

THE BALTIC FORUM – 2005
**PROGRAMME OF THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

May 27 – 28, 2005

**Reval Hotel Latvia
55 Elizabetes Str., Riga**

**THE LARGE EUROPE OF THE 21ST CENTURY:
COMMON CHALLENGES? COMMON VALUES?**

Friday, May 27, 2005

- 10:00 – 10:30** **Opening of the conference. A salutatory word by the guests of honour**
- 10:30 – 12:00** **Audit of democracy: 15 years of democratic transformation of the post-Soviet space. Common goals, common paths?**
Moderators:
Abram KLECKIN and Juris ROZENVALDS

Speakers:

*Democratic Audit for Latvia: Presentation of the Results of the Research Project by the Institute for Social and Political Research, the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia, Prof. **Juris ROZENVALDS**, University of Latvia (Latvia)*

*The Problems of Democratic Development, **Sergey KARAGANOV**, Chairman of Russia's Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, Deputy Director, Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia)*

*Latvian Democracy in the European Context, Prof. **Brigita ZEPA**, University of Latvia, Director of the Baltic Institute of Social Sciences (Latvia)*

Valentin OVSYANNIKOV, Minister-Counsellor of the Russian Federation Embassy in the Republic of Latvia (Russia)

*Democracy and Security, **Sergey KARAGANOV**, Director of the Institute of Strategic Studies, Vice-president of the Russian-American Association (Russia)*

*Citizenship and the Nation, **Ilze BRANDS-KEHRIS**, Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies (Latvia)*

*15 Years: Children Diseases and Adolescent Inferiority Complexes of the Post-Soviet Democracies, **Aleksey SALMIN**, President of the Russian Public Policy Center*

The Specifics of Democratic Transformations in Latvia, Russia, and Poland, Prof. **Vladimir MENSHIKOV**, University of Daugavpils (Latvia)

A Democratic Transformation? The Relationship Between the Ends and the Means, **Zalman KATZ**, Member of the Board of the Baltic Forum (Latvia)

Prof. **Abram KLECKIN**, University of Latvia, (Latvia)

12:00 – 12:20 *Coffee break*

12:20 – 14:00 **Presentations continued, discussion**

Moderators:

Abram KLECKIN and Juris ROZENVALDS

14:00 – 15:00 *Dinner*

15:00 – 16:20 **The new EU countries between economic growth and social investment. A common European welfare model: a way to sustainable development of the EU?**

Moderators:

Victor MAKAROV and Eldar MAMEDOV

Speakers:

A Human-Centered Growth Model: Investments in Human Capital and Sustainable Development, **Edvīns KARNĪTIS**, Public Utilities Commission (Latvia)

The European Constitution as a Framework for Promotion of European Values, **Carlos CLOSA MONTERO**, Research Director, Center for Political and Constitutional Studies, Madrid

Europeans: Common Values Across Cultures, Prof. **Charis XIROUCHAKIS**, Council of the European Union (Greece / Brussels)

The Outlooks for Economic Growth in the Eastern Part of the Baltic Sea Region, **Leonid GRIGORIEV**, President of the Institute of Energy and Finances, President of the Association of the Independent Centers for Economic Analysis, Dean of the Faculty of Management, the International University, Moscow (Russia)

The Knowledge-based Welfare Society: An Alternative Socio-economic Strategy for Latvia, **Victor MAKAROV**, Research Fellow, Baltic Forum, (Latvia/Denmark)

The Role of the New EU Member States in the EU Strategy Towards Russia, **Nadia ARBATOVA**, Head of the Department on European Political Studies at the Center for European Integration, Institute for World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Head of Research Programs, "Russia in the United Europe" Committee Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia)

Vladimir AVERCHEV, Research Director, British Petroleum (Russia)

The Political Consequences of the Social Alienation in the Lithuanian Countryside, **Romualdas POVILAITIS**, Head of the

Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Institute of Rural Culture, Kaunas (Lithuania)

The Effectiveness of Use of Human Capital in the “Old” and “New” EU Member States, Prof. **Andrey NIKOLAYEV**, University of Daugavpils, (Latvia)

The Economic and Social Content of “Social Market Economy”, Prof. **Herbert SCHUI**, University of Politics and Economy, Hamburg, (Germany)

