

C-0151

Norway in Latvia

Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga

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Norway and Latvia

The diplomatic relations between Latvia and Norway were restored on 27 August 1991. The Norwegian Embassy opened on 27 November the same year with the Ambassador Torbjørn Aalbu handing over his credentials to the Latvian president.

The relations between Norway and Latvia are good. Representatives from the two countries meet regularly in various forums, both at a political and official level. Some important multilateral forums are NATO and the EEA, as well as the UN.

Norwegian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

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Norwegian companies are among the largest foreign investors in Latvia with about 300 Norwegian companies registered all over Latvia. Norway has an extensive cooperation with Latvia through the EEA grants and financial orders. The main purpose of these financial mechanisms is to reduce economic and social gap and inequality. Another important purpose of the EEA financial program is to strengthen the bilateral relations between Latvia and Norway. During the period 2009 to 2014, the financial support to Latvia was approximately 73 million euros. Some of the key areas have been the justice sector, climate, municipal cooperation, cultural heritage, support for NGO's, innovation in green industries and tripartite cooperation within enterprises. Negotiations for the next period began in January 2017. The cultural cooperation between Latvia and Norway is widespread, and many Norwegian municipalities have friendship municipalities in Latvia.

Norway and Latvia cooperate well and closely bilateral within NATO, and several bilateral exercises has taken place over the years. From 1 May to 1 September 2015, Norway was in charge of the Baltic air surveillance (BAP).

Currently, approximately 10 000 Latvians live in Norway. Latvia is also a popular destination for higher education for many Norwegian students who wish to study medicine. The Association of Norwegian Students Abroad (ANSA) has more than 100 members in Latvia.

About the Embassy

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga was opened on 11 November 1991, with the Ambassador

handing over his credentials to the president of Latvia. The embassy has two diplomats and a student trainee, as well as six local employees. The Defence Attaché in Stockholm is accredited to Latvia.

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Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga

Address:

Kaļķu iela 15
LV 1050 Riga
Latvia

Contact information:

Phone: +371 67 814 100
E-mail: emb.riga@mfa.no

Office hours:

Monday - Friday 09:00 -
16:00

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday 10:00 -
14:00

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