The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES) is pleased to invite you to:

Latvia’s European Vocation
Part of IERES’ Stuart Program on Northern Europe

with

Juris Poikans
Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Latvia

Latvia’s major goals after the restoration of its independence in 1991 and the establishment of a democratic government were to gain admission to NATO and the European Union. These were achieved in 1994, confirming Latvia’s “European vocation” and the country’s alignment within the Atlantic Alliance. Mr. Poikans will discuss Latvia’s role in NATO and the EU and the responsibilities assumed with membership as well as questions of national identity and relations with Russia.

Juris Poikans is Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Latvia in Washington, D.C. He was formerly Latvian ambassador to Slovenia and earlier served in diplomatic posts in Russia and Belarus. Mr. Poikans was involved in preliminary negotiations for Latvia’s accessions to NATO and the EU.

Thursday, April 22, 2010
5:00-6:00 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street, NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.