve administration of schools, the contents of curriculum, increase teachers' professionalism and improve infrastructure by involving the representatives of the industries and local governments. We will develop a support mechanism for entrepreneurs and pupils in creating places for practice as well as teaching – learning process which is based on the work environment.

34. We will increase the international competitiveness of the higher education. We will implement the model of funding the higher education that is based on the quality evaluation of the studies and research work. We will promote involvement of the higher education institutions in the economic development of the regions of Latvia, and will strengthen the higher education establishments in the regions. We will develop the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of the Higher Education of Latvia.
35. We will support excellence in science both with human resource programmes and infrastructure, which is oriented towards efficient transfer of the created knowledge to production, society and culture. We will create a support programme for the most outstanding science institutions and the areas of strategic importance for the national economy. We will ensure the active participation of the science institutions of Latvia in the international research programmes.
36. We will simplify and speed up the procedure of the patent application registration. We will ensure the efficient protection of the intellectual property rights.
37. We will support interest group education and lifelong learning in the career orientation, for increase in work productivity and quality of leisure time and development of talents.
38. We will develop the plan for funding the higher education and science in order to achieve gradually the amount of the funding stipulated in the normative acts.
39. We will ensure the support for the students in doctoral programmes by involving them into the practical projects and scientific researches, especially in the sciences oriented programmes (technologies, engineering and mathematics).
40. We will improve the basis of the normative acts, which regulate the sports area. We will evaluate the need to reform the sports administration and opportunities for additional funding, including the salaries for sport coaches, funding for the development of the popular sports, youth sports, high achievement sports, the regional system of sport centres (sport boarding schools), and the national sport bases.

Regional development

41. In accordance with *Latvia 2030*, the *NDP2020*, the *Regional Policy Guidelines 2013-2019*, we will support the development of national and regional development centres, the Baltic Sea coast, Latgale, rural and border areas, contributing to reach ability of these territories and access to public services, as well as by improving the business environment in line with development opportunities and priorities and taking into account the availability of public resources.
42. We will provide local governments with stimulus to attract investment to entrepreneurship, providing support for the development of premises, services, utilities, access roads and other public infrastructure in accordance with investment needs.
43. We will develop a new financial equalization system of local governments that will provide a balanced, regionally balanced access to resources for all local governments.
44. When making further changes in tax policy, which reduce the personal income tax revenue for local government budgets, we will compensate tax reductions on labour for local governments.
45. We will promote the development of the Latvian tourism industry, by fostering competitiveness of tourism services, including the development of resort treatment research and rural tourism, and by positioning Latvia as an attractive tourism destination, making full use of the potential of Rīga as the capital city.

Environment and use of natural capital

46. We will provide energy-saving management that does not deteriorate natural resources of Latvia.
47. We will continue to implement economically justified and efficient projects in the fields of energy efficiency and water management.
48. We will not allow the liberalization of Latvian laws as regards availability and distribution of genetically modified organisms and products containing genetically modified organisms.
49. We will promote public awareness of environmental issues and public participation in decision-making in the area of environmental protection.
50. We will preserve the natural, biological and landscape diversity, including sustainable use of the *Natura 2000* territories, providing high-quality living environment and qualitative recreational services.
51. We will promote the transfer of the Baltic Sea beach area and inland waters to local governments, ensuring their targeted management, cleaning, economic activities and tourism development in coastal areas.
52. We will develop a strategy for sustainable use of peat and other subsoil resources.

