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## APPROACHING THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BALTIC NATO MEMBERSHIP: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND A WAY FORWARD

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### PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

**10:00** Opening remarks by **H.E. Mr. Edgars Rinkēvičs**, Foreign Minister of Latvia and **Dr. Artis Pabriks**, Defence Minister of Latvia

#### 10:30 Discussion 1

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#### **In Anticipation of 10th and 15th Anniversaries of NATO Membership. Retrospective View on Baltic and Visegrad Accomplishments and Outlook for the Future**

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In 2014, the Baltic and Visegrad countries will celebrate their 10th and 15th anniversaries since becoming members of NATO. The time has come to look back together to the main accomplishments, benefits from the membership as well as common investments in security. How successful our regional cooperation has been? How countries evaluate their participation in NATO missions and regional trainings, including the recent Steadfast Jazz 2013? What does being a responsible NATO member means in times of changing geopolitical realities and financial austerity and what does the future hold for Baltic and V4 countries? During the discussion, speakers will share their viewpoints on NATO integration experience and lessons learned. Furthermore, the discussion will examine the current and possible future efforts in improving the regional cooperation and overall security in Central and Eastern Europe.

*Speakers:*

**Mr. Māris Riekstiņš**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to NATO

**Mr. Jānis Sārts**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Latvia

**Ms. Kyllike Sillaste-Elling**, Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia

**Mr. Jan Havránek**, Assistant First Deputy Minister, and Director of Defence Policy and Strategy Division of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic

**Dr. Csaba Törő**, Senior Research Fellow, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Hungary

*Moderator:* **Dr. Žaneta Ozoliņa**, Vice-Chairman of the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation, Professor of the Department of Political Science, University of Latvia

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#### 12:05 – 12:20

Coffee break conversation

#### **'What is the Future Outlook of the Baltics and the V4 within NATO?'**

*Speakers:*

*Mr. Edward Lucas, International Section Editor, The Economist*

*Ms. Kristiina Ojuland, MEP, Former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Estonia*

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## 12:30 Discussion 2

### When Information and Image Matter: Effectiveness and Visibility of NATO Public Diplomacy Efforts

As the Alliance develops, threats it is dealing with also emerge. In order to respond, a strong Public Diplomacy Strategy is crucial for the Alliance and is indispensable to overcome problems within it.

How has the art of communication changed over the last decade? And how could NATO's image be improved? Has the perception of NATO changed over the years in our societies? What are the most efficient ways to inform the next generation? What is the role of Public Diplomacy in convincing our societies to spend adequately on defence? And, how could the forthcoming Centre of Excellence on Strategic Communication contribute to NATO's arsenal of capabilities?

*Speakers:*

**Mr. Marijus Velička**, Vice-Minister of National Defence, Lithuania

**Mr. Michał Polakow**, Deputy Director of the Security Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

**Col. Aivar Jaeski**, Chief of Strategic Communication Department, Ministry of Defence, Estonia

**Dr. Gerlinde Niehus**, Head, Engagements Sections, NATO Public Diplomacy Division

*Moderator:* **Ms. Nora Vanaga**, National Defence Academy of Latvia