Saeima, the parliament of Latvia, is one of the first parliaments in the world that can fully shift to remote work. Thanks to the new e-Saeima platform, plenary sittings can now be held remotely, with MPs participating from outside the parliament premises.

The new platform is a unique information technology solution developed specifically for the needs of the Saeima. It ensures the most important functions of parliamentary sittings, namely, the opportunity to debate and vote on items included in the plenary agenda. Both functions work live in real time.

“We are very pleased that the Saeima, in cooperation with IT specialists, has been able to create a modern technological solution that allows the Parliament to continue its work in emergency situations even if MPs are not in the parliament building. We have fulfilled the goals set by the heads of the constitutional bodies and the president of Latvia: all branches of power can continue working fully during the emergency situation according to the aims and basic principles set out in the Constitution. It has been ensured at the Parliament that MPs can continue lawmaking and ensure parliamentary oversight over the work of the Cabinet of Ministers,” explains Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Saeima.

The work of the Saeima remain open to the public, and anyone interested may follow the remote sitting live on the Saeima website and the Parliament’s Facebook account.

The e-Saeima platform was developed as a matter of urgency over only a few weeks as a response to the restrictions on assembly introduced during the COVID-19 crisis and the necessity to work remotely.
E-Saeima Platform
https://e.saeima.lv

General information
To use the e-Saeima platform, Members of Parliament need:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>e-signature</th>
<th>a computer</th>
<th>Chrome web browser</th>
<th>Internet connection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eID, eSignature card or eParaksts mobile</td>
<td>with a functioning microphone, loudspeakers/ headphones, video camera</td>
<td>with a functioning microphone, loudspeakers/ headphones, video camera</td>
<td>* VPN connection needs to be disabled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Authentication to access the e-Saeima platform

1. Choose the authentication method and connect to e-Saeima

2. Follow the on-screen instructions

The e-Saeima platform is activated **10 minutes** before the beginning of the announced sitting

Access to the e-Saeima platform is closed **30 minutes** after the end of the sitting
2. Connecting to a plenary sitting

1. Information about the current sitting

2. Self view

3. Icon showing that the user's microphone is on

4. Test the user's speakers

5. If the computer has several microphones or cameras and if necessary, the user can switch to the preferred device

6. Press the "Join" button to connect to the e-Saeima platform

---

3. Plenary procedure

1. The person chairing the remote sitting opens it and starts the consideration of items

2. Self view (visible to others only when the floor is given to the user)

3. Information on the item under consideration

Available functions:
- Online debate;
- Apply for debate/withdraw from it;
- Voting on an item

4. Information on the items to be considered

5. Authorised participants of the sitting

6. User information
4. Debates

5. Self view (visible to others only when the floor is given to the user)

2. Information box indicating that the user has applied to speak in the debate

3. List of MPs that have applied to speak in the debate.

List of MPs that have applied to speak in the debate.

4. Speaker view with a debate timer.

1. Click “Apply” in the “Item under consideration” section to speak in the debate
5. Voting

1. After the debate, the person chairing the sitting activates the voting mode. The user votes by clicking one of the options: "FOR", "AGAINST", or "ABSTAIN".

2. Voting mode timer (30 seconds)

3. Plenary Chamber seating plan

4. Plenary Chamber seating plan showing the results of the vote

5. List of voting results