



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

24-30 November 2014

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

- Strong and democratic Ukraine is in Lithuania's interest. Lithuania has always supported and will continue to support the choice of the Ukrainian people.
- The Baltic States are facing pressure, provocations and information attacks – a united and resolute response is needed in close cooperation with the EU and NATO partners.
- The US troops will remain in the Baltic states as long as necessary to deter Russian aggression.
- Lithuania is continuing to be at the forefront in terms of very favourable investment, infrastructure and tax conditions
- Lithuania's joining the Eurozone from 1st January 2015 – a recognition of stability, certainty and legal order of the country.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- "We in the European Union [...] must be united and understand that as a strong team we can convince all countries in the world so that they hear what is happening in Ukraine. [...] Ukraine is an undivided country and we must declare that." (Prime Minister A. Butkevičius, 27 November

- 2014), [read full article](#).
- "When speaking of Ukraine we need to understand that the context is much wider. It doesn't matter whether the country is big or small; no one has the right to decide for it. When we speak about Ukraine today, we speak about the entire pan-European security architecture." (Minister L. Linkevičius, 26 November 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - "Lithuania has always supported and will continue to support the choice of the Ukrainian people. Our country can offer the needed expert assistance in the economic, legal, energy, transport and other spheres. [...] Lithuania receives injured Ukrainian soldiers for rehabilitation, provides food, clothes and medical aid, and is ready to increase its assistance in the near future." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 24 November 2014), [read full press statement](#).
 - „A joint brigade formed by Lithuania, Ukraine and Poland will provide an opportunity for Ukraine to learn from Lithuania's and Poland's experience of NATO integration and to develop efficient armed forces." (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 24 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - „No one can stop any country from applying for NATO membership. No one can dictate Ukraine which direction to chose, especially its neighbours. [...] Only your people can decide what and how should be done, and nobody can stop you from this – neither the neighbours nor anyone else. But this will take time, you must be ready for this." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 24 November 2014), [read full article](#).
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Security and Defence:

- Baltic Regional Training Events (BRTes) „demonstrate the way security in the region is becoming stronger, interoperability is increasing and air space over the Baltic Sea is protected better because of the Nordic-Baltic regional cooperation and NATO partnership.“ (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 28 November 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - The U.S. has temporarily deployed hundreds of troops in NATO members Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in the wake of the Russian intervention in Ukraine. U.S. forces had rotations planned through next year and would "be here for as long as necessary to assure all of our allies and to deter Russian aggression." (Commander of the U.S. Army in Europe Lt. Gen. B. Hodges, 24 November 2014), [read full article](#).
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Russia imposed the new measures on vehicles with Lithuanian plates wanting to enter the Kaliningrad region on Friday night. „Both cars and cargo vehicles are practically not let into Russia." (Interior Minister S. Skvernelis, 24 November 2014), [read full article](#).
- "One of the way it [Russia] wants and can irritate its neighbours is border-related obstacles. There's nothing new here, it just regularly imposes such measures for "naughty" countries. Usually, it lasts for several months. They will tantalize us, irritate our carriers and the system would silently start working again." (Political scientist D. Jakniūnaitė, Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University, 24 November 2014), [read full article](#).
- "Today, as far as I know, the Russian customs service said that European contraband was smuggled across the border of Lithuania. This means an accusation on the entire Europe. This also means that now it is a problem of the entire Europe and Europe will have to address it. [...] "These are political problems arising from the fact that Russia is an aggressive and unpredictable country. Our business sector needs to make serious evaluations because we know that Russia, at least for now, is an unreliable economic partner." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 25 November 2014), [read full article](#).
- Among the three Baltic States "Lithuania is continuing to be at the forefront in terms of very favourable investment, infrastructure and tax conditions in its 7 free economic zones, by offering 0% corporate profit tax during their initial 6 years of operation and only 7,5% tax over the next 10

years, also no tax on dividends and real estate tax. Moreover, Lithuania is continuing the process of liberalization of its labour law and will join the Eurozone from 1st January 2015, which is a recognition of stability, certainty and legal order of the country.” (Chairman of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce R. Juodka, 24 November 2014), [read full article](#).

Bilateral relations:

- “Cooperation with Estonia and other countries in the region is one of the priorities of Lithuania. [...] It is only by acting in solidarity that we shall be able to defend our common interests and values.” (Minister L. Linkevičius, 30 November 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - „The Baltic States are facing pressure, provocations and information attacks. A united and resolute response to these challenges is needed by bolstering the military, energy and information security in close cooperation with the EU and NATO partners.“ (Press Service of the President press statement, 28 November 2014), [read full press statement](#).
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Other:

- The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (US) „is among our top priorities in the field of external trade. It is a unique project that offers an opportunity to strengthen the EU and US economies by creating an ambitious and open free trade area. [...] It is estimated that the TTIP agreement would increase the size of the US economy by around EUR 95 billion, and that of the EU, by as much as EUR 120 billion.“ (Chancellor of the Government A. Mačiulis, 26 November 2014), [read full article](#).
 - Lithuania expresses its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. We concur the 24/11/2014 statement of the High Representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy Federica Mogherini stating that the so called treaty “violates Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, contradicts principles of international law and the international commitments of the Russian Federation, including the 12 August 2008 Agreement and its Implementing Measures of 8 September 2008”. (Lithuania MFA statement, 25 November 2014), [read full statement](#).
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Media links

