

## Webcast

### **10:15 Keynote: Dr.Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia**

The President welcomed delegates to Latvia, and stressed that Inclusion must be set in the context both of rights and opportunities. She observed that digital exclusion has exacerbated existing social and economic exclusions, and that there is an urgent need for coordinated policy initiatives such as the EU Ministerial Statement on eInclusion. Challenges exist at all levels, with significant between and within country differences in ICT usage, and also between and within sector differences.

Latvia is promoting an improved telecommunications infrastructure, better rural access to ICTs, integrated eGovernment services, and education and skills for all. The nation aims to create a critical mass of digitally literate citizens.