



Conference

## **A comprehensive defence concept: strategic communication for societal resilience**

8 May 2026 at 10:00–15:00,  
Baltic Hall of the Saeima, Jēkaba iela 6/8, Riga

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**HOST:**

National Security Committee of the Saeima

**PURPOSE:**

The aim of the conference is to analyse Ukraine's experience and boost understanding on the importance of strategic communication as the foundation of critical resilience, with the purpose of promoting long-term resilience of Latvia and its society against the challenges faced by democratic states under severe crises

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*Working languages: Latvian, English, and Ukrainian*

**from 9:30** Arrival

**10:00** Opening

*Dr.sc.admin. **Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica**, Deputy Speaker of the Saeima  
**Ainars Latkovskis**, Chair of the Saeima National Security Committee*

### **Session I. War of information in practice: how to recognise and neutralise aggressor's propaganda and cognitive warfare**

**10:15** Introductory presentation (video)

**Yet another total war: the old aggressor's newest attempt to cause  
international disorder**

*Colonel **Arsen Dmytryk**, Chief of Staff of the First Corps Azov of the  
Ukrainian National Guard*

**10:30** Panel discussion

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*Moderator: **Mārtiņš Daugulis**, Lecturer at the Riga Stradins University, PhD in  
Political Science, Master's degree in Social Anthropology*

*Participants:*

*Dr.sc.admin. **Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica**, Deputy Speaker of the Saeima*

*Second Lieutenant **Olena Shtokalo**, Head of Strategic Communication at the  
Communications Department of the First Corps Azov of the Ukrainian National Guard*

***Sigita Struberga**, Secretary General of the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation (LATO)*

***Nika Aleksejeva**, Digital disinformation researcher at the NATO Strategic  
Communications Centre of Excellence*

**Maria Kovach**, Advisor to the Head of the Center for Strategic Communications of Ukraine, former Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, former Research Fellow at the Center for Defense Strategies of Ukraine

**Jānis Palkavnieks**, Spokesperson for “Draugiem Group” and co-founder of Foundation “Entrepreneurs for Peace”

Questions and answers

**12:00** Coffee break

## Session II. Fostering a culture of active comprehensive defence: a strategic approach

**12:40** Introductory presentation

**“Comprehensive defence” as the sum of “individual defences”:  
a revolutionary education reform**

Major **Ihor Yakubovskiy**, Officer of the First Corps Azov of the Ukrainian National Guard

**12:55** Introductory presentation

**The role of active civil society in comprehensive national defence**

**Kārlis Krastiņš**, volunteer organisation Support AZOV Latvia

**13:10** Panel discussion

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Moderator: **Ansis Bogustovs**, journalist

Participants:

**Ainars Latkovskis**, Chair of the Saeima National Security Committee

**Jānis Dombrava**, Deputy Chair of the Saeima National Security Committee

Second Lieutenant **Oleksandr Chorny**, Officer of the 12<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Brigade Azov of the Ukrainian National Guard

Brigadier General **Aivars Krjukovs**, Commander of the Latvian National Guard

Ph.D. **Päivi Tampere**, Chief of the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence Technology and Scientific Development Branch, Permanent Representative of Finland

**Viktor Andrusiv**, Military Instructor at the Military Institute of Telecommunications and Informatization, former Advisor to the Head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the Office of the President of Ukraine, and former Director of the Kyiv School of Public Administration.

Questions and answers

**14:40** Conference summary

**Ainars Latkovskis**, Chair of the Saeima National Security Committee

**14:45** Closing address

**Dzintars Dreiberģs**, filmmaker, patriot, inspirer