

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

We, the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Latvia and the Kingdom of Belgium, met today in Brussels to rejoice in the restoration of the sovereignty and independence of Latvia.

We recall that Belgium recognized de jure the Republic of Latvia on January 26, 1921. The 4th of April 1922, Belgium appointed the Minister in Warsaw to cover Latvia as well. Latvia opened a consulate in Antwerp in 1924 and a consulate general in Brussels in 1925. In 1927, Belgium appointed a Minister in Riga while Latvia set up a legation in Brussels, accredited in Belgium and Luxemburg. Latvia appointed a consul in Ghent in 1928 and in Liège in 1929. On August 27, 1991 Belgium decided with its European partners to meet the demands of the three Baltic States to reestablish diplomatic relations.

Today, we reestablish the diplomatic relations by the exchange of verbal notes. Both countries will keep each other informed of the proposed modalities of diplomatic representation in each country.

More than fifty years after the illegal Soviet annexation, which was never recognized by Belgium, we acknowledge the restoration of the full independence of Latvia on the basis of the resolution on the national independence of Latvia adopted by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia on August 21, 1991, as expressing the unflagging willingness and efforts of the Latvian people to fulfill their legitimate aspirations. We do not however underestimate the positive influence of the recent efforts of democratic forces who resisted the coup attempt in the Soviet Union. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs pay tribute to all these efforts.

The Ministers turn their attention to the future. Latvia has undertaken vast political and economic reforms, but it is clear that a multitude of problems remain to be solved, on the political, economical, technical as well as on the juridicial side.

Belgium favours the full and urgent integration of Latvia in an orderly way into the international organisations. As a member of the Security Council, Belgium will facilitate its entry in the United Nations. In accordance with the decision taken by the Twelve, Belgium insists on a close cooperation between Latvia and the European Community as well as with the Council of Europe. Latvian's entry as a full member of CSCE should be formally finalised before the Conference on the Human Dimension in Moscow starting September 10.

Latvijas Republikas un Beļģijas Karalistes 05.09.1991. kopīgais komunikē par diplomātisko attiecību atjaunošanu
Oriģināls. Angļu val. Parakstījis Latvijas Republikas ārlietu ministrs Jānis Jurkāns un Beļģijas Karalistes ārlietu ministrs Marks Eiskenss.

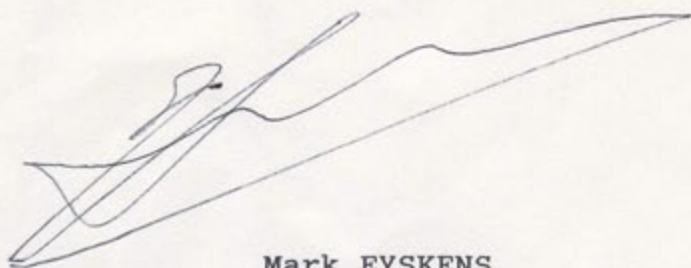
Joint communiqué on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Latvia and the Kingdom of Belgium, 05.09.1991
Original. Signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Jānis Jurkāns, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mark Eyskens.

Recalling the resolution passed in the session of the Interparliamentary Council of the Benelux on May 31 in the presence of the Presidents of the Baltic States, Belgium and Latvia agree on the importance of the issue of transferring know how from the Benelux countries to the three Baltic states on the establishment of a closer economic integration amongst them. They agree to further review the possibilities of cooperation between the Benelux countries and the Baltic States.

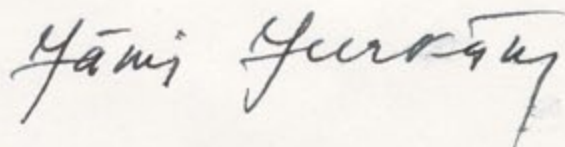
Recalling the firm Belgian protests against the violent actions of the soviet armed forces in the Balticum, Latvia thanks Belgium for its efforts to support the Latvian cause in the previous difficult period. The presence of the Latvian Information bureau in Brussels and the Belgian openness to vast cooperation with it, was very helpfull.

We are convinced that the excellent relations in the past constitute a good basis for a renewed bilateral cooperation in the future. We will review the numerous bilateral treaties of the past with a view to adapting them, if necessary, to the new international political and economic environment of today. New areas of cooperation will be fully explored in the near future.

Brussels, september 5, 1991



Mark EYSKENS
Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the Kingdom
of Belgium



Janis JURKANS
Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the Republic
of Latvia

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