

**THE CHALLENGE OF ACHIEVING
EU MEMBERSHIP –
LATVIAN EXPERIENCE FOR
UKRAINE'S BENEFIT**

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WHAT EUROPE STANDS FOR

- In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values (..) contribute to peace and security, as well as to the strict observance and the development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter. (from Art 3 TEU)
- cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe;
- historic importance of the ending of the division of the European continent and the need to create firm bases for the construction of the future Europe. (from preamble TEU)

THE UNCHANGING LOGIC OF THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS

- Any European state may apply to become a member of the Union if it respects its common values and is committed to promoting them (..) (Article 49 TEU).
- The Copenhagen criteria (established by the 1993 European Council in Copenhagen) are essential in assessing any candidate country's EU integration progress.
 - The stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities;
 - A functioning market economy and the ability to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the EU;
 - The ability to take on the obligations of membership, including by adhering to the aims of political, economic and monetary union, and adopting the common rules, standards and policies that make up the body of EU law.

SAME PRINCIPLES AT WORK AFTER MEMBERSHIP

- Separation of state powers and administrative capacity of all three branches of state power;
- Compatibility of legal systems – internalizing EU law;
- Effectiveness and independence of judiciary – increasing articulation of their importance in EU itself:
 - developing body of CoJ EU case law;
 - cooperation among EU Member States;
 - monitoring of Member States' performance.