



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

10-16 November 2014

Key Lithuanian Foreign Policy messages of the week. All materials included are public.
Please use and share!

Key messages:

- Lithuania is in favor of further expansion of the EU sanctions on Russia.
- The conflict in Ukraine is not an internal affair – it is Russia’s war against Ukraine.
- Russia’s propaganda machinery is expanding – providing credible information alternatives is critical.
- Lithuania and Poland – neighbors and allies.
- NATO military exercise Iron Sword 2014 in Lithuania – proof that NATO is taking concrete measures to ensure our security.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- "Situation in Eastern Ukraine is currently worsening, with more obscurity and indetermination brought by the elections organized by the separatists, which the Western world has dismissed as invalid. The key to solution is in Moscow [...]. We do not see any actual efforts to sincerely contribute to the deescalation. [...] I hope we will manage to reach agreement on additional sanctions." (Minister L. Linkevičius, 14 November 2014), [read full article](#).

- „The conflict in Ukraine is not an internal affair. Not a civil war. Nor a rebellion of disgruntled citizens. It is Russia’s war against Ukraine for daring to choose a different – European – path. [...] While Ukraine followed the ceasefire agreement, Russia-backed separatists used the time to rearm and grab more territory. [...] Russia is doing all it can to resuscitate the bygone era of division and brinkmanship, continuing its aggression against Ukraine, buttressed by bogus claims of defending Russian speakers from the advances of fascism and outlandish accusations against Europe, and the West. (Lithuanian Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador R. Murmokaitė, 13 November 2014), [read full statement](#).
 - A peaceful settlement of the crisis in eastern Ukraine is squarely in Russia’s hands. It bears full responsibility for the further escalation of the situation – and for creating another frozen conflict in Europe. Attempts to redraw Europe’s borders by military force [...] are criminal. [...] Russia must stop threatening its neighbors, accept the spirit and letter of the Minsk agreements and allow unhindered international monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian state border. (Lithuanian Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador R. Murmokaitė, 13 November 2014), [read full statement](#).
-

Security and Defence:

- NATO military exercise Iron Sword 2014 involves more than 2.5 thousand troops and 300 military vehicles from 9 NATO member states. It is one of the largest military exercises in Lithuania this year. "Collective defence is the basis of the united and strong NATO. The Wales Summit agreed on concrete collective defence measures for the Baltic States. This exercise is a good proof that NATO is placing special focus on our security and taking concrete measures to ensure it. [...] Lithuania is also taking all the necessary steps to strengthen its armed forces and national defence." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 13 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - „Providing an objective, unbiased alternative narrative is critical as Russia’s propaganda machinery is expanding its reach.“ (Lithuanian Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador R. Murmokaitė, 13 November 2014), [read full statement](#).
 - „A particular increase in activity of warplanes and ships of the Russian Federation is observed at the times when Lithuania or other Baltic states hold larger military exercises. [...] We can make a presumption that the phenomenon is more of a demonstration of power – a measure of indirect effect, which may be aimed at reducing the feeling of security of our population, undermining the nation’s trust in the army and NATO, as well as check the readiness and procedures that we and the Allies have.“ (Chief of Defence Major General J. V. Žukas, 11 November 2014), [read full article](#).
 - Belarus is spying in Lithuania both individually and is also acting as a proxy for Russia. [...] The whole Lithuanian State Security Department’s (VSD) operation in identifying two Lithuanians who spied for Belarus reflects the progress achieved, as for many years Western countries have tried to play down the danger of Russian espionage. "Lithuania is absolutely on the front line as this espionage war goes on because the Russians and Belarusians are interested both in Lithuania as Lithuania but also as a way to Western organizations and structures.“ (Journalist E. Lucas, 11 November 2014), [read full article](#).
-

Energy security:

- „The new LNG terminal located in Lithuania’s third city, Klaipėda is one of the first LNG distribution stations in the Baltic Sea which has been crucial for Lithuania’s energy bargaining power. [...] The LNG terminal project has also a strategic importance for the entire Baltic region. Until we took the important steps for the terminal, we were paying one of the highest natural gas prices in Europe. (CEO of national oil and gas company Klaipėdos Nafta M. Bartuska, 14 November 2014), [read full article](#).