Energy

53. We will reduce the negative impact of electricity prices on competitiveness of energy-intensive export companies.
54. In order to ensure security of energy supply, while maintaining a cost-benefit ratio, we will complete the inter-connection and base power generation projects, including the *Kurzeme Ring* and Latvia – Estonia interconnection.
55. We will develop a legal framework for opening the natural gas market in Latvia in 2017, ensuring alternative opportunities for gas supply and providing free use of Inčukalns Gas Storage Facility and gas transmission infrastructure for any gas supplier. We will implement the projects for diversification of natural gas supply chains (for supply of liquefied gas, new pipeline connections etc.), incl. using the European Union funds for infrastructure development.
56. We will set as an important foreign policy priority of Latvia the reducing of economic and energy dependence of Latvia. We will take an active part in the development of the European energy union.
57. By attracting the financing of the EU funding programs and other sources of financing, we will introduce a financial instrument for energy efficiency in order to increase the availability of state aid to ensure energy efficiency of private and public buildings, especially in the regions of Latvia. We will increase the minimum energy performance requirements for power generation equipment and building structures. We will launch the state aid program to ensure the implementation of measures to improve energy efficiency of apartment buildings.
58. We will review market mechanisms to achieve renewable energy targets; we will develop and adopt a new long-term policy to support renewable energy resources.
59. We will assess the participation of Latvia in the Visaginas Nuclear Power Plant project.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

60. We will support increase in the competitiveness and efficiency of small and medium-sized farms, as well as home compounders and rural tourism, including diversification of activities and creation of value added to ensure the preservation of rural environment and lifestyle.
61. We will develop the bio economy strategy to get the maximum value from natural resources of Latvia and to implement the transition to low carbon emissions in all sectors.
62. We will support co-operation, particularly at the level of small and medium-sized farms and forest owners.
63. We will provide support mechanisms for "deeper" processing of agricultural and forestry products in Latvia, taking into account scientific advances, including the creation of new food products and development of manufacturing.
64. We will promote the availability of credit resources and state support for the agricultural sector for the implementation of the European Union-funded projects and the acquisition of agricultural land.
65. We will increase the agricultural output per unit of production (including the one produced with organic methods) and the share of recommended food in production.
66. We will return unused agricultural land to the productive manufacturing cycle in accordance with economically and socially justified criteria.
67. We will ensure that the Land Fund of Latvia starts work.
68. We will ensure balanced funding for farmers to achieve equal level of support and competitiveness with the other Baltic States. With the increase in the single area payment of the European funds, we will anticipate proportional state aid to ensure that the total amount of funding does not decrease.
69. We will set the melioration development objectives and priorities, as well as contribute to improving the melioration system, recognising its importance in development of the territory of Latvia and security of the population.
70. We will prepare and implement proposals, which promote sustainable forest management, increase in the value of forest capital and proportionate investment of revenues in local government budgets to strengthen the economic viability of forest management.
71. We will ensure a balanced fisheries policy, subject to sustainability and need to conserve resources in marine and inland waters. We will increase the value added in the processing of fisheries and freshwater aquaculture products by preserving and developing the export market. We will support the development of small fishing ports.
72. We will provide high-quality infrastructure for the development of rural environment, using the European Union's funding.

Transport, infrastructure and communications

73. We will implement the Road Programme, thus ensuring the renovation of the main, regional, local and rural roads, as well as the bridges by allocating the resources from the state budget, European Union funds and from public and private partnership; we will gradually increase the funding from the state and local government budgets to maintain and repair roads. We will increase quality monitoring at all stages of road construction.

74. We will ensure the development of the electronic communications sector and availability of broadband telecommunications infrastructure throughout Latvia, including the border area. We will implement the objectives of the *Digital Program for Europe* (including the development of the broadband Internet infrastructure) to ensure economic competitiveness of Latvia by promoting the development of different innovative products and services.
75. We will contribute to attracting new partners and entry into new markets to ensure continuous development of the transit and logistics sector and potential for growth, creating conditions for increasing transit cargo turnover in the ports of Latvia and the value added of the transit corridor of Latvia.
76. We will launch the implementation of the *RailBaltica* project and the European standard gauge railway construction works, using the resources of the European Union funds.
77. We will develop the public infrastructure of the railway and ports, ensuring the service of the cargo flows and increased competitiveness of the transit corridor in order the transport by rail in Latvia together with the ports would strengthen the market position in the international freight service in the Baltic region. We will implement transparent funding of the railway infrastructure development from the state budget and the European Union funds. We will start implementing the railway electrification project in the East – West transit corridor.
78. We will develop the ports of Rīga, Ventspils and Liepāja as competitive and complementary logistics centres and as an integral part of the Europe-Asia transit routes, including within the framework of the European Union's Trans-European Transport Network.
79. We will improve the passenger transportation system throughout the country by providing accessible and cost-effective passenger transportation.
80. We will ensure coherent growth of the aviation industry.
81. We will implement complex measures to develop electromobility.
82. We will ensure the development of a cycling infrastructure of international and local significance, using the assistance of the European Union funds and state aid. When implementing the new national highway construction projects, we will envisage the development of cycling infrastructure as far as possible.

