

MEDIA RELEASE

The Prime Minister and the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry discuss cooperation within the framework of Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the EU

Brussels, February 26, 2015. Today, Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma met Richard Weber, President of the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry "Eurochambres" and Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary – General to discuss cooperation between Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and business cooperation partners – the European chambers of commerce.

When mentioning the most important events of the presidency, which fall within the area of entrepreneurs' interest, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the Social Summit in March, where the meeting with the social and business partners will be held before the European Council. Likewise, other significant events during the presidency - the Eastern Partnership Summit Business Forum to be held on May 21 and the Digital Assembly in June, 2015. The need to strengthen the role of the High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth was emphasized.

The two parties appreciated the decisive role of vocational education and training in Europe. The officials also discussed the progress in negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

Discussing the priorities of Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, L.Straujuma and R.Weber shared the opinion that the succession is of utmost importance for business environment. It is also important that Europe's business receives convincing and inspiring news from European politicians that would further promote investment and growth.

Brussels-based "Eurochambres" brings together 43 national chambers of commerce, 2 transnational chamber organizations, as well as unites member organizations in the Eastern Partnership countries.

Caption for the visual: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/valstskanceleja/sets/72157648723197483/>

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