



LATVIJAS VALSTS PREZIDENTA KANCELEJA

PAZIŅOJUMS PRESEI

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24 September 2020

Presidents of France and Latvia will discuss future of the European Union, European Green Deal and development of democracy in Riga

Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, and First Lady Brigitte Macron will visit Latvia on 29-30 September in scope of French president's official visit to Latvia. This will be the first bilateral visit of a French president to Latvia since Jacques Chirac's visit in 2001.

'Bilateral relations between Latvia and France have traditionally been very close and friendly. France was one of the allies that supported Latvia during the War of Independence one hundred years ago, all the way to de jure recognition in 1921, and it continues to actively contribute to the security of the Baltic region in scope of NATO today. That is why it is so important to continue enhancing bilateral relations and dialogue between Latvia and France,' underlined Andris Teikmanis, Head of the Chancery of the President of Latvia.

President of Latvia Egils Levits and President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron will discuss regional security, including relations with Russia and Belarus, future of the European Union (EU) and European Green Deal. Other topics of the meeting will include the development of democracy and public participation in democratic processes. Presidents of both countries also plan to discuss challenges to public discourse stemming from disinformation and growing influence of social media platforms, and digital transformation.

Visit of the President of France Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron to Latvia will commence with an official welcome ceremony on the Riga Castle square on the first day of the visit, 29 September, followed by joint press conference of Emmanuel Macron and Egils Levits and meeting between delegations of both countries.

On the second day of the visit, 30 September, President of France will meet with the Latvian Prime Minister Krišjānis Kariņš, followed by joint press conference. Emmanuel Macron will then visit the Latvian Museum of Occupation and lay flowers at the Freedom Monument in an official ceremony. President of France will take a walk through the Old Riga to the National Library of Latvia where he will take part in a round table discussion on democracy in the digital age. He will be joined by President of Latvia Egils Levits, Jānis Sārts, Director, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, Ieva Morica, CEO, Open Society Foundation DOTS,

Director, Democracy festival LAMPA, Iveta Kažoka, Director, Leading Research Associate, Public Policy Centre PROVIDUS, and Natālija Knipše, Latvia's UN Youth delegate. President of France Emmanuel Macron and Brigitte Macron will conclude their visit to Latvia by donating a book to the People's Bookshelf.

Chancery of the President of Latvia has developed special epidemiological safety guidelines for incoming visits of delegations from high Covid-19 risk countries. According to guidelines, visiting officials, Latvian officials and other staff responsible for the visit, including media reporting on the visit, will be required to wear face masks covering nose and mouth, comply with social-distancing requirements, avoid shaking hands and sharing common use items.

NB! Media: Media will need special accreditation to take part in planned media events. You will be requested to present the special press passes upon entering the specific venue. Due to space constraints, some events might be closed to wider media participation. Further information on participation restrictions will be available. To register for media events of the official visit of the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron to Latvia, please send [application form](#) to the Chancery of the President of Latvia. **Deadline: 18:00, 25 September 2020.** Each media representative must register separately. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be processed. **You will be required to wear a face mask covering the nose and mouth, and comply with social distancing requirements, during the official media events.**

Media events, 29 September

18:15	Official welcoming of the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron (POOL 1) <i>Riga Castle square</i> Photo and video opportunity
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Arrival no later than 17:30

Coordinator: Justīne Deiĉmane (Chancery of the President of Latvia), +371 2618 6068

Media representatives accredited for POOL 1 will not be allowed into POOL 2 events

18:30	Signing of the guestbook by President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron (POOL 2) <i>White Hall, Riga Castle</i> Photo and video opportunity
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Arrival no later than 17:30

Coordinator: Uģis Kozlovskis (Chancery of the President of Latvia), +371 2634 9440

Media representatives accredited for POOL 2 will not be allowed into POOL 1 and POOL 3 events

18:35	Press statements of President of Latvia Egils Levits and President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron (POOL 2) <i>White Hall, Riga Castle</i> Photo and video opportunity Live broadcast/stream: Latvian Television Channel 1 (LTV1), webpage of the Chancery of the President of Latvia www.president.lv and Facebook , Twitter channels/accounts of the President of Latvia
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Arrival no later than 17:30

Languages: Latvian, French (simultaneous interpretation)

Coordinator: Uģis Kozlovskis (Chancery of the President of Latvia), +371 2634 9440

Media representatives accredited for POOL 2 will not be allowed into POOL 1 and POOL 3 events

18:45	Latvian-French delegation meeting (POOL 3) <i>Hall of Coats of Arms, Riga Castle</i> Photo and video opportunity before meeting
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Arrival no later than 17:30

Coordinator: Justīne Deiĉmane (Chancery of the President of Latvia), +371 2618 6068

