

REPSE ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF LATVIA'S GOVERNMENT

06-02-2004

Leader of the party "New Era" (JL) Prime Minister Einars Repse after yesterday's JL board meeting announced that the government is resigning.

Repse sees no possibility for the government to continue work when it has only minority support in Saeima and norms that are destructive for the national budget are adopted.

Repse's government will have to continue work until a new government is approved.

Repse's government was approved by Saeima on November 7 of 2002. Initially the ruling coalition included JL, Latvia's First Party (LPP) Union of Greens and Farmers (ZZS) and For Fatherland And Freedom/LNNK (TB/LNNK).

The government crisis started at the end of January when Repse demanded resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Ainars Slesers (LPP).

After the dismissal of Slesers, LPP decided to quit the ruling coalition, and the government, lead by JL, became a minority government.