- „The price of gas from the LNG (terminal – ELTA) will be lower than the price applied by Gazprom last year. [...] Heating in those districts where gas is used to generate heat should not grow and perhaps can subside slightly.“ (Minister of Energy R. Masiulis, 13 November 2014), [read full article](#).
-

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Investors' confidence in Lithuania's business climate has been growing throughout the year, as well as in the last quarter an Investor Confidence Index for Lithuania by Investors' Forum has showed. "As many as 95 percent of investors view the political stability of Lithuania as average or high. Businesses have developed trust in public institutions and do not expect groundless reforms. These factors and the upcoming euro adoption have been attracting foreign investors more and more." (Chairman of the Board of Investors' Forum R. Valiūnas, 16 November 2014), [read full article](#).
-

Bilateral relations:

- „Lithuania and Poland – closest neighbors and allies [...]. Bilateral relations based on common objectives were growing stronger by the will and efforts of the people of both countries. Working together within the European Union and NATO our countries successfully protect common interests in the region and meet the challenges arising to our nations and the whole of Europe, creating in this way a strong, secure, open, democratic and united Europe." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 11 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius congratulated the people of Poland on the occasion of the National Day on 11 November and wished success and well-being. „Both nations were united by common history and culture [...] Lithuania and Poland must continue close bilateral and multilateral cooperation and further build free and secure Europe.“ (Minister L. Linkevičius, 11 November 2014), [read full press release and watch video \(in Polish\)](#).
-

Other:

- "Russia is unable to stop democratic reforms in Moldova and hinder its successful co-operation with the EU, which we are awaiting as the Association Agreement is implemented. Russia also has no right to question Moldova's territorial integrity over the separatist Transnistria region that the international community finds an integral part of Moldova. We urge Russia to stop violating its own commitments to the World Trade Organisation and lift the embargo on Moldovan food products.“ (Lithuanian MEP P. Auštrevičius, 14 November 2014), [read full article](#).
 - On 11 November, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina that was submitted by Lithuania and extended the mandate of the EU-led operation EUFOR ALTHEA for one year. „The resolution expresses strong support for the European Union and NATO's role in ensuring security and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are absolutely convinced that the Euro-Atlantic integration provides the framework and incentive for democratic reform, promoting economic growth, stability and peace.“ (Lithuanian Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador R. Murmokaitė, 12 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
-

Media links

- Rights in Retreat: Abuses in Crimea. Human Right Watch, 17 November 2014. [Read full report.](#)
- Historian Timothy Snyder: Ukrainian crisis is not about Ukraine, it's about Europe. Delfi, 12 November 2014. [Read full interview.](#)
- "Opinion: Will the Baltic states rise to the challenges to their own security? by dr. Stasys Backaitis. Delfi, 11 November 2014. [Read full article.](#)
- „The Kremlin’s Octopus of International Propaganda—Obvious and Hidden Tentacles“ by Fatima Tlis. Eurasia Daily Monitor Volume: 11 Issue: 202, 12 November 2014. [Read full publication.](#)

On Twitter

Ukraine, Russia:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 14](#) (1) Ru resolution at UN on "Glorification of Nazism" - double-faced tactics to pursue political agenda against Baltics.
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 14](#) (2) it labels all anti-Soviet resistance "nazi", undermining LT partisans who died resisting Sov occupation
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 14](#) (3) when current Ru justifies Mol-Ribentrop pact & mobilizes Europe's radicals/fascists to support aggression against [#Ukraine](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 12](#) [#Ru](#) media outlets mushroom in [#Europe](#) (UK, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, France). [#Propaganda](#) is ebola to our minds. Vaccine 4 immunity needed
- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · [Nov 12](#) A [#mustread](#) on weaponization of information, culture & money | [#NATO](#) [#EU](#) [#Ukraine](#) [#Russia](#) [hyperlink](#)
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · [Nov 10](#) [#Lithuania](#) increases support to [#Ukraine](#) by an additional 130k euros already this year to speed up democratic reform & [#European](#) integration

