








Latvia¹

National Parties	Group in the European Parliament	Link to the official party site	Link to the official campaign site	Link to the programme	Slogan	Link to the detailed list
People's Party (TP) Tautas Partija²	 <small>PPE DE</small>	http://www.tautaspartija.lv	http://www.tautaspartija.lv/velesanas2009	x	x	http://www.tautaspartija.lv/velesanas2009/2707-tautaspartija-iesniedz-sarakstu-eiropas-parlamenta-vlanm
New Era (JL) Jaunas Laiks	 <small>PPE DE</small>	http://www.jaunaislaiks.lv	http://www.jaunaislaiks.lv/page.php?id=1647	http://www.jaunaislaiks.lv/page.php?id=2975	x	http://www.jaunaislaiks.lv/news.php?id=2826&news_id=1382
Latvia's First-Latvia's Way (LPP/LC) Latvijas Pirmā Partija-Latvijas Cēls		http://www.lpplc.lv	http://www.eiropasinformacija.lv/	http://www.eiropasinformacija.lv/dokumenti/velesanu_programma/velesanu_programma.html	x	http://www.eiropasinformacija.lv/kandidatu_saraksts/kandidatu_saraksts.html
Homeland and Freedom Union (TB/LNNK) Tēvzemei un Brīvībai	 <small>UEN</small>	http://www.tb.lv	x	http://www.tb.lv/catalogue.php?prID=98dce83da57b0395e163467c9dae521b&amp;lang=est	x	http://www.tb.lv/catalogue.php?prID=f4b9ec30ad9f68f89b29639786cb62ef&amp;lang=est
Civic Union (pilsoniska savienība)	 <small>UEN</small>	http://www.pilsoniskasavieniba.lv/	http://www.pilsoniskasavieniba.lv/?s=1238764900&ln=lv	http://www.pilsoniskasavieniba.lv/?s=1238764900&fu=read&id=459&start=1&open=1&ln=lv	x	http://www.pilsoniskasavieniba.lv/?s=1238415336&fu=read&id=440&open=1&ln=lv

1 Updated 27/05/09

2 The parties highlighted in blue are the governing parties

For Human Rights in a United Latvia (PCTVL) Par Cilvēka Tiesībām Vienotā Latvijā		http://www.pctvl.lv	http://www.pctvl.lv/index.php?lang=ru&mode=elections&submode=euvib2009	x	x	http://www.pctvl.lv/index.php?lang=ru&mode=main&submode=&page_id=8630
Green Party (LZP) Latvijas Zaļā Partija		http://www.zp.lv	http://www.zp.lv/?i=40	http://www.zp.lv/?r=50	x	http://www.zp.lv/?i=40
Farmers and Green Union (LZS) Centriskā Partija Latvijas Zemnieku Savienība	-	http://www.lzs.lv	http://www.zzs.lv/	http://www.zzs.lv/?p=6502&lang=1281	x	http://www.zzs.lv/
Social Democratic Union (LSDSP) Latvijas Sociāldemokrātiskā Strādnieku Partija	-	http://www.lsdsp.lv	http://www.lsdsp.lv/eiropa/	http://www.lsdsp.lv/eiropa/programma	x	http://www.lsdsp.lv/eiropa/kandidatu_saraksts
Harmony Centre (SC) Saskanas Centrs	-	http://www.saskanacentrs.lv	http://www.saskanacentrs.lv/ru/ep/	http://www.saskanacentrs.lv/ru/EP/	x	http://www.saskanacentrs.lv/ru/epcandidates/

Source : Data collated and processed by the Robert Schuman Foundation, Fondation Robert Schuman ©

Analysis of the electoral campaign 5 weeks before the elections:

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Election Date: 6th June (local elections on the same day)

Number of MEPs to be elected: 8

The European elections are yet not really on the agenda. The country whose economy relied heavily on domestic consumption, a booming property market and an easy loan policy has been the hardest hit by the economic crisis in the European Union. At the end of 2008 the Latvian economy had declined to its 2005 level. Until recently it had been nicknamed the "Baltic Tiger"; Latvia was saved from bankruptcy at the end of the year by IMF (1.68 billion \$) and European Union (3.1 milliards €) loans. At the turn of this year riots erupted in the streets of Riga, with demonstrators, employees, farmers etc. protesting against politicians' incompetence since they had allowed the country to sink into crisis. After two coalition members decided to withdraw their support, Ivars Godmanis - who vainly suggested in January that the rightwing opposition join his government - resigned on 20th February. The political crisis which had been brewing for

several months was rekindled by the economic crisis. MEP Valdis Dombrovskis from the centre-right party, New Era, and former Finance Minister from 2002 to 2004 replaced Ivars Godmanis as Prime Minister.

There are 17 lists running in the European elections including New Era led by Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, the Pro-Patria Union and Freedom led by Roberts Zīle, Civilian Union led by former Foreign Minister (2002-2004) Sandra Kalniete, Latvia's First-Latvia's Way led by former Prime Minister Ivar Godmanis, Libertas.lv led by former Prime Minister (1997-1998) Guntars Krasts, the People's Party (TP) led by Rihards Pīks, Social Democratic Party led by Atis Lejiņš, For Human Rights in a United Latvia led by Tatjana Ždanoka and The Harmony Centre (SC), a Russian-speaking movement led by former journalist of the First Baltic Channel , Nils Usakovs, who was the source of surprise in the last general elections in October 2006 when he won 14.46% of the vote, will be led by Alfred Rubiks, imprisoned in 1991 for his support of the Soviet repression at the time of Latvia's independence (he was released in 1997),

"The Harmony Centre and For Human Rights in a United Latvia will have MEPs because they can count on the Russian-speaking electorate whilst the Latvian electorate is divided and there is a choice between a great number of different parties," says Atis Lejiņš, lead candidate for the Social Democratic Party in this election and half of whose list is made up of women.

The most recent polls credit the Harmony Centre and New Era with 20.4% of the vote, the Farmers' Union and Greens 14.3%, the People's Party 12.3%, For Human Rights in a United Latvia 8.9% and Pro-Patria Union and Freedom 7.4%.