II QUALITY OF LIFE OF A FAMILY AND AN INDIVIDUAL IN LATVIA

In order to improve well-being of the families and secure the reproduction of the nation, the aim and challenge for the next four years is to reduce social and income inequality. We will work to ensure that everyone, especially people with low income and families with children, has the opportunity, by performing decent work, to earn the income necessary for obtaining high quality education, to access health care and social services, where necessary, as well as to enjoy the culture events. We believe that it is the way how to ensure social security in the country and promote the people's participation in activities of the communities and civil society thus providing opportunities for having life full of pride and satisfaction in united and patriotic country, which is aware of its national identity and is rooted in the common values of all inhabitants of Latvia.

Reducing social and income inequality, health

83. We will give priority to well – being of the families with children and reducing risks of poverty, which is the basis for creating larger families.
84. With the help of tax and social support instruments we will ensure the increase in the income for people with low income faster than for the whole society on average.
85. We will promote the harmonization of work and family life, incl. by supporting remote working.
86. We will implement targeted solutions for the problems of regional and long lasting unemployment, particularly supporting the people who are under the risk of being unemployed the most.
87. We will harmonize the retraining programmes for the unemployed with the needs of national economy sectors, while supporting training of the unemployed in respective enterprises.
88. We will develop the informative base for implementing social entrepreneurship in Latvia, thus supporting and promoting the creation of social enterprises.
89. In 2015 we will increase the minimum wage by 40 euro and, in the coming years, we will continue to increase in order to gradually reach a half of the average pay in the national economy.
90. With the year 2016 we will implement the non – taxable minimum for the progressive personal income tax, by increasing it for the people with low income, preserving almost the same level for people with average income, but for salaries, which significantly exceed the average pay in the country, it would not be applied. We will also increase the child and dependent – care – tax credit by assessing the opportunity to apply greater tax relief for the second and every next child in the family.
91. We will promote the activity of different social groups and participation in the community initiatives, the activities of the civil society and in establishing cooperation with the public administration and local government institutions, thus promoting the society's trust in politics and democratic structures, thereby reducing social isolation, which can be the basis for social exclusion, as well as by promoting active aging.
92. We will promote accessibility and quality of education at all levels of education, including life – long learning, which creates the basis for productivity and high value added employment.
93. We will gradually implement free healthy lunch for pupils.
94. We will develop a special approach in the learning process to ensure pupils' ability to learn, digital and finance skills, social and civil skills; to promote culture awareness and sporting skills, the ability to analyze information and take responsibility for their decisions.
95. We will create a strategic model for the development of the school net that will provide education till the form 6 as close to the place of residence as possible, while preserving the schools in the rural areas of Latvia as important centres of local communities. We will concentrate the obtaining of secondary education in schools with well-developed pedagogical staff and material technical resources.
96. We will implement the principle of inclusive education by revising work of general education institutions, focusing it on the needs of young people with special needs and

young people with high risk of social integration, thus promoting tolerance in the society towards the young people under the risk of social exclusion.

