

INFORMATION FOR MEDIA
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Address by the Prime Minister at the Concert Dedicated to the Opening of Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Good evening, director of BOZAR art centre,

Excellencies, ministers, friends and supporters of Latvia, dear friends Latvians,

Tonight I greet you on behalf of whole Latvia and invite you to enjoy a beautiful musical adventure. It will tell about the first Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which has just begun, in January.

Is it really possible to draw musically the Latvian Presidency and its three key priorities for next six months? Competitiveness of Europe, the Single Digital Market and strengthening the Europe's global role – the implementation requires great courage and ambition. From both the Government of Latvia, all experts and civil servants of Latvia and from all states of the European Union, including Belgium. We will have to work hand in hand to ensure that our European citizens live in peace and harmony, safe in their homes and workplaces. Europe will safeguard its fundamental values! Tonight the National Symphony Orchestra of Belgium will also have to demonstrate great professionalism and virtuosity in interpreting these priorities.

However, the true star tonight is Elīna Garanča. The girl from Rīga, the world-famous and admirable singer, who has chosen a varied musical program for this evening, including the compositions by young Latvian composers.

At the conductor's music stand - our conductor Karel Mark Chichon who has left excellent creative marks upon Latvia's musical life!

Ladies and gentlemen!

I'm proud of my country Latvia, of its talented people with whom we currently carry the flag of European agenda with utmost responsibility.

Good luck to us, Europe!

Enjoy your evening!

Prime Minister
Laimdota Straujuma