

**Address of Mr Edmunds Teirumnieks,
Acting Head of the Latvian National Group to IPU**

at the General Debate on

**Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act
on climate change**

Ladies and Gentlemen!
Dear Colleagues!

The most experienced delegates will probably remember that this is the second IPU Assembly to be held in Nusa Dua. The previous one was in the spring of 2007 and the theme of the General Debate also was on climate: **"Global Warming: Ten Years After Kyoto"**.

At that time we concluded that climate change had affected humanity 3 times in recent millennia.

Today, the threat posed by climate change has been compounded by the threat of a real war. War - raging in Europe, in the 21st century!

And it is very likely that some of today's grandiose climate neutrality plans will be even harder to achieve now, but we – likeminded people still need to think positively and look to the future rather than live in the past.

Dear Colleagues!

Latvia has committed to reach climate neutrality at national level by 2050. The government has approved the number of documents essential to move forward the climate change agenda:

First - **Latvia's Strategy for achieving climate neutrality by 2050** includes climate neutrality, multifunctionality of agriculture, the development of joint renewable energy projects, circular economy, hydrogen technologies, cultural cooperation and minimizing environmental footprint.

Latvia is fully committed to reach the EU's greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 55 percent in 2030 compared to 1990.

Secondly - **National energy and climate Plan 2021-2030**. The long-term objective of this plan is to promote the development of a climate-neutral economy by improving energy security and public welfare in a sustainable, competitive, cost-efficient way, based on market principles.

A comprehensive energy efficiency plan is being developed for more efficient production. Transition to renewable energy, especially wind and solar energy, improving energy efficiency, modernisation of power infrastructure and increasing electricity inter-connection are measures for greater gas emission reduction in energy sector in Latvia.

Innovations and technologies related to tackling climate change is a key factor in developing new policy initiatives in different sectors. More active involvement and cooperation of science and business is needed to achieve climate targets through synergies between different financial instruments, public support mechanisms and private financial resources.

The Latvian Recovery and Resilience Plan in climate change investments provide use of electricity and renewable energy sources in transport, the public and private sectors, use of renewable energy sources in energy etc.

Ways should be found to increase carbon capture in the land through forestry and peatlands. Forests are the main source of CO₂ capture. In Latvia we extract peat and produce peat substrates, which is the most effective soil material for tree seedlings.

In 2020 the **Baltic Assembly adopted Communiqué on the Baltic solidarity and cooperation in times of crises and recovery** calling on the countries to improve the cooperation to make the economies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges posed by the

green and digital transitions, create a common ground fostering the transformation of the whole Baltic region.

Dear Colleagues!

Immediately after the first day of the brutal war started by the Russian Federation in Ukraine the Latvia Parliament adopted a Statement on the sovereignty and integrity of Ukraine, strongly condemning the military aggression by the Russian Federation.

The first statement was followed by the others and by the other different actions in support of Ukraine.

Unfortunately, the unprecedented and bloody war is still going on.

Therefore, Latvia as all like minded countries and nations continue to call on the international community to provide political, economic and technical support to Ukraine.

We continue to call the Russian Federation to stop the bloodshed in Ukraine!

Thank you for your attention!