97. We will implement the inclusive education in schools and pre – schooling institutions by providing corresponding funding and increasing the accessibility of the staff.
98. We will develop a support net created by local governments, state institutions and social organizations, which gives the practical opportunity for the socially excluded groups (like families under social risk and orphans) to plan career, psychological help and help in solving administrative issues.
99. By improving the skills to take care of health, promoting health and disease prevention, we will reduce health inequality and the negative impact of the risk factors for health, which may serve as the reason for lasting or premature loss of the working abilities as well as potentially lost years of life.
100. We will reduce the harmful products for health and spread of habits by using tax instruments to reduce alcohol and tobacco consumption and restricting accessibility to addictive substances.
101. By observing the principle “health in all policies”, we will develop coordinated health care and social services rooted in communities, especially for people with disabilities and seniors, which is the basis for maintaining long lasting and broader social activities and ability to work, as well as active ageing and reducing the inequality.
102. We will gradually increase funding from the state budget for health care needs, while using already allocated funding for the health care field more efficiently in order to reduce inequality in access to health care services for low-income people; we will reduce the patients’ direct payments for health care services and widen the list of the evidence – based reimbursable medicines and medical devices.
103. We will increase the patients’ security level and the measurable efficiency gains of the health care quality and funding from the state budget thus strengthening the primary health care and implementing the quality administration system of the health care and pay model for the groups of related diagnosis as well as administrating the needed reforms purposefully and developing cooperation with the social service providers.
104. We will implement a single electronic system of the health care area by making efficient planning of the health care, coordination, data protection and control, as well as providing a patient with appropriate service.
105. We will ensure better access to health care services in the regions by strengthening the role of hospitals.
106. We will develop a strategy for life – long learning for the persons in treatment and supporting persons in treatment and will start its purposeful implementation, while solving the issues associated with attraction of human resources for health care outside Rīga to promote their stay in Latvia.
107. We will strengthen inter – institutional cooperation, emphasising the importance of the social work by improving the salary and motivation system of social workers and more clearly highlighting the role of social services in developing an inclusive and balanced labour market.
108. We will increase the opportunities for independent life for those groups of inhabitants, which receive social care in institutions, by promoting alternative – social services based in the society and the development of services, which are brought closer to the family environment.

109. We will strengthen the capacity of current long – term social care and social rehabilitation institutions for adult persons by increasing the quality of services in the situations where the deinstitutionalization is not possible.
110. In order to provide a child with the opportunity to grow up in a family or in a family environment, we will strengthen the movement of alternative families (foster families, guardians) by improving the services provided during the outside of family care; we will promote the family environment for the childcare facilities outside the institutions and young people's readiness for the life after outside of family care. We will define the reasonable amount of maintenance for children in foster families and under guardianship in balance with the necessary expenses. We will provide foster-parents with the state budget contributions for pension insurance.
111. We will ensure timely and efficient psychological support for families in crisis situations and rehabilitation.
112. We will ensure the stability and sustainability of the pension system, maintaining at least the current level of social contributions.
113. We ensure the indexation of pensions, taking into account a larger share of the average insurance contribution wage increase.
114. We will revise the procedures for updating the accumulated pension capital, by eliminating the impact of rapid changes/fluctuations of affecting indicators on the amount

Demography

115. We will promote the reproduction of the people of Latvia by building a road map, providing the support and appropriate environment for upbringing and education of children to ensure that residents return to Latvia.
116. We will substantially expand the state support for large families (medical services, the state family allowances, discounts etc.) by introducing a specific "third child" policy.
117. Creating the housing support system for families, we will base it not only on property rights, but will ensure access to rent apartments of the public sector, especially in the regions.
118. We will create a special support system for positive demography, natural growth and reducing the number of artificially terminated pregnancies.

Culture

119. We will strengthen the motivation of employees working in the field of culture and their competitiveness in the labour market of the Baltic States, incl. by completing the work on the draft law on the status of the creative professions and creative professional organizations and support to their activities.
120. We will re-establish the funding model for the State Culture Capital Foundation.
121. We will implement a varied and all regions of Latvia inclusive programme for the 100 – year anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia and Latvian war for freedom (2017 – 2020), which is oriented towards the cohesion of the society, strengthening of national consciousness and will, and towards increased research and explanation of the history of Latvia.

