



Public Lecture by
H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs

“Recent Developments in the European
Union and Latvia”



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE

Singapore, 2 May 2012

Recent Developments in the European Union (EU) and Latvia

Latvia rebounded from the 2008 financial crisis with a solid GDP growth in 2011. In this lecture, Minister Rinkēvičs will focus on Latvia's experience in overcoming its financial difficulties, the lessons it learnt, and the key attributes that led to its successful transformation.

Latvia is embarking on its first steps to develop ties with the ASEAN countries. Minister Rinkēvičs will also share his vision of how Latvia and the EU could strengthen their relations with ASEAN. Within this context, Minister Rinkēvičs will discuss the benefits of the establishment of a free trade area between the EU and ASEAN.

Tentative Programme

Date: Wednesday, 2 May 2012
Venue: ASEF Conference Room
Asia-Europe Foundation
31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Singapore 119595

3.30pm **Registration**

4.00pm **Welcome remarks**
Ambassador Michel Filhol
Executive Director, Asia-
Europe Foundation

4.05pm **Public lecture: Recent
Developments in the EU and
Latvia**
H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
Republic of Latvia

4.35pm **Q&A Session**

5.00pm **Reception**

H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs

Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Republic of Latvia



Edgars Rinkēvičs was born in 1973. He started his career as a journalist of foreign policy and international relations for *Latvijas Radio* in 1993. He subsequently joined the Policy Department of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia and became the Director of the Policy Department in 1996. He was the Under Secretary of State for Defence Policy Matters from 1996 to 1997 and then became Acting Secretary of State in 1997. Between 1998 and 2008, he was the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia. During his tenure, he also worked as the Deputy Head of the Latvian delegation for accession negotiations with the NATO from 2002 until 2003; and from 2005 until 2007, he was the Office Manager of the Office for organising the NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government. From 2008 until October 2011, Edgars Rinkēvičs was the Head of Chancery at the Chancery of the President of Latvia. He became the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia in October 2011.

Edgars Rinkēvičs has been honoured several awards, including the Grand Officer of the Order of Three Stars (2007), NATO Award for Meritorious Service (2007), the Order of Orange-Nassau from the Netherlands (2005), the Order of Merit from Latvia (2005), the Order of Merit from Italy (2005), Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit from Poland (2005), and Commander of the Great Cross of the Order of Viesturs (2004). He received his Bachelor's degree from University of Latvia in 1995 and his Master's degree in Political Science from University of Latvia in 1997. He also has a certificate in Political Science and International Relations from Groningen University, the Netherlands in 1995 and a Master's degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces of the U.S. National Defence University in 2000.