- „Opinion: Why Russia’s threat to Baltic states is so real“ by Marius Laurinavičius. Delfi, 28 November 2014. [Read full article](#).
- „What would Lithuanian army need in case of military aggression?“ An interview with Lithuanian army commander General Jonas Vytautas Žukas and Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas by Edmundas Jakilaitis. LRT / Delfi, 28 November 2014. [Read full interview](#).
- „EP president's adviser Pranckevičius: Russia is building a coalition against free world“ by Tomas Marcinkevičius. Delfi, 27 November 2014. [Read an interview](#).
- Minister L. Linkevičius: Russia and the West should press „reset“ but not „delete“ – an interview to a new Russian TV, „Curent Time“ („Настоящее время“), 26 November 2014. [Read an article and watch the interview \(in Russian\)](#).
- „US General: US forces will stay in Baltic states to deter Russia.“ BNS, Delfi, 24 November 2014. [Read full interview](#).

On Twitter

Ukraine, Russia:

- [Inga Tolockiene @IngaTolockiene](#) · [Nov 30](#) For EU 2 choose: giving in to 'Twilight Zone' in Russia's Shadow, or defending 'World of Rules?' Radek Sikorski [hyperlink](#)
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · [Nov 28](#) Some myths must be debunked and busted again and again. [#RussiaMyths](#) & NATO-Russia Relations: the Facts are here: [hyperlink](#)
- [Petras Vaitiekūnas @PeVaitiek](#) · [Nov 28](#) [#StopRussianAggression](#) [#StopPutin](#) war in [#Ukraine](#) [#UnitedforUkraine](#) No deals with [#Putin](#) on [#Ukraine](#) at the moment.
- [Simonas Satunas](#) retweeted [toomas hendrik ilves @IlvesToomas](#) · [Nov 27](#) Simply brilliant 11 minute talk by Yale prof. Timothy Snyder on postmodernist propaganda techniques & use in Ukraine [hyperlink](#)
- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · [Nov 26](#) Impossible not to think of [#Ukraine](#) watching 'The Invisible Front' which reveals same fight for [#freedom](#) 70 y ago -> [hyperlink](#)
- [Gediminas Varvuolis @varvuolis](#) · [Nov 25](#) Stoltenberg dismisses Kremlin's request for guarantees over Ukraine membership of NATO [hyperlink](#)
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Nov 24](#) Strength & unity of [#EuroMaidan](#) will help to build stronger [#Ukraine](#) in the future
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Nov 24](#) [#European](#) reforms in [#Ukraine](#) require unity of [#UKR](#) people&government
- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian_MoD](#) · [Nov 24](#) Next year [#Lithuania](#) to increase its support to [#Ukraine](#) by focusing on [#LITPOLUKRBRIG](#). [hyperlink](#)

Security and defence:

- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian_MoD](#) · [Nov 27](#) 1st part of air defence system [#GROM](#) is due to arrive in [#LTArmedForces](#) in early Dec. [hyperlink](#)
- [Simonas Satunas@SimonasSatunas](#) · [Nov 25](#) [#US](#) general: troops staying in [#Baltics](#) through 2015 [hyperlink](#)

Energy Security:

- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Nov 25](#) Minister: [#LNG](#) from [#Lithuania](#) could reach [#Ukraine](#) after 2018 <http://shar.es/1XwNG5> [@LNGALLIES](#) [@Ingglobal](#) [@NATOSource](#) [@LukeDCoffey](#) [#energy](#)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Nov 24](#) Energy sec beyond the region: gas from [#KlaipedaLNG](#) in 2018 could reach [#Ukraine](#), says LT Energy Minister Masiulis. [#EnergySecurity](#)

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Nov 29](#) Awaiting 4 [#Euro](#), Lithuania builds largest

Bilateral relations:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 28](#) Good neighbourly talk w [@KeitPentus](#) -solid ties when time is spent on discussing 'how' not 'if'.
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 26](#) Back in [#Moldova](#), heading to Comrat w friend, min N. Gherman. MD spearheads European reforms, deserves full support& clear [#EU](#) perspective.
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 26](#) Happy to meet old friend former minister [@schwarzenberg_k](#). Not far from the monument of [#velvetrevolution](#) talked about values in todays life
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Other:

- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Nov 30](#) [#Lithuanians](#) want to rename public square in [#Vilnius](#) in front of [#Russian](#) embassy by name of [#Euromaidan](#). [hyperlink](#)
 - [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Nov 26](#) Congrats to [@DenisMukwege](#) on receiving the [#SakharovPrize](#). Violence against women cannot be used as a weapon of war [#CWWL](#) [#Women Leaders](#)
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Nov 26](#) I join the call to end violence against women. It damages the future of our societies. [#WhiteRibbonDay](#) .
 - [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Nov 25](#) “[@LithuaniaUNNY](#): [#UNSC](#) adopted R2186, cosponsored by [#Lithuania](#). Extended UNIOGBIS mandate for 3 months. [#GuineaBissau](#)”
 - [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Nov 24](#) Stopping violence against women means protecting democracy & human rights. [#16days](#) [#UNWomen](#) [#CWWL](#)
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas](#) retweeted [Edward Lucas @edwardlucas](#) · [Nov 24](#) hello [@reuters](#). why do you describe Lithuania as "ex-soviet" but not Russia as "ex-Soviet"?? please let us know. thanks
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