122. We will prepare the XXVI Latvian Nationwide Song and XVI Dance Festival and will ensure its successful conduct, including preparation of the modern, national stadium suitable for holding Dance Festival in due time. We will give a systematic support to preserving the tradition of the Song and Dance Festival in Latvian communities abroad.
123. We will develop the capital of Latvia as the culture metropolis of the Baltic region, incl. we will renovate the Latvian National Museum of Art, the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia, the New Riga Theatre and the National History Museum of Latvia in Riga Palace, by planning in due time the provision of high quality content.
124. We will define the national order in culture education at all levels of education, by taking into consideration the needs for development of culture in Latvia and the labour market. In the professional culture education we will develop at least two centres of competence.
125. We will define a list of minimum free of charge culture services for children and young people at each age stage, including the support for culture consumption for the children and young people, who are at the risk of social exclusion; we will create the project "Culture School Bag" by starting its implementation in 2018. We will increase the accessibility of the interest groups and out – of – class activities for pupils.
126. We will activate and develop the national programme "Heritage 2018" to improve culture infrastructure, incl. purposeful planning of the use of the funding from the European Union funds to preserve natural and cultural heritage and its inclusion in the active economic circulation thus creating new jobs and services for the society.
127. We will create the Latvian National Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage. We will develop the protection system of the cultural heritage by focusing on public participation in the public administration, interdisciplinary cooperation, and establishing a dialogue with all policy areas at all levels of the public administration.
128. We will establish the scientific research centre of higher education institutions in the field of art and culture of Latvia – the Institute of Culture Research.
129. We will form the net of the digital culture heritage competency; ensure long- lasting preservation of digitalized and digitally created cultural heritage in memory institutions and its wide accessibility to the public. We will ensure the digital contents and creation of new digital products, as well as we will develop e – services by expanding their accessibility and possibilities of usage in the economic activities.
130. We will develop the accessibility of funding model for professional art in the local governments, which are outside the Riga region.

National identity, social cohesion, re – emigration and information space

131. We will activate the interaction between the culture and education processes to strengthen awareness of the cultural values, to increase the nation's self- esteem and cohesion on the basis of common values, including creative approaches. We will popularize the canon of culture of Latvia in the society, especially among young people and the Latvian communities abroad.
132. We will support maintenance of the regional culture of Latvia and peculiarities of Latvian language as an important part of the common national identity.
133. We will increase opportunities for national minorities to participate actively in the processes of the cultural and social life of Latvia, including the support for national minorities' non – governmental organizations.

134. We will continue strengthening the role of the state, especially in the mass media and the labour market.
135. We will develop the policy of the mass media. We will promote the development of the digital mass media as well as printed press, thus creating favourable condition for their existence and competitiveness. We will secure balanced development of the mass media space, which is created by both public and commercial (including regional) mass media. We will implement the support measures for the mass media in Latvia. We will promote reflection of the fundamental values of the Preamble of the Constitution in the national information space. We will restrict spread of the channels hostile for the statehood of Latvia in the information space of Latvia.
136. We will secure the development of the civil society by improving the civil participation skills of residents and opportunities for participation in solving common issues. We will prepare the concept of the Fund for the Non- Governmental Organizations.
137. In order to strengthen the sense of the belonging to Latvia and its culture space, we will support the measures for political and civil participation of the compatriots living abroad and their involvement in the economic and cultural life of Latvia as well as in the science and education. We will secure the return of the compatriots to the motherland. We will support the activities of the Latvian community organizations abroad.
138. We will adjust one – stop agency for the needs of the third country nationals, who wish to return back to Latvia.
139. We will ensure the inclusion of the re – emigrated young people in the system of education thus creating opportunities for students with poor language skills to learn in intensive courses together with other re – emigrants and immigrants as well as offering the teacher assistant for the first semester in order to promote successful adaptation of a pupil in a new environment and handling hardships, which are connected with the differences in the curriculum in different education systems.

