



American Latvian Association
European Latvian Association
South American and Caribbean Latvian Association
Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand
Latvian National Federation in Canada
Latvian Congress in Russia

**WORLD
FEDERATION
OF FREE
LATVIANS**

March 6, 2025

Ursula von der Leyen
European Commission President

Dear Madam President,

I am writing to you on behalf of our Board of Directors and member organizations worldwide to express our utmost concern about the recent deterioration of the transatlantic relations between the United States and European Union and the just-announced pause of US military support for Ukraine.

We understand the US desire that Europe must do more to ensure their own security and peace on the continent. Therefore, we applaud the "ReArm Europe" plan that will no doubt bolster the European defence capacity. **However, we still believe that strong security ties between the US and the EU within the NATO framework is the best guarantor of peace in Europe, which is threatened by the Russian aggression against Ukraine.**

As the umbrella organization for the hundreds of thousands of Latvians living in Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, Russia and South America, we, the World Federation of Free Latvians, encourage you to:

- keep the relations with the US open and future-oriented;
- urge the EU countries to strive for three percent of the GDP investment in defense capabilities, and the NATO countries to commit to 3,5 percent at the Summit in the Hague this summer;
- consider military conscription programs to increase the number of battle-ready troops;
- resist a short-term peace deal favorable to Russia and rewarding its imperialist desires;
- keep the EU military support for Ukraine as strong as possible;
- consider seizing almost €300 billion in frozen Russian assets to aid Ukraine.

We thank you and the Commission for the continued support for Ukraine and concern for peace on the European continent. Latvians living in the NATO countries outside Latvia are worried about the ongoing Russia's war in Ukraine. **We urge you to stand firm for freedom, peace, prosperity and western democratic values.** We must show a strong united front of the collective West to the aggressor state Russia and its leader Vladimir Putin.

Respectfully,

Peteris Blumbergs, President