

President of Latvia Egils Levits: it is absolutely crucial to start talking about Russia's responsibility in the context of international law

Published more than 2 years ago

Published: 13.07.2022.



President of Latvia Egils Levits addressed the participants of the forthcoming international justice sector leaders' forum 'Accountability and innovation in times of change' at the Art Museum 'Riga Bourse' tonight. President thanked organisers for the forum and wished it to become a regular annual event where legal professionals gather to discuss current challenges in the justice sector.

'In these difficult times, professional exchanges and dialogue between judiciary and politicians is vital,' Egils Levits said. Investigation of Russia's crimes is one of the main topics of the conference. 'Countries, governed by rule of law, should join efforts to stop aggressor and help Ukraine rebuild itself,' President Levits pointed out.

'Russian invasion of Ukraine is an unprecedented violation of the international law, and it is the biggest military attack since 1945. It is important to start contemplating Russia's liability in the context of international law. There are several options for holding Russia liable,' President continued as he also remarked on the importance of upholding international law, whatever it takes. President shared some of his ideas with participants of the forum, for example, possibility to submit a claim to International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court in Hague, sanctions, special international tribunal and national investigations. 'The objective is clear – rules-based international order – no exceptions or derogations,' President of Latvia Egils Levits concluded.

International judicial sector leaders' forum 'Accountability and innovation in times of change' is taking place in Riga on 14 July. Leadership of judicial branches from different world countries will gather in Riga to discuss how to ensure that development of judicial sectors is aligned with current shifts.



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