



*U.S. Department of State
Office of the Spokesman
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Statement by Philip T. Reeker, Deputy Spokesman, on U.S. Support for Latvia's Integration into Euro-Atlantic Institutions

Secretary Powell met today with the President of Latvia, Vaira Vike-Freiberga. In their meeting, Secretary Powell offered President Vike-Freiberga full U.S. support for Latvia's ongoing efforts to integrate fully into Euro-Atlantic institutions, including Latvia's work toward achieving its NATO Membership Action Plan objectives.

The Secretary told President Vike-Freiberga that he looked forward to the success of her initiative to work with the Latvian Parliament to amend the language requirement in Latvia's election laws. He also praised her efforts in the areas of integrating minority groups into Latvian society, fostering economic reform and integrity and transparency in government, and encouraging reconciliation with history.