

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. 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 23 January 2019, the *Saeima* elected Mr Krišjānis Kariņš (New Unity/EPP) prime minister of the Republic. He is leading a five-party coalition consisting of his own New Unity party, the New Conservative Party, the Development/For! Alliance, the National Alliance plus most of the Who Owns the State? Party.

2. Composition

Results of the parliamentary elections of 6 October 2018				
	Party	EP affiliation	%	Seats
	Saskaņas Centrs (SC) Harmony Centre		19.8%	22 (23)
	Kam pieder valsts (KPV LV) Who Owns the State?	Non-affiliated	14.25	12 (16)
	Jaunā konservatīvā partija (JKP) New Conservative Party	Non-affiliated	13.59	16
	Attīstībai/Par!, (AP) Development/For!		12.04	13

	Nacionālā apvienība „Visu Latvijai!” – „Tēvzemei un Brīvībai/LNNK (NA) National Alliance		11.01	12 (13)
	Zaļo un Zemnieku savienība (ZZS) Union of Greens and Farmers	Non-affiliated	9.91	11
	Vienotība (V) New Unity		6.69	8
Unaffiliated members of parliament				6 (0)
			100%	100
Turnout: 54,58%				
The next election will take place in 2022				

3. Officeholders

<p>Speaker of the Saeima of the Latvian Republic</p>  <p>Ms Ināra Mūrniece, since 4 November 2014</p>	<p>Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee</p>  <p>Ms Vita Anda Tērauda, since 20 November 2018</p>
Secretary General of the Saeima: Ms Lelde RAFELDE	

4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

Participation rights for Latvian MEPs in plenary sittings	No
Participation rights for Latvian MEPs in committee meetings	Yes
Availability of videoconferencing system in the Saeima	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 \(IPEX\)](#)

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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl>

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6. Contacts

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