

## The President of Latvia accredits Ambassadors of Mali, Tunisia, and Pakistan

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President of Latvia Raimonds Vējonis accredited the Ambassadors of Mali, Tunisia, and Pakistan during a solemn ceremony in the Riga Castle on Tuesday, 28 November 2017.

Addressing H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mali to the Republic of Latvia Mr Toumani Djimé Dialloa, the President of Latvia appreciated the current cooperation between the two countries. Latvia is interested in expanding political and economic cooperation with African countries, including strengthening bilateral cooperation with Mali. Latvia contributes to the fight against the challenges of global terrorism by joining the EU and UN missions in Mali. The Ambassador of Mali noted the high professionalism of Latvian soldiers in international missions. He considered that continuation of the in-depth EU-Mali dialogue on migration essential, focusing on priority issues such as solving root causes, the fight against migrant smugglers, and efficient cooperation in migrant returns.

During the conversation with H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tunisia to the Republic of Latvia Mr Sgairer Fatnassi, the President of Latvia confirmed Latvia's desire to promote political dialogue with Tunisia. Latvia has an interest in developing cooperation in various fields such as education, science, and trade. Raimonds Vējonis supported the EU's commitment to continue and intensify its assistance to Tunisia by providing assistance for the adoption and implementation of reforms, in particular in areas like democratization, justice, security sector, human rights, education, economics, and employment.

During the meeting with H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Latvia Mr Shafqat Ali Khan, the President of Latvia acknowledged that an active political dialogue was developing in recent years. He pointed out that there was a great potential economic cooperation in agriculture, food processing, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. Latvia is interested in developing cooperation in the field of transport and logistics. We are interested in attraction and further distribution of Pakistani cargo to Europe or the CIS countries using railway and port infrastructure.

Raimonds Vējonis called for strengthening bilateral legal framework by concluding a double taxation agreement.

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