Dear Mr. Colla,

I am most upset by the suspension of the Latvian language program on SBS radio.

Can you please provide an explanation as to why the program was put into “recess”, what exactly this means, and when the program will be taken out of “recess” and will again be able to be heard?

Yours sincerely,

Dear Mr. Colla,

I was astonished that without any warning the SBS Latvian program was suddenly taken off air.

The website says that the program is “in recess”. What is the reason for this “recess” and when will the program be back on air?

Yours sincerely,

Dear Mr. Colla,

I am a long time listener to the Latvian language program on SBS radio.

The Latvian broadcasts started back in the mid 1970’s and were at that stage funded by the community and staffed by volunteers. Gradually SBS took over and changed the staffing and funding and reduced our programs to just one per week. Now it has come to a program “in recess”. Has there recently been a reduction in government funding for SBS, or is it just a case of SBS deciding that the Latvians are no longer important and deciding to spend the money elsewhere?

If this is not the case, can you please tell me when the program will again be on air?

Yours sincerely,

Dear Mr. Colla

I am an Australian of Latvian descent and a regular listener to SBS Latvian. No more!?

Can you please tell me why the Latvian program been put into “recess”, and when will it come out of this recess?

Yours sincerely,

Dear Mr. Colla

Recenty SBS stopped broadcasting the Latvian program. Why?

It was a great source of information about what is going on in the Latvian community in Australia and interesting interviews with visitors from overseas and local people who were achieving some novel and worthwhile things in our community here in Australia.

Please bring back the Latvian program!

Yours sincerely,

Dear Mr. Colla

On the 17th of February I was most unpleasantly surprised to hear on the Latvian program that it was the last program. Apparently the program is currently suspended with no known restarting date.

Can you please tell me firstly why the program has been suspended, and secondly, whether it will be restarted again – and when?

Yours truly,

Dear Mr. Colla

I am writing to you to protest the Latvian program being put "in recess".

This program has been a valuable source of information for our community about what is going on both here and in Latvia.

Can you please explain to me how deciding not to continue to broadcast in Latvian complies with the requirements of the SBS Charter, where the specific purpose of SBS is stated as being "…to provide multilingual and multicultural radio and television services that inform, educate and entertain all Australians…"

I understand that as a relatively small language group the Latvians cannot expect to have the same quantity and range of programs as some of the larger groups – but cutting our one and only weekly radio broadcast is quite discriminatory.

SBS has always prided itself as being there for all Australians. With this action it seems that this policy no longer applies and that the SBS Charter needs to be rewritten. Or is this the first step to a merger with the ABC, as Mark Scott suggests? If so, bring it on, as, for the Latvians, SBS has lost its purpose.

Yours truly,