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<https://eu2015.lv/events/political-meetings/forum-the-role-of-social-dialogue-in-ensuring-the-economic-growth-and-quality-jobs-2015-03-31>  
INFORMATION FOR MEDIA

**Prime Minister: In order to preserve European values, now more than ever we have to listen to each other**

On Wednesday, April 1, the Prime Minister, addressing the participants of the meeting of the Workers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (Committee) at the National Library of Latvia, emphasized the pivotal role of the dialogue between different groups of society in modern Europe.

"In view of the tragic events in Paris in January, one more priority was added to the priorities of the Latvian Presidency – security of Europe. I am convinced that all the fundamental rights and values should be preserved, and we will be able to do it only if we more than ever listen to each other, if the governments listen to social partners and civil society, if social and cooperation partners listen to the calls of governments. In the absence of mutual cooperation and listening, only collisions may occur," said L.Straujuma.

L.Straujuma appreciated the role of the Committee in uniting the social partners and representatives of various interest groups of organized civil society, who collectively participate in improving the living standards of citizens of the European Union, in a single institution.

L.Straujuma drew attention of the participants to the need for high quality jobs. "We know that we need not only jobs but high-quality jobs in Europe, because it has already been proved that it is thereby possible to reduce poverty and social exclusion".

The Prime Minister also stressed that investment and export promotion are essential for further growth in Europe. She expressed satisfaction over the fact that the necessary legal framework has already been created during the Latvian Presidency to ensure the implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan. She also confirmed that the European Union should continue negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement with the US to enhance Europe's global competitiveness.

PHOTOS: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/valstskanceleja/sets/72157651674143182/>.

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