Security and defence:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Nov 13](#) [#NATO](#) [#IronSword](#) 2014: more than 2500 soldiers from 9 countries working hand in hand for regional security
- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · [Nov 13](#) Russian spyplane violates [#Lithuania](#) airspace, Canadian Hornets intercept it. | [#Canada](#) [#NATO](#) [hyperlink](#)
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · [Nov 12](#) [#LT](#) MoD PolDir [#Urbelis](#): time to revisit [#EU](#) Security Strategy, beef up security & defence coop. w/[#EaP](#) countries <http://bit.ly/11iepNhV>
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Nov 11](#) Ukraine's case demonstrates that we need a unified response to withstand increased propaganda, false information campaigns. [#bfa14](#)
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · [Nov 11](#) [#UK](#) joins the [@NATO](#) Energy Security Centre of Excellence in [#Vilnius](#). Congratulations! <http://goo.gl/567DOW>
- [LT PermRep EU @EU2013LTpress](#) · [Nov 11](#) [#Lithuania](#) [#Latvia](#) [#Estonia](#) agreed 2send joint

battalion of 1000 troops 4standby 2#NATO's rapid response force in2016 <http://bit.ly/1sxCLYQ>

Energy Security:

- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Nov 15 #KlaipedaLNG](#) - strategic importance for the entire Baltic region. Interesting piece by [@temizermurat hyperlink #energysecurity](#)
 - [Gediminas Varvuolis @varvuolis](#) · [Nov 12](#) American companies interested in Lithuanian shale gas, PM Butkevičius says - EN.DELFI [hyperlink](#)
 - [LNG Global @Ingglobal](#) · [Nov 12](#) Funds saved on Klaipeda LNG terminal construction to be spent on compensation for gas - The Baltic Course - [hyperlink](#)
 - [Renaldas Vaisbrodas @vaisbrodas](#) · [Nov 11 @EU Commission](#) will allocate €647mil to energy infrastructure projects almost half of the € goes to [#Poland](#) - [#Lithuania](#) gas connection [#EU](#)
-

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [@4LibertyEu Nov 14](#) Templeton Freedom Award this year went to The Lithuanian Free Market Institute!!! Congratulations!!!... <http://fb.me/44I8ebU3R>
 - [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE](#) · [Nov 13 #Lithuania](#)'s export leaders program Wings becomes No.1 in the world [hyperlink](#)
 - [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE](#) · [Nov 12](#) European economy guide: [#Lithuania](#) and Ireland are forecast to see strong growth next year <http://econ.st/1b3FGBQ> via [@TheEconomist](#)
-

Other:

- [G. Landsbergis @GLandsbergis](#) · [Nov 13 #Moldova](#) one step closer to the [#EU @EPP](#) <http://tinyurl.com/nbrfb8r>
 - [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Nov 11](#) Spreading like virus. Now head of Moldova's Transdniester region calls for an independence referendum: <http://bit.ly/11eoTx8>
 - [@PetrikasE](#) retweeted [Šarūnas Matulevičius @s_matulevicius](#) · [Nov 11 #Lithuania](#) is a lighthouse of democracy. Belarusian university counts 10th year in [#Vilnius](#), says Thank you Lithuania
-

Copyright © 2014 Lithuanian MFA Strategic Communication Group

[Read online](#)

[Subscribe](#)

You have received this message because your e-mail address has been subscribed to our newsletter
To unsubscribe, please click here [Newsletter unsubscribe](#)

Share:    