Future Economic Growth in the European Union: Lessons from the New Member States, **Morten HANSEN**, Visiting lecturer at EuroFaculty, University of Latvia, Stockholm School of Economics (Latvia/Denmark)

Criteria for a “Decent” Living Standard, Svetlana Saksonova and **Irina SOLOVYEVA**, Department of Economics, University of Latvia (Latvia)

Which way to Prosperity for Central Europe: Common European Welfare System or Tax Competition?, **Eldar MAMEDOV**, Baltic Forum researcher (Latvia/Spain)

- 16:20 – 16:40** **Coffee break**
- 16:40 – 18:00** **Presentations continued, discussion**
Moderators:
Tanya BOGUSHEVICH and Vladimir AVERCHEV
- 18:30 – 19:30** **Presentation of the book „In Search of Europe. Dialogues”, by Zalman KATZ**

Saturday, May 28, 2005

- 09:00 – 11:00** **Europe from Lisbon to ...? The EU and its Eastern neighbours in the emerging common political, economic, social, and humanitarian space**
Moderators:
Viktor SIPERKOVSKIY and Wojciech KOSIEDOWSKI

Speakers:

An Audit of the Trade and Logistical Support in the Baltic Countries, Prof. **Lauri OJALA**, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration (Finland)

Major Factors Influencing the Development of the Latvian Economy, **Aif VANAGS**, Director of the Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies (Latvia)

Latvia’s International Role, **Helmut SONNENFELDT**, Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies, The Brookings Institution, Washington, former member of the National Security Council of the Administration of President R. Nixon, in charge of European affairs (USA)

Two Models of a Common Europe, **Andrey KLIMOV**, Chairman of the State Duma Subcommittee for Regional Policies and Interregional Affairs (Russia)

Transitions and the Development of Transnational and Transborder Economic Cooperation in the North-Eastern Part of the EU, Prof. **Wojciech KOSIEDOWSKI**, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun (Poland)

Regional Co-operation: Trends and Optimal Forms, Dr. **Vladimir YELSUKOV**, Economic Advisor to the Byelorussian Confederation of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (Byelorussia)

Changes in the Territorial Economy of the EU Countries Caused by the International Integration and Restructuring of the Logistical and Informational Systems, Prof. **Igor KABASHKIN**, Vice Rector of the Transport and Telecommunications, Corresponding member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, (Latvia)

The Possibilities for Socio-economic Development in Latvia as an EU Member State: Problems and Solutions, Prof. **Elena DUBRA**, University of Latvia (Latvia)

European Integration in the Higher Education: The Potential for Cooperation between Russian and Latvian Universities, **Marina LEBEDEVA**, Head of the Department of International Politics, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Russia)

Nil USHAKOV, Member of the Board of the *Baltic Forum* (Latvia)

Viktor SIPERKOVSKIY, Member of the Board of the *Baltic Forum* (Latvia)

- 11:00 – 11:30** *Coffee break*
- 11:30 – 13:30** **Presentations continued, discussion**
Moderator:
Janis URBANOVICS
- 13:30 – 14:00** **Summing up the results of the conference**

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BALTIC FORUM IN 2004 – 2005: A BRIEF REPORT

Dear participants and guests of the Baltic Forum,

Besides its annual international conferences, the Baltic Forum has undertaken a number of initiatives and projects. Below is a brief overview of the most significant activities.

On the eve of the referendum on Latvia's accession to the European Union, when most polls focused on the "pro" and "con" ratios, the Baltic Forum together with the Baltic Institute of Social Sciences carried out a research project aimed at clarifying the reasons for supporting or rejecting the EU. The study included both citizens and non-citizens of Latvia.

During the same period, the Baltic Forum published the book *The Latvian Agenda 2004* where 54 experts including the members of the Board of the Baltic Forum commented on the issues related to Latvia's accession to the EU.

The participants of the 10th conference can get acquainted with a new book of the Baltic Forum - *In Search of Europe. Dialogues*, comprising 30 interviews by Zalman Katz, mostly with the regular participants of the Baltic Forum conferences from different countries, about their perception of the new Europe and Latvia's place in it.

