

AGENDA for high-level international conference

“Slovenia and Latvia: Spacebound”

12 June 2023

Venue: *ALTUM hall, Doma laukums 4, Riga, Latvia*

13.30-14.00 Lunch coffee and registration

14.00-14.15: Opening Words

- ◆ **Dr. Kārlis Bukovskis**, Director of the Latvian Institute of International Affairs (LIIA)
- ◆ **Tine Šušteršič**, Project Manager of the Centre for European Perspective (CEP)

14.15 - 15.00: Presidential Reflections: Future Geopolitical Realities

The war in Ukraine has shown, once again, how important it is for the EU and the US to take the lead in promoting certain shared values, which are based on human rights, democratic accountability, and respect for the rule of law. Panel will feature former President's reflection on current geopolitical developments. Speakers will discuss the current state of security and geopolitical challenges in the region, as well as opportunities for strategic partnership - military cooperation, and future role of the East and United States in shaping security dynamics.

- ◆ **H.E. Borut Pahor**, Former President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia
- ◆ **H.E. Vladis Zatlars**, Former President of the Republic of Latvia

Moderator: **Dr. Karlis Bukovskis**, Director of the Latvian Institute of International Affairs

15.00 -15.15: Coffee break

15.15 - 16.45: Charting Prospects of Digital Economy

Europe and the world are going through a profound geopolitical realignment. Our digital future has thus become not only a question of economic growth and prosperity but also a geopolitical one. The second panel will explore the digital dimension of the strategic partnership within European Union, address the potential for collaboration in areas such as digital innovation and the development of emerging technologies and future digital transformation.

- ◆ **Matevž Frangež**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia.
- ◆ **Juris Pūce**, Chairperson of the Latvian Development, Former Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia
- ◆ **Ieva Siliņa**, Advisor to the Minister of Economy on issues of innovation and digitization

Moderator: **Morten Hansen**, Head of Economics Department of Stockholm School of Economics