



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS
SAEIMA

Energy Forum

Does Latvia need a sustainable energy strategy suited to its economic interests

22 May 2023, 9:30–17:00
Baltic Hall, Jēkaba iela 6/8, Riga

AGENDA

The forum is organised by the Economic, Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Policy Committee of the Saeima.

Moderator: **Andris Kulbergs**, Chair of the Environmental, Climate and Energy Subcommittee of the Saeima

09:00 – 09:30 **Arrival and registration**

09:30 – 9:45 **Opening addresses**

Mr Egils Levits, President of Latvia

Mr Edvards Smiltēns, Speaker of the Saeima

Mr Andris Kulbergs, Chair of the Environmental, Climate and Energy Subcommittee of the Saeima

9:45 – 10:15 **SESSION I**

Energy strategy in Latvia: Present situation in the energy sector, future consumption estimates, security of supply

How to ensure national energy independence? What are the future forecasts regarding energy consumption? What should an energy generation portfolio look like? What are the issues pertaining to establishing the interconnections and security of supply, and what are the challenges to Green Deal solutions?

Participants:

Mr Raimonds Čudars, Minister of Climate and Energy of Latvia

Mr Līga Kurevska, State Secretary of the Ministry of Climate and Energy of Latvia

Speech of Mr Christopher Todd Robinson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia

10:15 – 11:05 **SESSION II**

The role and necessity of an energy strategy: EU and Baltic experience

The aim of the session is to study the current situation of other EU member states in regard to energy and the envisioned directions within the respective energy

strategies in order to gain experience for creating a strategy in Latvia. What is the projected energy consumption in other member states in the next years? What were the challenges encountered in drafting the strategies? Why was it necessary to draft an energy strategy? What should Latvia take into account in drafting its own energy strategy?

Participants:

Mr Germán Renau /remotely/, member of the Committee for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of the Parliament of Spain

Mr Olof van der Gaag /remotely/, Chairman of the Netherlands' Association of Sustainable Energy

Ms Inga Žilienė /remotely/, Vice-Minister of Energy of Lithuania

Mr Timo Tatar /remotely/, Deputy Secretary General for Energy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia

Discussion

11:05 – 11:25 **Coffee break**

11:25 – 11:55 **SESSION III**

Energy strategy as envisioned by policy makers

The aim of the session is to identify whether policy makers see a need for an energy policy in Latvia. If yes, what should this strategy look like and what are the main challenges it is likely to face? How to ensure national energy independence? What are the future forecasts regarding energy consumption? What should an energy generation portfolio look like? What are the issues pertaining to establishing the interconnections and security of supply, and what are the challenges to Green Deal solutions?

Participants:

Ms Līga Kurevska, State Secretary of the Ministry of Climate and Energy of Latvia

Mr Raimonds Lapiņš, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Economics of Latvia

Mr Arvīds Ozols, Director of the Forest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia

Mr Edvards Kušners, Advisor to the Council of the Bank of Latvia, Head of Sustainability of the Bank of Latvia

Discussion

11:55 – 13:10 **SESSION IV**

The need for an energy strategy: Perspectives of crucial and systemically important energy market operators. Consumption forecasts, diversified energy production and balancing portfolio, security of supply

The aim of the session is to identify the perspective of energy market operators on whether and why Latvia needs an energy strategy. What should the strategy look like, what challenges is it likely to face? What energy delivery infrastructure would be needed, how should it be funded? How to ensure and balance the interconnections? What should public and private participation look like?

Participants:

Mr Uldis Bariss, Chair of the Board of "Conexus Baltic Grid"

Mr Arnis Daugulis, Member of the Board of "Augstsprieguma tīkls"

Mr Sandis Jansons, Chair of the Board of "Sadales tīkls"

Mr Mārtiņš Čakste, Chair of the Board of "Latvenergo"

Mr Dāvis Skulte, Chair of the Board of "Elenger"

Discussion

13:10 – 14:10 **Lunch**

14:10 – 14:35 **SESSION V**

Energy strategy in Latvia as envisioned by the presidential candidates

The state of play in energy policy. What are the main strategic objectives in energy, and role of the President to achieve them?

14:35 – 15:15 **SESSION VI**

The role and necessity of an energy strategy within the context of economic development

The aim of the session is to identify the perspective of business organisations on whether and why Latvia needs an energy strategy. What should the strategy look like, what challenges is it likely to face? What infrastructure would be needed, how should it be funded? What should public and private participation look like?

Participants:

Mr Guntars Kokorevičs, Vicepresident of the Employers' Confederation of Latvia

Mr Jānis Endziņš, Chair of the Board of the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Ms Dace Cīrule, Leader of the Energy and Green Economy Work Group of the Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia

Mr Jānis Irbe, Deputy Chair of the Board of the Latvian Agricultural Organisation Cooperation Council, Chair of the Latvian Renewable Energy Federation

Discussion

15:15 – 15:30 **Coffee break**

15:30 – 16:40 **SESSION VII**

The role and necessity of an energy strategy as seen by energy market participants

The aim of the session is to identify the perspective of energy business participants on whether and why Latvia needs an energy strategy. What should the strategy look like, what challenges is it likely to face? What infrastructure would be needed, how should it be funded? How to ensure and balance the interconnections? What should public and private participation look like?

Participants:

Mr Alnis Bāliņš, Chair of the Board of Association "Solar Energy for Latvia"

Mr Toms Nāburgs, Member of the Board of the Latvian Wind Energy Association

Mr Aivars Starikovs, Chair of the Board of the Latvian Hydrogen Association

Mr Uldis Ameriks, Chair of the Board of "Laflora"

Mr Roberts Samtiņš, CEO of "AJ Power"

Discussion

16:40 – 17:00 **Forum Closing**

Discussion summary.

Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation of the parliamentary groups of the 14th Saeima of the Republic of Latvia on the need to develop Latvia's energy strategy 2023–2050.