



THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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The Cabinet of Ministers is the highest executive body of the country. It consists of ministers and it is led by a Prime Minister. In a democratic society power is divided among three branches – the legislative power, the executive power and the judiciary. The law separates the Cabinet of Ministers from the *Saeima* (the legislator) and the third branch of power – the courts.

The Prime Minister is responsible for the overall work of the Government, but each minister is responsible for a specific portfolio or policy area. All decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers are passed at Cabinet sittings according to the principle of collegial decision making.

A number of public administration institutions are subordinated to the Cabinet of Ministers. The Cabinet of Ministers sets sectoral policies, adopts decisions on draft laws developed by ministries and passes regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. The Government decides on all matters in accordance with the Constitution and laws issued by the *Saeima*, and acts strictly within its scope of competence as set forth by the *Saeima*.

If the Cabinet of Ministers is formed by several parties, it is called a coalition government.

THE PRIME MINISTER

THE CABINET OF MINISTERS

Direct public administration

Highest direct public administration institutions

The State Chancellery, ministries, secretariats

Subordinated institutions

Subordinated institutions (inspections)

Supervised institutions

Society Integration Foundation

State agencies

Education Innovations Foundation

Culture Capital Foundation

Institutions subordinated to the Prime Minister

State Civil Service Administration

Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau

Information Analysis Service

European Union Information Agency





THE PRIME MINISTER

After consultations with the political parties elected in the *Saeima*, the President of the State nominates a candidate for the post of the Prime Minister, who invites ministers and forms the Government. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers starts exercising their duties after receiving a confidence vote by the *Saeima*.

The Prime Minister determines the policy agenda of his Government and is responsible to the *Saeima*. The Prime Minister chairs Cabinet

sittings and meetings of the Cabinet Committee. The Prime Minister appoints ministers, state ministers, and parliamentary secretaries of ministries, deputy prime minister and advisers to the Prime Minister.

The State Civil Service Administration is directly subordinated to the Prime Minister, but the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau, the Information Analysis Service and the state agency "European Union Information Agency" are supervised by the Prime Minister.



„We have chosen the development path of the Nordic countries. We belong to this region, to this social model and to this democracy. We have chosen the path on which the young, strong and rich earn money and pay taxes. But the old, weak and needy feel protected and secure about their future.“

Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis

COMPOSITION OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS

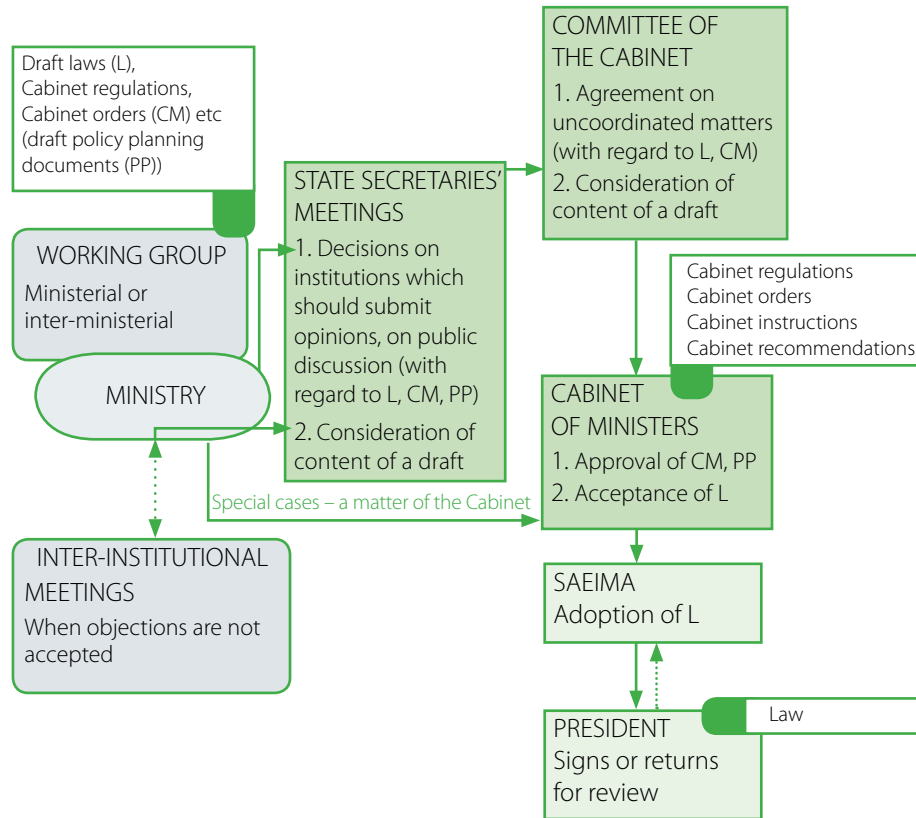
Composition of the Cabinet of Ministers:

- Minister for DEFENCE Vinets Veldre
- Minister for FOREIGN AFFAIRS Māris Riekstiņš
- Minister for CHILDREN AND FAMILY AFFAIRS Ainars Baštiks
- Minister for ECONOMICS Kaspars Gerhards
- Minister for FINANCE Atis Slakteris
- Minister for the INTERIOR Mareks Segliņš
- Minister for EDUCATION AND SCIENCE Tatjana Koķe
- Minister for CULTURE Helēna Demakova
- Minister for WELFARE Iveta Purne
- Minister for REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS Edgars Zalāns
- Minister for TRANSPORT Ainārs Šlesers
- Minister for JUSTICE Gaidis Bērziņš
- Minister for HEALTH Ivars Eglītis
- Minister for ENVIRONMENT Raimonds Vējonis
- Minister for AGRICULTURE Mārtiņš Roze
- Minister for Special Assignments for SOCIETY INTEGRATION AFFAIRS Oskars Kastēns
- Minister for Special Assignments for ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS Ina Gudele
- Minister for Special Assignments for ADMINISTRATION OF EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS Normunds Broks

The Cabinet of Ministers may also include a deputy prime minister(s) and state minister(s).



The Cabinet of Ministers, headed by Ivars Godmanis, together with President of the Republic of Latvia Valdis Zatlers and Director of the State Chancellery Gunta Veismane Rīga, 20.12.2007



THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT

Draft Cabinet decisions are considered at the State Secretaries' meetings, sittings of the Cabinet Committee and Cabinet sittings. This procedure ensures democratic, coordinated and efficient decision-making. The decision-making procedure of the government is stipulated in the Rules of Procedure of the Cabinet of Ministers.

All groups of the society and non-governmental organisations have opportunities for active involvement in the government's decision-making process.

Active public involvement in public administration promotes inclusion of publicly important issues in political agendas and delivers high-quality feedback from the society.

Every year more people become aware of their public role and use NGOs as an efficient tool for protection of their interests. It is supported by the Cooperation Memorandum between Non-governmental Organisations and the Cabinet of Ministers.

| LEGAL ACTS ADOPTED BY THE CABINET OF MINISTERS | | | |
|--|------|------|--|
| 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | |
| 2749 | 2968 | 2400 | |
| LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE CABINET OF MINISTERS | | | |
| 3466 | 3094 | 5038 | |

DECLARATION OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS

The Declaration of the Intended Activities of the Cabinet of Ministers is prepared on the basis of the programmes developed by the parties represented in the Cabinet of Ministers, embracing issues the Government resolves to deal with in the period by the next elections of the *Saeima* (Parliament). In its turn, the Action Plan of the Government lays down the measures for attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration, and determines the responsible line ministries and the deadlines for implementing those measures.

The urgent tasks that the Government has undertaken to fulfil already in the following few years:

1. Within the framework of the National Development Plan, definition of the state-supported priority areas for 2007 – 2013.
2. Restructuring the education system in accordance with the new administrative-territorial division.
3. Preparation and implementation of a new, harmonised migration and employment policy.
4. Ensuring preparation and application of appropriate measures to increase competition.

5. Further implementation of the national economy stabilisation programme.
6. Preparation and implementation of fiscal and social state aid measures to reduce increase in energy tariffs. Making decisions on support for development of new energy resources in Latvia.
7. Preparation of Latvia's position on the budget priorities with regard to EU funding principles to be revised in 2009.
8. Taking measures to maintain the amount of EU financing allocated to Latvia and to ensure opportunities for restructuring of the EU funds.
9. Implementation of measures aimed at ensuring operation of the entire internal affairs system at the global and Schengen scale.
10. Improvement of the primary health care system in Latvia.
11. Ensuring finalisation of the administrative territorial reform.
12. By mid-2008, development of a policy for supporting the creative industries.

THE STATE CHANCELLERY



The State Chancellery ensures the work of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Prime Minister. It organises the sittings of the Cabinet of Ministers and ensures preparation and management of Cabinet's documentation.

The State Chancellery is directly subordinated to the Prime Minister. The State Chancellery comprises the Prime Minister's Office and various structural units of the State Chancellery.

The State Chancellery ensures and controls compliance of draft policy documents and draft legal acts of the Cabinet of Ministers with the procedure set forth in the relevant laws and regulations; it develops and implements policies in different areas, as well as provides opinions on policy documents and draft legal acts submitted by line ministries. The State Chancellery takes part in the policy-making processes and coordinates consistent planning and implementation of national policies under the policy guidelines set by the Cabinet of Ministers and in accordance with assignments of the Cabinet of Ministers. It also cooperates with ministries in preparing proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers on priorities for country's development. The State Chancellery ensures preparation of policies for the development of public administration (including the state civil service), coordinates and monitors their implementation. When assigned by the Prime Minister, the State Chancellery coordinates and controls enforcement of the decisions adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers and the Prime Minister, as well as informs the public about work and activities of the Cabinet of Ministers.

**THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
THE STATE CHANCELLERY**

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