Media representatives accredited for POOL 3 will not be allowed into POOL 2 events

Media events, 30 September

8:43	Prime Minister of Latvia Krišjānis Kariņš welcomes the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron by the Latvian National Museum of Art (POOL 1) <i>Main stairs of the Museum</i> Photo and video opportunity
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Arrival at the Museum Media Centre (Cloakroom) no later than 8:10, entrance from Esplanāde

Coordinator: Zane Ozola (State Chancellery), +371 20025206

Media representatives accredited for POOL 1 will not be allowed into POOL 2 events

8:45	Prime Minister of Latvia Krišjānis Kariņš photo with the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron in the Latvian National Museum of Art (POOL 2) <i>Latvian National Museum of Art</i> Photo and video opportunity
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Arrival at the Museum Media Centre (Cloakroom) no later than 8:10, entrance from Esplanāde
Coordinator: Zane Ozola (State Chancellery), +371 20025206

Media representatives accredited for POOL 2 will not be allowed into POOL 1 events

9:45	Press conference of Prime Minister of Latvia Krišjānis Kariņš photo with the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron <i>Latvian National Museum of Art</i> Photo and video opportunity Live stream: Cabinet of Ministers web-page www.mk.gov.lv and Facebook , Twitter accounts
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Arrival at the Museum Media Centre (Cloakroom) no later than 9:15, entrance from Esplanāde
Languages: Latvian, French (simultaneous interpretation)

Coordinator: Zane Ozola (State Chancellery), +371 20025206

10:05	First Lady of the Republic of Latvia Andra Levite and First Lady of the French Republic Brigitte Macron visit the EU House Riga <i>EU House Riga</i> Photo and video opportunity for official media only
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10:20	President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron visits the Latvian Museum of Occupation <i>Latvian Museum of Occupation, 7 Rainis Blvd.</i> Photo and video opportunity for official media only
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10:45	Flower laying ceremony at the Freedom Monument <i>Freedom Monument</i> Photo and video opportunity
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Arrival no later than 10:15

Coordinator: Uģis Kozlovskis (Chancery of the President of Latvia), +371 2634 9440

11:10	First Lady of the Republic of Latvia Andra Levite and First Lady of the French Republic Brigitte Macron visit the Latvian National Opera and Ballet <i>Latvian National Opera and Ballet</i> Photo and video opportunity during arrival outside LNOB (photo and video opportunity inside only for official media)
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Arrival no later than 10:50

Coordinator: Daina Lasmane (State Chancellery), +371 28320939

11:40	President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron arrives at the National Library of Latvia <i>National Library of Latvia</i> Photo and video opportunity
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Arrival no later than 11:10

Coordinator: Uģis Kozlovskis (Chancery of the President of Latvia), +371 2634 9440

11:45	<p>President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron takes part in the roundtable discussion on democracy in digital age (live broadcast on LSM.lv and www.president.lv)</p> <p><i>National Library of Latvia</i></p> <p>Photo and video opportunity for official media only</p> <p>Live broadcast/stream: Latvian Television LSM.lv, webpage of the Chancery of the President of Latvia www.president.lv and Facebook, Twitter channels/accounts of the President of Latvia</p>
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12:20	<p>First Lady of the Republic of Latvia Andra Levite and First Lady of the French Republic Brigitte Macron arrive at the National Library of Latvia</p> <p><i>National Library of Latvia</i></p> <p>Photo and video opportunity</p>
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Arrival no later than 11:10

Coordinator: Uģis Kozlovskis (Chancery of the President of Latvia), +371 2634 9440

12:25	<p>First Lady of the Republic of Latvia Andra Levite and First Lady of the French Republic Brigitte Macron visit 'Dainu skapis', original Latvian folk verse collection, and collection of books and manuscripts about France at the National Library of Latvia</p> <p><i>National Library of Latvia</i></p> <p>Photo and video opportunity for official media only</p>
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12:30	<p>French Defence Minister Florence Parly, Minister of State for European Affairs Clément Beaune and Parliamentary Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Latvia Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica take part in presentation of Latvian innovative technologies</p> <p><i>National Library of Latvia</i></p> <p>Photo and video opportunity</p>
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Arrival no later than 11:10

Coordinator: Uģis Kozlovskis (Chancery of the President of Latvia), +371 2634 9440

13:05	<p>President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron donate a book for the People's Bookshelf</p> <p><i>National Library of Latvia</i></p> <p>Photo and video opportunity for official media only</p>
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NB! Media are required to wear a face mask covering the nose and mouth, and comply with social distancing requirements, during the official media events. Media are required to follow the formal dress code: dark suit for men and business costume for ladies.