

Sorry.

Latvia and the Latvian people have come a long way. After being liberated from decades of Soviet oppression, Latvia has done remarkably well – economically, culturally and politically. And, much to our delight, these achievements were rewarded with membership in the European Union in 2004.

And now it's time for Latvian entrepreneurship and ingenuity to move abroad – to places like Sweden. But instead of being welcomed as fellow Europeans, Swedish unions and our populist government have greeted Latvian business with great mistrust and resistance.

Recently L & P Baltic Bygg, a previous subsidiary of the Latvian Laval un Partneri, was forced into bankruptcy as a result of protectionist union action. The fact is, Swedish unions are allocating enormous resources to prevent the establishment of foreign construction companies in Sweden. And they're not alone. The Swedish government is right behind them.

We would like to extend our humble apologies to the people of Latvia. As Swedish citizens, we're truly ashamed and upset at the way our government and our unions are behaving. And we're utterly appalled at the undertones of xenophobia that have marred the debate in our country.

People of Latvia, please remember that not all Swedes are the same. There are a great many of us who applaud and welcome you in your attempts to conduct fair and legitimate business in Sweden. We wish you success in this endeavour and hereby promise to do what is in our power to help you in this regard!

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