

Press Release  
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## ***Rail Baltica* governance principles and economic impact to be discussed at an international conference in Riga**

***Rail Baltica Governance Conference 2016* to be held on 29 April in Riga will unite transport and corporate governance experts, who will discuss corporate governance and the economic impact of Rail Baltica. The conference is organised by the Baltic Institute of Corporate Governance in cooperation with the international advisory firm KPMG, the Ministry of Transport of Latvia and the Representation of the European Commission in Latvia.**

The objective of the conference is to evaluate the key challenges faced during the implementation of Rail Baltica, its economic impact and opportunities to introduce internationally recognized good governance practices. The conference will seek solutions that guarantee successful implementation of a European gauge rail project and effective governance of the joint venture of the Baltic States, RB Rail. Experts from Finland, UK, Italy and the Baltic states will discuss similar large-scale transport infrastructure projects implemented in other regions and the best examples of project management in large infrastructure projects.

**Andris Grafs**, Country Manager in Latvia of the Baltic Institute of Corporate Governance: “Rail Baltica is the most ambitious joint project of the Baltic States that involves a significant number of stakeholders. It is therefore crucial to come to terms regarding the optimum action to be taken to introduce internationally recognized good governance practices both in Rail Baltica project and the Baltic joint venture RB Rail focussing on transparency of project operations and results, governance structure and decision-making as well as effective use of funds granted.”

**Jūlija Māsāne-Ose**, Director, Deal Advisory, KPMG Baltics SIA: “Rail Baltica truly is a huge project for our region. To date, we have not had projects of equal scale with this extensive regional participation and such a large number of participants. For that reason, making this a success story calls for a serious evaluation of the world’s experience in governance of similar projects. It largely depends on the governance mechanisms introduced during the project, how smoothly Rail Baltica will progress and how efficiently resources will be used.”

Presentations will be delivered at the conference by **Herald Ruijters**, Head of Unit, EC TEN-T mobility programme DG MOVE B1, **Baiba Rubesa**, Chairperson of the Board of the Rail Baltica joint venture RB Rail AS (Latvia), **James Stewart**, Manager, KPMG Global Infrastructure (UK), **Konrad Bergmeister**, Executive Director of the world’s largest underground railway tunnel project BTT SE (Italy), **Arnis Kākulis**, AECOM Regional Director in the Baltic states (Latvia), **Nauris Kļava**, Director, Management Consulting Department of

Ernst & Young Baltic (Latvia), **Andris Grafts**, Country Manager in Latvia of the Baltic Institute of Corporate Governance (Latvia).

Panel discussions will be moderated by journalist Pauls Raudseps and attended by **Ģirts Bramans**, Head of the Development Planning Department of VAS Latvijas Dzelzceļš (Latvia), **Kai Rintala**, Director, Infrastructure and Projects Group at KPMG (Finland), **Tālis Linkaits**, Head of the Secretariat for the Baltic Sea spatial planning initiative VASAB (Latvia), **Indrek Orav**, Head of Rail Baltic Estonia and Supervisory Board member of RB Rail (Estonia), **Juhani Tervala**, representative of the Transport Policy Department of the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications (Finland), and **Vaidotas Balynas**, Supervisory Board member of RB Rail (Lithuania).

Rail Baltica is the most ambitious transport infrastructure project in North-East Europe. The objective is to build a European gauge high-speed railway that will link Tallinn, Riga, Kaunas, Warsaw and Berlin. Rail Baltica is poised to be the decisive element in the North Sea-Baltic Transportation Corridor ensuring closer economic and administrative cooperation with other European countries.

The live feed of the conference will be broadcasted on the leading internet news portal in Latvia [www.delfi.lv](http://www.delfi.lv).

For more information on the conference, please refer to the website of the Baltic Institute of Corporate Governance at [www.bicg.eu](http://www.bicg.eu).

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**Additional information:**

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