



American Latvian Association
European Latvian Association
South American and Caribbean Latvian Association
Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand
Latvian National Federation in Canada
Latvian Congress in Russia

WORLD
FEDERATION
OF FREE
LATVIANS

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.

President of the United States

The Honorable Rishi Sunak

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada

The Honorable Jens Stoltenberg

Secretary General of NATO

Dear Sirs,

The upcoming NATO Summit in Vilnius will once again test the resolve of the Allies to provide support to Ukraine and show a strong united front of the collective West to the aggressor state Russia and its leader Vladimir Putin. The purpose and resilience of the alliance is being tested again and again, and therefore, we, the World Federation of Free Latvians, encourage NATO leaders to send clear signals and take strong actions out of the Vilnius Summit.

As the umbrella organization for the hundreds of thousands of Latvians living in Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, Russia and South America, we, the World Federation of Free Latvians:

- Thank NATO leadership for the recent bold change of defense and deterrence policies in regard to protecting the Baltic Nations from “occupy-then-liberate” to a “defend-every-inch” posture, but we urge you to **commit the necessary permanent on-the-ground troops and equipment in the region** to ensure the success of this policy.
- Encourage the Vilnius summit to **provide a clear road map to Ukraine and its brave military to join the Alliance** and to **provide additional military assistance** in support of Ukraine’s planned 2023 counteroffensive.
- Call on you to apply all appropriate pressure on Turkey and Hungary to **ratify Sweden’s membership into NATO**. This will fortify the security of the northern Baltic Sea region and protect the peaceful people living in those countries by integrating their defense capabilities with NATO.
- Seek a NATO initiative to **expand production capacity for weapons systems and ammunition in the Baltic countries**. This will enhance NATO defense stocks while simultaneously provide stimulus for economies harmed by the war.

Latvians living in the NATO countries outside of Latvia are concerned about the security of the Baltic region in the light of Russia’s war in Ukraine. NATO’s needed role as a strong defensive alliance is made clearer with renewed Russian threats and actual aggression. The leaders of Western countries should stand firm for freedom, peace, and prosperity.

Respectfully,

Peteris Blumbergs, President