

# 2015 EU Day

Thirteenth Annual European Union Day: March 12, 2015



The European Union Center is pleased to announce the **Thirteenth Annual EU Day event on March 12, 2015.**

European Union Day at the University of Illinois is a celebration of transatlantic relations and strives to promote a better understanding between the peoples of the United States and the European Union. The highlight of the celebration is the address by the Ambassador of the country that holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

This year, the annual “State of the European Union” address will be delivered by His Excellency [Andris Razāns](#), **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Latvia to the United States.**

EU Day is open to the public and provide our citizens with the opportunity to learn about the importance of the European Union to the United States and its role in promoting international relations. Invited guests and dignitaries will include members of the Diplomatic Corps from Washington, DC, members of the Consular Corps from Chicago, business leaders, state and local government officials, and faculty and students from universities and high schools throughout Illinois.

## Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Every six months, on a rotating schedule, an EU member state becomes the presiding state and is leading the work of the EU Council. Since 2010, when the Lisbon Treaty came into force, a trio principle was introduced. That means that the Presidency's work program is developed by three countries. Latvia will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2015. The Presidency is an opportunity for every member state, regardless of its size or length of membership, to influence the EU agenda and guide EU endeavors. Learn more about the [Latvian Presidency](#) and the [Latvian Presidency logo](#).



EU2015.LV

### [Press Release](#)

The EUC's promotional video for EU Day can be viewed [here](#).

### Keynote Address

*Thursday, March 12, 2015*

**"State of the European Union" Address** His Excellency [Andris Razāns](#),  
**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Latvia to the United States**

Alice Campbell Alumni Center Ballroom, 601 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana, IL 61801

([map](#)) 10:00 am – 11:30 am, reception to follow

Schedule of Related Events

*Thursday, March 12, 2015*

**Chai Wai at the Library: "A Roundtable with Members of the Chicago Consular Corps — The Future of the European Union: A Shared Vision?"**

International and Area Studies Library, Room 321, Main Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL ([map](#)) 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Panelists include:

[Klaas van der Tempel](#), [Consul General of the Netherlands, Chicago](#)

[Mario-Ingo Soos](#), Deputy Consul General of Germany, Chicago

[Yerassimos Lazaris](#), Trade Commissioner, [Greek Consulate, Chicago](#)

Learn more about the panelists [[.pdf](#)].

Moderator: [Anna Stenport](#), EU Center Director

**EU Day events are funded in part by US Department of Education Title VI grant and the EU Center of Excellence grant.**