

Directorate-General for the Presidency  
Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

## Factsheet: The Saeima of the Latvian Republic



### 1. At a glance









Latvia is a republic and a parliamentary democracy. Its Parliament, the *Saeima*, is a unicameral Parliament composed of 100 Members, elected for a maximum term of 4 years. All citizens of Latvia who enjoy full rights of citizenship and who on election day have attained 18 years of age are entitled to vote.

The main function of the *Saeima* is law-making and adopting the state budget, but it also elects the President of the Republic, the State Auditor, and the Central Election Commission, and ratifies international agreements. The work of the *Saeima* is supervised by its Presidium, which consists of five MPs: the Speaker, two Deputy Speakers, the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary.

The *Saeima* may give a vote of confidence or no confidence in the government. On the motion of not less than one-half of the Members of the *Saeima*, the *Saeima* may decide in close session by a two-thirds majority to dismiss the President and immediately appoint a successor. Draft laws may be presented to the *Saeima* by the President of State, the Cabinet, and the Committees of the *Saeima*, no less than five individual Members of the *Saeima* or, in cases and in a manner provided for in the Constitution, by one-tenth of the electorate.

On 3 June 2015, the *Saeima* elected Mr **Raimonds Vejonis** President of the Republic.

### 2. Composition

Results of the general elections on 4 October 2014				
	Party	EP affiliation	%	Seats
	<b>Saskaņas Centrs (SC)</b> Harmony Ccentre		23%	24
	<b>Vienotība (V)</b> Unity		21,87%	23
	<b>Zaļo un Zemnieku savienīb (ZZS)</b> Union of Greens and Farmers		19,53%	21
	<b>Nacionālās apvienības "Visu Latvijai!" VL-TB/LNNK</b> Nacional Alliance "All for Latvia!"		16,61	17
	<b>Latvijas Reģionu Apvienība</b> Alliance Of regions of Latvia		6,66%	8
	<b>No sirds Latvijai</b> For Latvia from the Heart		6,85	7
			100%	100
	Turnout : 58,85%			
The next election will take place in 2018.				

### 3. Officeholders

<p><b>Speaker of the Saeima of the Latvian Republic</b></p>  <p><b>Ms Ināra Mūrniece,</b> since 4 November 2014</p>	<p><b>Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee</b></p>  <p><b>Ms Lolita Cigane,</b> since 5 November 2014</p>
<p><b>Secretary General of the Saeima: Ms Karina PETERSONE</b></p>	

### 4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

<b>Participation rights for Latvian MEPs in plenary sittings</b>	No
<b>Participation rights for Latvian MEPs in committee meetings</b>	Yes
<b>Availability of videoconferencing system in the Saeima</b>	Yes

### 5. Information links

Official website: <http://www.saeima.lv>

[Rules of Procedure](#)

[List of Committees](#)

[Recent documents submitted by the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia to the EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)

[The EP Information Office in Riga](#)

### 6. Contacts

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