



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

3-9 November 2014

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

- Growing need for closer ties in the Baltic-Nordic region in the face of Russia's aggressiveness.
- Support to Ukraine's determination to build a European state through reforms.
- No easing of sanctions against Russia until change of behaviour (support to 'elections' in DNR, supply of heavy arms to separatist and continued shelling show real intent).
- The West needs to stand firm against Putin's revisionist policies and rhetorics. Need to withstand increased propaganda.
- The multinational Exercise Iron Sword 2014 – testify allied flexibility, solidarity and unity.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- „Vladimir Putin has stated that there was nothing wrong with the Nazi-Soviet Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, which was made 75 years ago on 23 August 1939 [...] We cannot let such statements go unnoticed because they are part of a bigger narrative, under which the Russian leadership now seeks endorsement for its aggressive and revisionist foreign policy.“ (Minister L. Linkevičius, 7 November 2014), [read full text](#).
 - „The confidence with which Russia is acting now comes partly from our inability to stand by our values and principles. [...] It is high time to put values ahead of a strategic partnership in our relations with Russia. [...] Returning to normal is impossible without renewing pledges of basic rules and commitments. [...] We must stand firm, showing that we are neither following suit with aggression nor turning a blind eye to their deeds. By being steadfast in our values we can impel Russia to rethink its ambitions; by being mild we can encourage their cruellest actions. (Minister L. Linkevičius, 7 November 2014), [read full text](#).
 - „It is also time to provide Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia with a clear European perspective – we need them stable and prosperous no less than they need us“. (Minister L. Linkevičius, 7 November 2014), [read full text](#).
 - „Lithuania strongly supported the determination of Ukrainian people to build a European state. It is important to continue providing assistance to Ukraine in order major democratic reforms are implemented in this country.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 6 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - „A further invasion into eastern Ukraine is being planned, therefore, loosening the reins or reducing pressure in some other way would be a huge mistake. [...] We really need to focus after the so-called elections, as the situation has worsened. The agreements reached in Minsk in early September have been breached. Therefore, we must act resolutely as otherwise we would create another frozen conflict, and many believe it has already been created. And it would prevent Ukraine's European integration. That seems to be the plan of the masterminds.“ (Minister L. Linkevičius, 6 November 2014), [read full text](#).
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Security and Defence:

- „Lithuania now faced increasing propaganda against it, therefore ways were sought to stop lies and disinformation.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 6 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
- "Close regional cooperation between Germany and the Baltic States is especially important today. Russia's aggression against Ukraine calls for strengthening our ties in the sphere of security and defence. We face new challenges and can respond to them only by concerted efforts. Energy and information security are the issues on which special focus should be placed now." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 6 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
- "In the face of Russia's increasing aggression it is especially important to strengthen the interaction between the U.S.A., the Baltic and Nordic countries in the field of regional security." (Political Director of the MFA R. Kačinskas, 6 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
- On November 3 multinational Exercise Iron Sword 2014 was declared open [...] [involving] the total of 2.5 thousand exercise participants from 9 NATO countries. [...] "This exercise has become a true symbol of allies' flexibility, solidarity and unity. Iron Sword 2014 demonstrates the resolve and commitment of all those allies contributing to the principles of NATO and collective defence" (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 3 November 2014), [read full news release](#).
- „In this sand, of this training field, your boots and your tracks write the texts of Article 5 in reality. So when those watching the things going on from satellites can see that Article 5 commitments are real.“ (Ambassador of Hungary in Lithuania Z. Pecze, 3 November 2014), [read full news release](#).
- Hungarian military personnel deployed in Lithuania till the end of the year officially began their service at the opening ceremony of Iron Sword 2014. „This is a truly historic event demonstrating the implementation of the practical measures of the Alliance in the times of changing geostrategic environment. NATO is reassuring my country and what is more important, reassuring the security

and stability of this region and the whole NATO.” (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 3 November 2014), [read full news release](#).

Energy security:

- „To ensure energy security it is important not only to look for alternatives to Russian gas, but also to create as quickly as possible the EU internal energy market and eliminate energy islands.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 6 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - „The regional LNG terminal in Klaipėda opens up opportunities for Latvia and Estonia and all Baltic countries, to make use of alternative sources of gas supply, to obtain competitive prices, to integrate into the internal European Union market and to reinforce our common energy security.“ (Prime Minister A. Butkevičius, 5 November 2014), [read full article](#).
 - „Lithuania, who [...] decided to fly solo without EU support or the cooperation of other countries, has been far more successful in constructing its floating LNG terminal. Despite mechanisms offered by the EU, Lithuania, working on its own, has managed to make unprecedented steps towards energy security for the Baltic States.“ (M. Hirrs, A. Spruds, Latvian Institute of International Affairs, 4 November 2014), [read full publication](#).
 - „The Baltics are unified and strong. I was completely fascinated to read about the Lithuanian steps in securing energy independence through the national natural gas terminal. I think that is amazing, I congratulate Lithuania for taking the step. The Russians can threaten in terms of control of energy, but the Lithuanians have really guaranteed themselves a way of having their own source. It is absolutely brilliant and will make a big difference.“ (Former USA Secretary of State M. Albright, 4 November 2014), [read full interview](#).
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- The European Commission on Tuesday published its latest EU economic growth report, which states that Lithuania will see the fastest growth in the Baltics in 2014 and 2015. The European Commission projects that Lithuania's economy will grow by 2.7% this year, and by 3.1% next year. (The Baltic Course, 4 November 2014), [read full article](#).
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Other:

- “Germany is Lithuania’s key partner within the EU and NATO. It is therefore important to use the potential of the bilateral relations and to deepen cooperation in the fields of security, economy and culture”. (Vice-Minister R. Kriščiūnas, 7 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - „The people of the Baltic countries have always strongly believed in Europe [...] We all knew that freedom is not a given, so we took responsibility for our nations and walked resolutely along the European road. Today, as Europe faces new challenges, it is especially important not to forget the values which encouraged Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians to come together forming the Baltic Way. The same values tore down the Berlin Wall a quarter of a century ago. Only together, looking for what unites us rather than divides, can we maintain peace in our continent.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 6 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
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Media links

- Linas Linkevičius: “Putin has defended the Nazi-Soviet pact. Time for the west to wake up”. *It was the pact that led to world war two. Western democracies must no longer turn a blind eye to Putin the aggressor.* The Guardian, 7 November 2014. [Read full article](#).
 - „Opinion: Sanctions are working for peace. Russia is not“ by Jonas Baltaduonis. Delfi, 5 November 2014. [Read full article](#).
 - US Congressman Adam Schiff: Russians will be made to feel consequences of their leader's recklessness. Delfi, 6 November 2014. [Read full interview](#).
 - „Energy (In)Security: Challenges and Prospects for the European Union and Baltic States“ by Martins Hirss, Andris Spruds. Latvian Institute of International Relations, 4 November 2014. [Read full publication](#).
 - Madeleine Albright congratulates Lithuania on securing energy independence and discusses Putin's mistakes. Delfi, 3 November 2014. [Read full interview](#).
 - „Opinion: Hunting down propaganda in media fields“ by Deimantas Jastramskis. Delfi, 2 November 2014. [Read full article](#).
 - „Crushed by a Giant, With No White Knight in Sight. ‘The Invisible Front,’ on Lithuania's Postwar Resistance“ by Neil Genzlinger. The New York Times, 6 November 2014. [Read full review](#).
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On Twitter

Ukraine, Russia:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Nov 9 [#OSCE](#) confirms Ru tanks flown 2 [#Ukraine](#) & fighting in Donbas. So much for Ru trust & wish for dialogue. EU [#sanctions](#) must step up.
 - [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · Nov 9 As Europe celebrates [#FallOfTheWall25](#), Kremlin sending more tanks, heavy weaponry, troops without insignia into eastern [#Ukraine](#).
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · Nov 8 Lithuania to provide more assistance to [#Ukraine](#), [#LT](#) Minister of Defense J. [#Olekas](#) pledges <http://bit.ly/1xkJUjB>
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · Nov 8 Russia sows chaos in Donbas, sending GRU/FSB, advanced wps systems, & 1000s of troops <http://ow.ly/DCybh> [#RussiaVsReality](#) via [@GeoffPyatt](#)
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · Nov 6 Unacceptable that [#RU](#) supported illegal armed groups increase attacks on [#Donetsk](#) airport, violating Minsk agreement.
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · Nov 4 [#ISIL](#) in [#Luhansk](#)? [#Russian](#) separatist chieftain [#Mozgovoi](#) tells women to stay out of cafes or risk being arrested <http://goo.gl/jiwMEJ>
 - [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · Nov 4 Albright congratulates Lithuania on securing energy independence & discusses Putin's mistakes <http://www.delfi.lt/a/66292720> [@NDI](#) [@EnergyAtState](#)
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Security and defence:

- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Nov 4](#) More troops needed in E.Europe amid [#Ukraine](#) threat, says [#NATO](#) general <http://goo.gl/0Hd3NI>
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Energy Security:

- [Darius @DariusSemaska](#) · [Nov 7](#) Lithuanian Government granted the project of a gas link between Lithuania and Poland a priority project status [hyperlink](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Nov 8](#) Updates on [#Lithuania](#)'s road to [#OECD](#) Desk Drop No1 [@LukeDCoffey](#) [@LithuaniaMFA](#) [@LTUworld](#) [@cepa](#) [@AtlanticCouncil](#) < /a> [hyperlink](#)
 - [Deividas Matulionis @DMatulionis](#) · [Nov 5](#) Germany imported more from [#Lithuania](#) than from Saudi Arabia in 2013. Stats do include oil! [hyperlink](#)
 - [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE](#) · [Nov 5](#) [#EU](#) Commission predicts [#Lithuania](#) will have fastest growth in [#Baltics](#) in 2015 [hyperlink](#)
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · [Nov 3](#) Rail Baltica-narrowing gauge, broadening integration into Euroatlantic network. Good analysis by [#Stratfor](#) via [#Delfi](#) <http://bit.ly/1ugDzrG>
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Other:

- [Deividas Matulionis @DMatulionis](#) · [Nov 9](#) Berlin, everybody tonight celebrates the fall of Berlin Wall. EPP M.Schulz payed tribute also to the Baltic Way 25 years ago Thank You!
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 6](#) Deeply worried about ongoing violence in [#Jerusalem](#) &the West Bank. The situation confirms the need 4urgent resumption of peace negotiations
 - [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Nov 6](#) [#GoldeneVictoria](#) award – recognition of each [#Lithuanian](#)'s effort to build a stronger Europe
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