On the eve of the 65th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, the Baltic Forum organized a discussion in Riga about its consequences and interviewed some of the leading Russian political analysts in Moscow. This project was continued in connection with the 60th anniversary of the victory over Nazism, when the Baltic Forum appealed to the heads of the leading world powers and to the President of Latvia. The Baltic Forum called to condemn the immorality of the policies that led to the division of Europe in the past in order to avoid the repetition of such action in the future. The political context of the project emphasizes the relevance of this approach and the fundamental orientation of the Baltic Forum towards constructive solutions.

When the collision related to the protests against the school reform reached its climax, the Baltic Forum held a discussion on this issue. The round table organized by the Forum gathered Evija Papule – the "godmother" of the reform from the Ministry of Education, Alexander Kazakov – one of the leaders of the Headquarters for the Defense of Russian Schools, later deported from Latvia, as well as members of Latvian parliament representing contrary views on the issue. Nils Muiznieks, then the Special Assignments Minister for Social Integration, read out the appeal of Prime Minister Indulis Emsis to the participants of the discussion. In addition to the experts and educational specialists, the participants included Janis Strazdins, Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on Education, Culture and Science, Eizenija Aldermane, Head of Naturalization Board, and other representatives from

the governmental institutions, which was very important in that period of tension. The Baltic Forum offered its own vision on how the educational process could be liberalized. The majority of the representatives of the Latvian and Russian intellectuals who phrased this approach in an open letter to the political leaders of the country have been cooperating with the Baltic Forum on a regular basis.

The Baltic Forum believes that its task is not only to react to the contemporary political agenda, but also to shape this agenda. With that end in view we held a discussion on the problems of the formation of Latvian political nation, involving international experts.

The same aim is also pursued in the current research project *A Knowledge-based Welfare State: An Alternative Socio-economic Development Strategy for Latvia*. The authors show that quasi-liberalism has no future and suggest a new vision for Latvia: a welfare state based on the principles of social equality and solidarity, investments in human and social capital. Promoting a dialogue about the future helps the society stop fighting about the past. Within the framework of this project the Baltic Forum held a series of discussions, the most recent of which – *The Lisbon Strategy in Latvia: Between Investments in Human Capital and Economic Growth* – was organized together with the Representation of the European Commission in Latvia and with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

The economic problems have invariably been discussed at the conferences and other events organized by the Baltic Forum. Yet the development of its own research in this area has opened a new page in the activities of the Forum. The novelty of the approach lies in the fact that the Baltic Forum managed to involve in the discussion of economic issues the doctoral students from the leading Latvian higher schools, such as the University of Latvia, the Riga Technical University, the Latvian Agricultural University, the Daugavpils University, and the Institute of Transport and Communication.

In April, the Baltic Forum held its first scientific conference for doctoral students and professors in Economics devoted to the topic: *Under What Conditions Does Market Economy Become a Factor of Raising People's Living Standards and of Ensuring the Basis for Sustainable Democratic Development?* It is planned that such conferences will be held every year, a month before the traditional international conference in May. In this way, the Baltic Forum intends to support young researchers, giving them a chance to exchange their ideas and to acquire the skills of participating in open discussion with their peers and with senior experts.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

1. *Latvia and Russia in a United Europe of the 21st Century: Friends, Adversaries or Partners?* June 2000, Jurmala, Latvia
2. *Russia and the Baltic States: The Way to Europe*, October 2000, Saint Petersburg, Russia
3. *Europe in the New Millennium: A Continent Without Dividing Lines*, November 2000, Riga, Latvia
4. *Maintaining and Developing the Latvian-Russian-Byelorussian Economic Ties in the Process of Latvian-EU and Russian-Byelorussian Integration: Experiences and Possibilities*, June 2001, Jurmala, Latvia
5. *The Globalisation and the Baltic Region: Problems and Solutions*, October 2001, Riga, Latvia
6. *The World in 2002: Challenges and Hopes*, June 2002, Jurmala, Latvia
7. *Quo vadis Post-Communist Countries: Experience in Creating a New Reality*, May 2003, Jurmala, Latvia
8. *The Baltics and Russia in a Greater Europe: The Economic Dialogue Today and Tomorrow*, January 2004, Moscow, Russia
9. *The Baltic States and Russia in a Greater Europe of the 21st Century*, May 2004, Jurmala, Latvia