III NATIONAL SECURITY

The events in Ukraine have significantly changed the security situation in Europe, and in the long term will have a significant impact on the security in Latvia. Therefore, national defence and mitigation of hazard will be the government's priority, by strengthening the self-defence capabilities of Latvia, and linking them closely with collective defence of NATO and solidarity of the allies. At the same time we will strengthen public security, by combating crime and promoting the effective functioning of the judicial system, thus providing stability and legal certainty for every resident.

Strengthening the rule of law

140. We will continue to improve the legal framework of shared ownership and mortgage lending.
141. We will continue the reform of the judicial system and improve the judicial work by merging judicial territories, completing the transition to the pure instance system in civil cases and continuing the improvement of procedural norms to shorten the term and improve the quality of legal proceedings.
142. We will improve the creation of normative acts by reducing their amount and number, regular amending and too detailed legal order. We will enhance efficiency of legal proceedings by systematically assessing the conformity of norms of procedural laws not

only with the right to fair trial, but also with the modern understanding of fast and efficient lawsuit.

143. We will accomplish work on the legal order of activities of the insolvency process administrators and improving the system for monitoring the insolvency process and strengthening the creditors' protection in the legal redress proceedings.
144. In the process of drafting the laws and regulations of the European Union, we will ensure defence of national interests and respect towards principal values of Latvia as a national state.
145. We will implement the reform of the administrative offences' system.
146. We will establish and implement a system for the support and defence of victims of criminal offences.
147. We will accomplish the implementation of the electronic monitoring system of convicted persons and continue the development of the resocialization policy of former prisoners, incl. developing the state support system to integrate these persons in the labour market.
148. We will improve the normative acts to ensure effective prevention of violations of human rights and fundamental rights, providing effective and immediate mechanisms for human rights protection in criminal and administrative proceedings.
149. We will introduce a unified model of electronic auctions in the processes of enforcement of judgements and in insolvency proceedings.
150. We will develop a unified model of appeals in relation to decisions made in disciplinary cases of members of the judiciary profession.
151. We will reduce corruption in the country, by implementing preventive measures to reduce the risk of corruption and ensuring independent, professional and efficient work of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau.
152. In order to promote the protection of children's rights and fulfilment of parents' duties, we will complete work on a publicly available database of maintenance defaulters.

Public security

153. We will introduce a remuneration system, which is based on new quality criteria, for officials with special service ranks.
154. We will develop a new concept of National Security and the National Security Plan in accordance with the new geopolitical circumstances.
155. We will accomplish the investigation of Zolitūde tragedy. We will develop a new legal framework in the area of civil protection, civil catastrophes and crisis management. We will modernize the System of Civil Protection.
156. We will combat and reduce organized crime, trafficking in human beings, and drugs and psychotropic substance abuse.
157. We will implement a rigorous and controlled migration and asylum policy. We will increase efficiency of the border control system.
158. Developing a uniform higher education system for employees of law enforcement institutions, we will develop and implement a specialized second-level higher education program for employees of law enforcement and security authorities.
159. We will modernize the materially technical base of the interior system.

160. We will implement the concept for the development of the State Police. We will reorganize the Office of the Internal Security of the State Police into an institution, which is supervised by the Minister for the Interior.
161. We will implement the national criminal intelligence model in law enforcement institutions and in the state security institutions.
162. We will increase opportunities to prevent and combat legalization of illegally acquired funds, by establishing and gradually developing a service (structural unit) in the composition of the State Police.
163. We will prevent the threat to internal security of Latvia caused by foreign-inspired forces.
164. We will revise the procedure for issuing temporary residence permits in compliance with national security interests of Latvia.

