



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

27 October - 2 November 2014

Key Lithuanian Foreign Policy messages of the week. All materials included are public.
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Key messages:

- The Klaipėda LNG terminal – energy security guarantee for the region, breaks Russia's grip on energy and ends the era of political pricing.
- Ukrainian elections to Verkhovna Rada – resolute choice of the European path.
- The „so called elections” in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts – unlawful and violate Minsk agreements. Russia's support to them - regrettable.
- Multinational exercise Iron Sword 2014 – implements NATO pledge at Wales to strengthen security of the Eastern Allies.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- Lithuania regrets Russia's decision to block the adoption by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) of a press statement on the illegal “elections” in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine to be held by armed separatists on 2 November.” (MFA statement, 1 November 2014), [read full statement](#).
- We congratulate the people of Ukraine for expressing their will in free and democratic early elections to Verkhovna Rada and for choosing European future. We respect this choice by

Ukrainian people, and believe that Ukraine will determinedly advance on the European road by creating strong, united and prosperous state. [...] The newly elected Rada will face a big task of implementing the necessary reforms across many sectors. We believe that democratically elected representatives will determinedly implement these reforms aimed at creating strong, independent and European state. It is symbolic that the vote was held few days before the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement starts to be applied, making Ukraine's European choice irreversible." (MFA statement, 27 October 2014), [read full statement.](#)

- „The Ukrainian people who are fighting for the freedom of their country have resolutely chosen a European path built on democratic reforms. It is a very important step in restoring stability and ensuring the well-being of the people of Ukraine, as well as building a strong and unified state. [...] Although the election took place under very difficult conditions - Crimea is occupied and in some part of eastern Ukraine people were obstructed by the foreign state-backed separatists to express their will - the Ukrainian government managed to hold transparent and fair democratic elections.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 27 October 2014), [read full press release.](#)
- "Despite an ongoing war and a sea of lies that was used to flood the minds of people, nobody has changed the flow of history. This choice shows that Ukraine is ready to bid goodbye to its past and resolutely take the European path. No green men or white trucks can change what is destined to happen. [...] Ukraine's success will considerably depend not only on internal reforms and the election results but also on Europe and the United States' united position and pressure against Russia for that external aggression to stop at last.“ (Minister L. Linkevičius, 27 October 2014), [read full text.](#)
- „The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania strongly condemns illegitimate “elections” in some parts of Ukraine’s Donetsk and Luhansk regions organized by illegal armed groups on 2 November. These acts, directly supported by the Russian Federation, represent a gross violation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity, contradict international law, the laws of Ukraine and the September 5 Minsk agreement. [...] Russia once more ignored the norms of international law by sending, on 2 November, already the fifth so-called “humanitarian convoy” into the east of Ukraine. It was not coordinated with the Government of Ukraine or with the international humanitarian organizations and cynically used the goals of humanitarian aid as a cover for directly assisting the armed separatists. (MFA statement, 2 November 2014), [read full statement.](#)

Security and Defence:

- „Putin has seen the West weakness in Ukraine, and he wants to exploit that. [...] I fear very much that he will try something in the Baltic states because he can see that if he destroys NATO's credibility in the Baltic states, then he destroys NATO, and this is a very tempting target for him.“ (Journalist E. Lucas, 30 October 2014), [read full text.](#)
- “A number of measures are being considered in the Alliance after the NATO Summit in Wales, a part of them is related to strengthening security in Eastern Europe, i.e. increased NATO presence and increased number of combined exercises in our region, and establishment of command and control elements. The multinational Exercise Iron Sword 2014 which will soon begin in Lithuania is an excellent example of talks and plans being translated into concrete actions. [...] even eight NATO allies have expressed a resolve to participate in this exercise. That demonstrates an increasingly growing and unanimous understanding among NATO states of the geopolitical change that has taken place and of our concerns about the security situation in the region” (Chief of Defence, Major General J. V. Žukas, 29 October 2014), [read full news release.](#)
- “We are grateful to the United States for the permanent presence in our region, and we recognise the leading role the United States is playing in further practical implementation of the security measures agreed at the NATO Summit in Wales.” (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 28 October 2014), [read full news release.](#)
- A company of the Hungarian Armed Force will be deployed to Lithuania as part of NATO reinforcement measures on land. „I appreciate Hungary's initiative to be the first European ally to respond to the changes in the geopolitical situation and the NATO Wales decisions and

to contribute to NATO reinforcement measures on ground.” (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 28 October 2014), [read full news release](#).

Energy security:

- „Lithuania, the first of the Baltic States, has built a liquefied natural gas terminal. It is a strategic energy project that will determine our future. At the same time, it is Lithuania's great victory. Lithuania has developed the terminal project by itself, independently. It took us only three and a half years to deliver it. We are now an energy-secure state. The Klaipėda LNG terminal will play a very special role - it will be a security guarantee for the whole region. If necessary, it will be able to cover 90 percent of the three Baltic States' gas supply needs. From now on, nobody will dictate us the price for gas - or buy our political will. [...] Today's event is a turning point on the path of our freedom and further proof that we can seek ambitious goals and stand responsible for the future of Lithuania.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 27 October 2014), [read full speech](#).
 - EU invests €647 million in key energy infrastructure – Lithuanian – Polish gas pipeline GIPL is on the list. (European Commission, 29 October 2014). [Read full press release](#).
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Due to Lithuania's active participation in the activities of the OECD, the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting has announced that it would take a decision on the opening of the membership negotiation talks with Lithuania in 2015. “Lithuania has consistently sought to become a member of the prestigious OECD. The OECD membership would play an important role in attracting investment to the country. It would also benefit Lithuania by reducing international borrowing costs and improving the quality of public administration, and would provide an opportunity to participate in international economic decision-making.” (Minister L. Linkevičius, 31 October 2014), [read full press release](#).
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Other:

- Three Baltic countries on Tuesday established a joint venture that will carry out the European-standard gauge railway project Rail Baltica. “We are starting to build rail connections. It's an important geopolitical and economic milestone... I'm certain that in ten years, our capitals and our people will be much closer to each other” (Latvia's Transport Minister A. Matiss, 28 October 2014), [read full text](#).
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Media links

- Zygimantas Pavilionis, Lithuanian ambassador to US discusses new liquefied gas terminal on CCTV-America, 30 October 2014. [Watch video](#).
- Lithuania Offers Example of How to Break Russia's Grip on Energy by James

- Kanter. The New York Times, 27 October 2014. [Read full article](#).
- Lithuania Cheers „Independence“ by Keith Johnson. FP, 27 October 2014. [Read full article](#).
 - Floating LNG terminal „Independence“ sails into Klaipėda. Delfi, BNS, 27 October 2014. [Read full article](#).
 - Lithuania successfully coped with EU's third energy package, experts say. Delfi. BNS, 31 October 2014. [Read full article](#).
 - Lithuanian Foreign Minister L. Linkevičius on the Game Changer – Klaipėda LNG terminal. [Video in English, in Russian, in Lithuanian](#).
 - An overview of the welcome of LNG vessel „Independence“ [on Storify](#).
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On Twitter

Ukraine, Russia:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Nov 2 #Kremlin](#)'s ignorance of international rule of law in full scale in so called elections in [#EastUkraine](#)
 - [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Nov 2](#) No voter registration lists, no residence requirements, no rules, fabricated observers- Kremlin supported election farce in eastern [#Ukraine](#)
 - [Stefan Füle @StefanFuleEU](#) · [Oct 30](#) EU deplores [#Lavrov](#)'s remarks on election in self-proclaimed parts of East [#Ukraine](#). This is contrary 2 Minsk Protocol <http://bit.ly/1rAvcAh>
 - [Arūnas Gelūnas @ArunasGelunas](#) · [Oct 30](#) Human rights activists in Vilnius publish list of Russian political prisoners - EN.DELFI [hyperlink](#)
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Oct 29](#) 15 children & 2 teachers affected from the aggress in Ukr E regions will live&study in LT for 1 year <http://goo.gl/cWX9Wa> [#UnitedForUkraine](#)
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · [Oct 30 #FIFA](#) map shows [#Crimea](#) as part of [#Russia](#). This is wrong. [@FIFacom](#) should follow what the [#UN](#) says. | [#Ukraine](#)
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Oct 31](#) Respect for accepting mistakes: [#FIFA](#) Apologizes for Map Error Putting [#Crimea](#) in [#Russia](#) <http://bloom.bg/1tG8WdK> via [@BloombergNews](#)
 - [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Oct 27 #Snyder](#): the purpose of Russian propaganda: 2convince that everything is slippery - no truth & then the strongest wins
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Security and defence:

- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · [5h 5 hours ago](#) Exercise [#IronSword](#) in [#Lithuania](#) - 9 [@NATO](#) countries, 2500 military, 300 tactical equipment <http://goo.gl/knpmYq>
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · [Oct 28 #NATO](#)'s new SG [@jensstoltenberg](#): "we must keep NATO strong". Couldn't agree more. Here is his speech: [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_114179.htm ...](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_114179.htm...) [Bloomberg News @BloombergNews](#) · [Oct 27](#) This vessel may replace all of Lithuania's natural gas imports from Russia starting today: <http://bloom.bg/1sucA51>
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · [5h 5 hours ago](#) Exercise [#IronSword](#) in [#Lithuania](#) - 9 [@NATO](#) countries, 2500 military, 300 tactical equipment <http://goo.gl/knpmYq>
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Energy Security:

- [LT PermRep EU @EU2013LTpress](#) · [Oct 31](#) Experts: [#Lithuania](#) successfully coped w/EU's 3rd [#energypackage](#) (separating [#gas](#) transmission, distribution & supply) [hyperlink](#).
 - [Gediminas Varvuolis @varvuolis](#) · [Oct 31](#) Lithuania's LNG terminal successfully receives first test shipment of gas - EN.DELFI [hyperlink](#).
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · [Oct 29](#) MRT: [@IdeasPowered](#) W/ our energy & appetite to pioneer-[#LT](#) will catch up soon climbing to the top of leaderbord <http://ow.ly/D7Z6E>
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Oct 29](#) EU invests €647 million in key energy infrastr. LT/PL proj. GIPL is on the list, important 4regional [#energysecurity](#) <http://bit.ly/1wdcc1c>
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · [Oct 28](#) The message about [#LNG](#) vessel arrival in [#Klaipeda](#) is getting round in all directions, reaching all continents <http://bit.ly/1FRYSn2>
 - [Bloomberg News @BloombergNews](#) · [Oct 27](#) This vessel may replace all of Lithuania's natural gas imports from Russia starting today: <http://bloom.bg/1sucA51>
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Darius @DariusSemaska](#) · [Oct 30](#) Lithuanian economic outlook: growth will accelerate; GDP to expand by 3% this and by 3.5 % next year [hyperlink](#).
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Oct 29](#) Stronger together with the [#euro](#) when [#Lithuania](#) will become the 19th member of the euro family! <http://goo.gl/NxcFYW> [#LTeuro2015](#)
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Oct 28](#) Set up of joint [#Baltic](#) countries company for [#RailBaltica](#) means closer co-operation and deeper [#EU](#) integration <http://goo.gl/ksisL1>
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Other:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 1](#) Strongly condemn suicide attack at Indian/Pakistani border killing&injuring many people...Condolences to the families <http://bit.ly/1wq0tMA>
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