



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

17-23 November 2014

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

- Implementation of collective defense and deterrence measures agreed at the NATO summit in Wales is key.
- Most powerful Lithuania's weapon is civil resilience.
- Western sanctions are not doing enough to deter the Russian policies.
- Russian propaganda „littering of minds“ is dangerous.
- Lithuania has moved from energy isolation to full participation in the international gas market.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- "We all see that our neighbour and the neighbour of Ukraine is acting in a way that a neighbour and a country shouldn't, if it cares about international law and international commitments and the agreements it has signed. We see the Russian and Russian troops present in in Eastern Ukraine today, whereas the country is openly lying to deny this." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 21 November 2014), [read full article](#).

- “By continuously sending military equipment and fighters to Ukraine, Russia is creating a new reality – the new Transnistria – and obviously undermines the Minsk agreement. Therefore, the EU must reinforce its response. We must set clear terms for Russia with regard to the de-escalation of the situation and, in case of non-compliance, impose additional EU sanctions.” (Minister L. Linkevičius, 17 November 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - „The EU must immediately impose an array of new sanctions on separatists, representatives of the Kremlin and their sponsors – political, military and economic elite, propaganda representatives. Moreover, the EU should consistently implement its policy of non-recognition with respect to Crimea, develop a new package of restrictive measures targeting sectoral cooperation and exchanges with Russia, and implement them if the situation on the ground deteriorates. [...] The EU must avoid any steps that could legitimise “people’s republics” in eastern Ukraine. (Minister L. Linkevičius, 17 November 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - “We have to encourage and help Ukraine implement its internal reforms. Reform of the energy sector, fighting corruption, moving towards decentralization, implementing the legal reform and measures to improve the business environment should be priority areas. We encourage also other EU member states to follow the example of the Seimas (Parliament) of Lithuania and to adopt the long-term strategy to support Ukraine.” (Minister L. Linkevičius, 17 November 2014), [read full news release](#).
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Security and Defence:

- Lithuanian President D. Grybauskaitė thanked the NATO Secretary General for his attention and support to Lithuania's security. “Only strong Alliance can ensure collective security. We must implement as soon as possible all long-term collective defense and deterrence measures that were agreed at the NATO summit in Wales this last September.” (President D. Grybauskaitė, 21 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - „Lithuania is focused on its commitment to strengthen national defense. The national agreement has been reached to increase the defense spending up to 2 percent of the GDP by 2020. Next year's defense budget will amount to 1.3 percent of the GDP. Lithuania also established the rapid response force prepared to counter the hybrid war threats. It is improving its capabilities as a host country.” (President D. Grybauskaitė, 21 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - "Our focus and readiness to deter the aggression is the most efficient deterrence. This is a signal to anyone who may attempt to infringe upon our sovereignty or breach our freedom. It is a message to every aggressor - this is our home and we will defend it." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 21 November 2014), [read full article](#).
 - „Our allies are here when we need them as an embodiment of the urgent implementation of the decisions taken at the NATO Summit and a reassurance to Lithuania that it does not stand alone in the region where a shift in the security situation has occurred.” (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 20 November 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - “Significant gaps in the implementation of legal frameworks to tackle the threat of terrorism persist due to lack of capacities, resources, or political will.” (Vice-Minister A. Krivas, 20 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - "In the framework of the decisions made at the summit meeting, we will continue increasing the number of NATO exercises in Lithuania." (Chief of Defence Major General J. V. Žukas, 19 November 2014), [read full article](#).
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Energy security:

- “EU institutions and member states must take measures to immediately complete the European

- internal energy market.“ (Vice-Minister R. Kriščiūnas, 19 November 2014), [read full news release](#).
- „The Russian gas monopoly in Lithuania is over with the opening of the liquefied natural gas terminal in Lithuania’s third city of Klaipeda. [...] Lithuania’s energy independence is becoming a reality. It has moved from energy isolation to full participation in the international gas market. This ensures a secure supply of natural gas not only for Lithuania but, if necessary, to other Baltic States as well.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 18 November 2014), [read full article](#).
 - Lithuania's new LNG terminal will be a catalyst for change in the monopolistic market of the Baltic States' gas sector while fostering closer relations between neighbors.“ (Minister of Energy R. Masiulis, 17 November 2014), [read full article](#).
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- "The preparations of the financial and banking sector seem overall well on track," says the report from the EC on the preparations for the euro changeover. (European Commission, 21 November 2014), [read full report](#).
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Bilateral relations:

- "Cooperation with Sweden and other Nordic and Baltic states is one of the most important priorities for Lithuania. [...] We are faced with very similar threats, therefore, should act in a coordinated manner.“ (Minister L. Linkevičius, 21 November 2014), [read full article](#).
 - „Bilateral relations between Lithuania and Latvia, based on common historical memory, strong neighborly ties and mutual respect, promote the pursuit of shared objectives in economic, energy and security spheres. I firmly believe that cooperation between our countries in the Baltic Sea region, the European Union and NATO will contribute in a major way to making our states stronger and finding a common solution to the challenges faced by our region.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 18 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
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Other:

- Lithuania, Latvia, the United Kingdom and Hungary will set up a fund to finance the participation of EU Eastern Partnership countries in international military missions, exercises and other training events. „The fund to be set up is a real practical measure that will allow Eastern Partnership countries to get more actively involved in Europe's Common Security and Defence Policy. Europe needs to take such practical measures in the existing security situation.“ (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 18 November 2014), [read full article](#).
- Lithuania’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemns the murder of the United States humanitarian aid worker Abdul-Rahman Kassig [...] This horrible crime committed by the terrorists of the Islamic State (IS) and their other brutal crimes against peaceful people cannot weaken the international community’s determination to fight terrorism. Those responsible for such crimes need to be brought to justice. ([Lithuanian MFA statement](#), 17 November 2014).
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania strongly condemns a terrorist attack of 18 November in a synagogue in Jerusalem [...] It is important to do utmost to prevent further escalation of violence. Ministry calls for urgent resumption of negotiations leading to a two-state solution and urges to refrain from any unilateral actions that would heighten tensions and undermine resumption of

talks.“ ([Lithuanian MFA statement](#), 17 November 2014).

Media links

- „[Lithuania appeals for stronger stance against Russia](#)“. CNN’s Christiane Amanpour interviews Minister L. Linkevičius. CNN, 18 November 2014. [Watch an interview and read an article](#) by Henry Hullah.
 - An [interview](#) with NATO Secretary General J. Stoltenberg ahead of his visit in Lithuania. Delfi, 19 November 2014.
 - Jeffrey Gedmin: Unless Europe puts values above commerce, we risk another Iron Curtain. Delfi, 22 November 2014. [Read an interview](#).
 - E. Lucas received an honorary doctorate at Vytautas Magnus University. [Watch or read the summary of his address](#) on Russia’s hybrid warfare and ways to counter it. The Baltic Times, 21 November 2014.
 - „Edward Lucas says Russia’s prospects are very gloomy“. Delfi, 21 November 2014. [Read an article](#).
 - Interview with HE Asta Skaisgiryte Liauskiene, Ambassador of Lithuania to the UK. Retro Online, 15 November 2014. [Read the summary and listen to the full interview](#).
 - „Tiny Baltic States Prepare to Hit Back at Mighty Russia“ by Elisabeth Braw. Newsweek, 19 November 2014. [Read an article](#).
 - „Opinion: Russian propaganda lands on America’s shores“ by Ludo Segers. Delfi, 18 November 2014. [Read an article](#).
 - Foreign Affairs Council [arrival and doorstep](#) by Minister L. Linkevičius, 17 November 2014.
 - „Lithuania fears a new Russian invasion“ by John Masanauskas. Herald Sun, 17 November 2014. [Read full article](#).
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On Twitter

Lithuanian Ministry of Defence has joined Twitter. Please follow [@Lithuanian MoD!](#)

Ukraine, Russia:

- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Nov 21](#) Great to notice in the [#Twitter](#) space spontaneous initiative - [#ThankyouDalia](#) ... And we know the reason [@Grybauskaite LT](#) ...
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Nov 20](#) One year ago people of [#Ukraine](#) made a democratic choice that cannot be changed by force & lies. [#Euromaidan](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 20](#) Maidan made us all Ukrainians. And better Europeans too. Слава Україні! Героям слава! [#UnitedforUkraine](#) [#Ukraine](#)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Nov 18](#) Littering of minds by [#Russian](#) [#propaganda](#) is not less dangerous as littering of oceans... [@LinkeviciusL](#) at [@cnn](#) [@camanpour](#)
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Nov 18](#) [#Lithuania](#), [#Latvia](#), [#UK](#) and [#Hungary](#) to set up [#EU](#) [#EasternPartnership](#) defence fund. [hyperlink](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 17](#) Called [#EU](#) 2strengthen sanctions against Russia - situation in E. [#Ukraine](#) h sharply deteriorated, Ru fomenting new reality. [#EUCouncil](#) [#FAC](#)

- [Darius @DariusSemaska](#) · [Nov 17](#) Human rights situation in Crimea has severely deteriorated since [#Russia](#) occupied the peninsula [hyperlink](#)
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Security and defence:

- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian_MoD Nov 23](#) LTU, DK, HUN and US soldiers stand together in line to ensure Baltic region security during LTU Armed Forces Day!
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Nov 23](#) Dear friends [@Lithuanian_MoD](#) welcome on twitter and happy LT Armed Forces Day! We are proud of those who stand up for our country's freedom.
 - [Jens Stoltenberg @jensstoltenberg](#) · [Nov 21](#) In [#Lithuania](#) meeting forces from many nations of the Alliance. The challenges we face, we must meet together as one.
 - [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Nov 21](#) Discussed security measures and implementation of [#Wales](#) decisions with Secretary General of [#NATO @jensstoltenberg](#)
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 21](#) We are working to implement Readiness Action Plan- it's priority, says SG of [#NATO @jensstoltenberg](#) in Kaunas, [#LT](#)
 - [BNS Lithuania @BNSLithuania](#) · [Nov 19](#) [#Lithuania](#) to host more [#NATO](#) exercises next year; Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Portugal confirmed participation: top general
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Nov 18](#) [@LinkeviciusL](#): Ru mil. flights over Baltic skies in 2014 equals total in a last decade- not a confidence building.
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Energy Security:

- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Nov 21](#) Lith DFM Krisciunas at [#EU #FAC #trade: #Trade](#) Defence Instruments should help 2 tackle Russian double energy pricing
 - [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE](#) · [Nov 20](#) Gas price falls in [#Lithuania](#)'s because of [#LNG](#) terminal - EN.DELFI [hyperlink](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Nov 20](#) [#SwedishBusinessAwards](#)-testimony of responsible and socially-oriented business in [#Lithuania](#). Applauds to the winners
 - [Gediminas Varvuolis @varvuolis](#) · [Nov 17](#) Lithuania has some of the safest railways in Europe, new study shows [hypelink](#)
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Bilateral relations:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Nov 17](#) Congratulations to Klaus [#Iohannis](#), President-elect of [#Romania](#). Looking forward to cooperation in the [#EU](#) & [#NATO](#).
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Nov 17](#) Congratulations to [#Latvia](#) on [#Independence](#) Day! Apsveicam Latvijas Republikas proklamēšanas dienā!
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 17](#) Apsveicu Neatkarības proklamēšanas dienā un es vēlos Latvijas tautai laimi un labklājību! Greetings, Latvia! [@edgarsrinkevics @Latvian_MFA](#)
- [Aurimas Taurantas @ATaurantas](#) · [Nov 17](#) Today the [#Czech](#) Republic is celebrating the 25th

anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. 25 yrs of freedom! Congrats!

Other:

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 20](#) 14th National prayer breakfast dedicated 2deeply precious words of Pope J Paul II 'Don't be afraid'. Fear 2 act dominates policies of today
 - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 18](#) Today Lithuania joined Freedom online coalition – together advancing internet freedom & human rights online. [@FO Coalition](#)
 - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 18](#) Well deserved- Polish dissident [@AMichnik](#) , editor of [@gazeta wyborcza](#) receives 2014 Freedom prize of LT Parliament! [hyperlink](#)
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Nov 18](#) We express deep concern and strictly condemn brutal attack on [#Jerusalem](#) synagogue.
 - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 17](#) [#Georgia](#) one step closer visa-free travel after [#EUCouncil](#) [#FAC](#) approved today 2nd progress report on visa liberaliz Action Plan
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