Foreign policy

165. We will consistently implement the core task of the government's foreign policy – to safeguard national security and stability, to create conditions internationally for country's economic growth and wellbeing of the population. In international and bilateral relations, we will emphasize the principle of legal succession of the state of Latvia. We will use Latvia's membership in the United Nations Organization, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a framework for the execution of this principal task and pursue the interests of Latvia in the context of bilateral, regional and global foreign policy challenges.
166. We will implement the work program of Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, with particular attention to priority directions of activity of the Presidency: competitiveness and growth of the European Union, the use of the European digital potential for the development of the European Union and strengthening the role of the European Union on a global scale.
167. We will actively participate in the development of the European Union as a sound union of national states, particularly promoting the implementation of a common foreign, security, energy and the single market policy. We will base the activities of Latvia's representatives in international organizations on defence of national interests of Latvia. By supporting national interests, we will also support further integration of the European Union and the European Union's political and economic unity, a common foreign policy of the European Union and the stability of the euro area.
168. We will build relationships with the European Union's neighbouring countries based on the principles of international law, mutual respect and European fundamental values.
169. We will implement the objectives of the EU development cooperation, focusing on the priority regions of Latvia's foreign policy - the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries.
170. We will strengthen the strategic partnership with the United States in the fields of security policy and economy. We will promote the maximum integration of the European Union and Transatlantic Trade Area, eliminating the obstacles to the free movement of goods, services and investment flows.
171. We will finalize negotiations on Latvia's accession to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development by the end of 2016.
172. We will contribute to national competitiveness and sustainable development; we will implement an efficient and uniform foreign economic policy. We will defend foreign

economic interests in traditional partner countries, and actively support businesses of Latvia in the identified new export markets by developing closer relations with new leaders of economic growth.

173. We will explain internationally the 20th century history of Latvia, promoting awareness of the occupations by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Nazi Germany and crimes committed by these regimes, about the role of Latvia and its citizens in World War II.
174. In addition to the existing formats of cooperation with the partners of Latvia, we will promote further cooperation of the Baltic and Black Sea countries in the field of politics and economy.
175. We will promote international recognition of Latvia: Latvia – a safe, ecologically clean country, which has successfully implemented the national economy and political reforms; Latvia – a solitaire state of the European Union open to new ideas; Latvia – a trustworthy partner in the Euro-Atlantic cooperation. Within the framework of the External Economic Relations Coordination Council we will develop guidelines for a unified image of Latvia to pursue the external economic interests.

Defence

176. We will continue to increase the funding for defence in accordance with the "State Defence Funding Law", by increasing gradually the funding for defence to 2% of gross domestic product till 2020.
177. We will strengthen the readiness and response capabilities of the National Armed Forces by increasing the competence of the staff and the number of professional service soldiers in the National Armed Forces; we will develop the abilities, which improve the mobility, response capability of the National Armed Forces and a better understanding of the situation at the borders of Latvia.
178. We will promote greater public involvement in state's defence by strengthening the role of the Latvian National Guard in defence and its battle capabilities. We will promote civil awareness and understanding about the state and patriotism, including the improvement and expanding of the Youth Guards movement and making it accessible to the youth in the schools of Latvia.
179. We will strengthen the constant presence of allied military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Latvia by ensuring favourable regulations for support of the host country; we will ensure the fulfilment of the commitments related to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's allies.
180. We will promote the creation of the industrial military technical base for the needs of maintaining and providing the National Armed Forces thus reducing vulnerability of the National Armed Forces and promoting industrial development; we will ensure the use of potential of the national economy in the supplies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
181. We will develop cyber security and strategic communications capability, ensuring that the National Armed Forces are able to respond to contemporary threats and challenges.
182. We will strengthen the media space of Latvia, by supporting the creation of the civil and cohesive content, with a particular focus on promoting awareness of democratic values.
183. We will create an effective mobilization system and provide the necessary material and technical reserves.

Prime Minister	Laimdota Straujuma
Minister for Defence	Raimonds Vējonis
Minister for Foreign Affairs	Edgars Rinkēvičs
Minister for Economics	Dana Reizniece-Ozola
Minister for Finance	Jānis Reirs
Minister for the Interior	Rihards Kozlovskis
Minister for Education and Science	Mārīte Seile
Minister for Culture	Dace Melbārde
Minister for Welfare	Uldis Augulis
Minister for Transport	Anrijs Matīss
Minister for Justice	Dzintars Rasnačs
Minister for Health	Guntis Belēvičs

Minister for Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development

Kaspars Gerhards

Minister for Agriculture

Jānis Dūklavs