

Moving Beyond The Ethnic Strife – What Parliamentary Leaders Can Do To Prevent War?

First international program of SLLF/Europe,
September 30 – October 3, 1999
Riga, Latvia

PROGRAM

September 29, 1999

During the day	Arrival of international delegates
	Registration of delegates at the hotel
07:30 p.m.	Pre-Conference Dinner in Riga Location still has to be announced Meeting point: Lobby of the hotel

September 30, 1999

	Registration of delegates at the hotel
During the day	Arrival of international delegates
11:00 a.m.	Site tour for international delegates Explore the surrounding area of Latvias capital
	Visit of the Ethnographic Open Air Museum of Latvia This museum evokes country life of the past. More than 120 wooden buildings from all over the country have been re-erected in natural surroundings. More than 3000 household artefacts are on display.
followed by	Trip to Sigulda, the heart of the “Gauja National Park”
	The 90, 000 acre Gauja National Park was created to protect a river valley unique in Latvia. Historic buildings like “New Castle”, the former summer residence of Count Kropotkin, and “Turaida Castle”, built in 1215, towns, the landscape, flora and fauna all fit into a concept enabling the park’s day to day life to continue and maximize its recreational facilities.

07:00 p.m. Official welcome dinner at the PARK HOTEL RIDZENE, hosted by the "State Legislative Leaders Foundation", represented by Mr. Stephen G. Lakis, President of SLLF, and The Hon. Senator Ben Atchley, Immediate Past Chairman of SLLF

October 1, 1999

08:00 a.m. Registration of delegates and guests at the conference site

09:00 a.m. Opening ceremony of the first international conference of SLLF/Europe at the "Vernisāža", Raimonds Pauls Musical center Riga

09:30 a.m. Welcome given by The Hon. Jānis Jurkāns, Member of Saeima, Chairman of SLLF/Europe, and Mr. Alfons Schöps, Director of European Operations, SLLF/Europe

09:45 a.m. Official welcome extended by Mr. Andris Bērziņš, Mayor of Riga

09:30 a.m. Session I:
"Ethnic Conflict Prevention in the Baltic Sea Region"
Speaker: Mr. Ole Espersen
Council of Baltic Sea States, Commissioner for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Denmark

10:45 a.m. Coffee break

11:00 a.m. Session II:
"Naval Cooperation in the Baltic Region"
Speaker: Vice-Admiral Hans Lüssow,
Commander of the Navy, Germany

12:30 p.m. Luncheon
Lunch Speech delivered by
The Honorable Jānis Straume,
Speaker of the Latvian Parliament (Saeima)

02:00 p.m. Session III:
"Minority Rights – A Challenge for State Legislatures:
The Schleswig-Holstein Experience"
Speaker: The Honorable Dr. Gabriele Kötschau, MdL, Deputy
Speaker of the Schleswig-Holstein House

- 03:45 p.m. Coffee break
- 04:00 p.m. Session IV:
 "The Impact of Ethnic Strife in One Nation Upon the Stability of a Geopolitical Region"
 Speaker: The Honorable Sirkka-Liisa Anttila, Vice President (Deputy Speaker) of the Parliament of Finland (Eduskunta)
- 05:30 p.m. End of Session
- 07:00 p.m. Official state banquet hosted by
 Her Excellency Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga,
 President of the Republic of Latvia
- Location: "Vernisāža"

October 2, 1999

- Conference Site Room "Bastejs 1,2,3" at the PARK HOTEL RIDZENE
- 09:00 a.m. Session V:
 "Did We Overcome? – Ethnic Strife and the Alabama Experience"
 Speaker: The Honorable Ken Guin, House Majority Leader, Alabama, United States of America
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee break
- 10:45 a.m. Session VI:
 "The Current Ethnical Conflicts in Russia and in the Caucasus"
 Speaker: Mr. Igor Yourgens, President, All Russia Insurance Association (*invited*)
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
 Lunch Speech delivered by
 The Honorable Andris Skele, Prime Minister of Latvia (*invited*)
- 02:00 p.m. Panel Discussion
 "Moving Beyond the Ethnic Strife – What Can We Really Do to Prevent Ethnical Conflicts?"

Participants:

- The Honorable Ken Guin, House Majority Leader, Alabama, United States of America
- The Honorable Jānis Jurkāns, Chairman of the Board, SLLF/Europe, Caucus and Party Chairman of the Union of Political Organizations "For Human Rights in the United Latvia"
- The Honorable Dr. Gabriele Kötschau, MdL, Deputy Speaker of the Schleswig-Holstein House, Germany, Expert on Minority Issues in Eastern Europe
- Mr. Stephen G. Lakis, President of SLLF
- The Honorable Lojze Peterle, Former Prime Minister of Slovenia

03:45 p.m.

End of Session

04:00 p.m.

Reception in honor of the international guests hosted by the Embassy of the United States of America in Latvia

06:00 p.m.

Special cultural event only for conference participants:
Organ Concert in the Dome of Riga!!!
Enjoy the magnificent Organ of the Dome of Riga, which once was the largest in the world (1884).

followed by

Dinner

Sunday, October 3, 1999

08:30 a.m.

Guided city tour of Riga

10:00 a.m.

End of Conference

Departure of international delegates
