



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

1-7 December 2014

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

- NATO's presence in Lithuania will increase in 2015.
- Violations of the OSCE's fundamental principles and obligations are obvious in Crimea.
- No other country can dictate policy choices of a sovereign state.
- South Stream halt shows good example of EU unity.
- Lithuania is becoming a centre for LNG competence.
- The Baltic States and Poland act together for secure and economically strong region.
- Lithuania strongly supports Moldova's European path.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- „Violations of the OSCE's fundamental principles and obligations are obvious in Crimea.“ (Minister L. Linkevičius, 4 December 2014), [read full news release](#).

- „We are dealing with an intentional and deliberate violation of the OSCE norms and principles, which is destructive to the OSCE foundations. [...] What we need is political will of each and every OSCE participating State to respect and comply with the OSCE Helsinki Final Act and the OSCE's other commitments, fundamental principles and values.“ (Minister L. Linkevičius, 4 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - „The most important task of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel was to restore the supremacy of international law in the occupied part of Ukraine.“ (Minister L. Linkevičius, 2 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - On Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration plans: Ukrainian foreign minister "spoke very clearly about the Euro-Atlantic orientation, which answers the question about which direction Ukraine will go. [...] If we give an impression that another country can dictate a choice, it would cause far more damage, as it would be a precedent taken by everyone for granted, and this just cannot be." (Minister L. Linkevičius, 2 December 2014), [read full article](#).
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Security and Defence:

- The Ministry of National Defence has signed contracts on ammunition procurement for nearly LTL 50 m to date. "One of our current priorities is a well-trained and well-equipped soldier. Therefore replenishment of our munitions reserve will serve for ensuring quality training of military personnel and their appropriate preparation for fulfilling their duties." (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 5 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - The increasingly frequent Russian provocations by flying its military jets close to the Baltic air-space is „not demonstration of power, let them not enjoy it – it's demonstration of stupidity, irresponsible behavior.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 3 December 2014), [read full article](#).
 - "NATO's air, land and maritime presence will increase in Lithuania in 2015. Representatives of the United States Armed Forces remain in our country, other Allies will also contribute to the implementation of the Assurance Measures. [...] NATO Readiness Action Plan (RAP) was being successfully and timely implemented." (Minister L. Linkevičius, 3 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - "I expect to see [...] an agreement on continuous NATO presence in the eastern part of our Alliance next year." (NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, 2 December 2014), [read full article](#).
 - „It is essential to seek EU financing opportunities for the alternative programmes in the Russian language, develop the European strategic communication plan and improve EU legislation governing the audiovisual sector.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 2 December 2014), [read full press release](#).
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Energy security:

- „An LNG competences centre is being formed in Lithuania. The experience of our people and enterprises can be used not only for the assurance of energy independence but also for the provision of new services.“ (Minister of Energy R. Masiulis, 3 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
- "From the beginning of December, we began transporting gas towards Estonia, up to the Lithuanian and Latvian border. This fact, together with the start of the commercial operation of the [„LNG] terminal, is a significant step towards regional integration and establishment of a common gas market of the Baltic states." (General Director of the Lithuanian natural gas transmission system operator AB Amber Grid S. Bilys, 3 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
- Estonia's President Toomas Hendrik Ilves thanked Lithuania for its contribution to enhancing

energy security of the whole region. The Klaipėda liquefied natural gas terminal coming into operation this year will be able to cover even 90 percent of the three Baltic States' gas supply needs, if necessary. (Press centre of the President of the Republic of Lithuania, 2 December 2014), [read full press release](#).

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- „Since 2011 the euro zone has stagnated; Lithuania’s GDP has grown by 4.3% a year. Its ratio of government debt to GDP is among the lowest in the EU. Moreover, this impressive performance is the result of the sort of root-and-branch reform most euro-zone countries have shirked. [...] From 2009 to 2013 the government slashed spending by 10.5 percentage points of GDP—more than any other country in the EU. It slimmed its budget deficit from 9.3% to 2.6% of GDP.“ (The Economist, 6 December 2014), [read full article](#).
 - "Lithuania's business sector has experienced first-hand that long-term relations with Russia are not reliable. I do believe time will come and trade with this country will get back to normal. But now one needs to assess the risks and do not expect anything." (Minister L. Linkevičius, 2 December 2014), [read full article](#).
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- „Lithuania's and Finland's priorities are now to ensure security, enhance energy independence in the Baltic Sea region and secure the welfare of their people. (President D. Grybauskaitė, 6 December 2014), [read full message of congratulation](#).
 - A meeting of presidents of the Baltic States and Poland took place in Estonia. "Our countries have a shared goal - secure and economically strong region. We will only achieve this goal by standing together in the implementation of long-term collective defense measures and strategic projects aimed at ensuring the region's energy self-sufficiency." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 2 December 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - „Lithuania strongly supports Moldova’s independence, territorial integrity and the path of European integration chosen by Moldovans. [...] Lithuania is ready to help the new Government of Moldova, sharing its reform and European integration experience. (MFA statement, 1 December 2014), [read full statement](#).
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Other:

- "The cooperation of European Union countries in the field of justice is based on mutual trust, therefore, we had reasonable expectations for Italy to hand over the 13 January suspect to Lithuania." (Lithuanian MFA, 2 December 2014), [read full article](#).
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Media links

- “Lithuania and the euro: Strange bedfellows. *The euro zone’s newest member faces an uphill*

- *struggle*". The Economist, 6 December 2014, [read full article](#).
- BBC's Vishala Sri Pathma interview with President D. Grybauskaitė: "South Stream halt shows 'good example of unity'". BBC, 5 December 2014. [Watch an interview](#).
- Lithuanian ambassador Žygimantas Pavilionis: We do not invest in our relations with the United States. Delfi, 5 December 2014, [read full interview](#).
- "A United Eurasia from Lisbon to Vladivostok?" by Audronius Ažubalis. EU Observer, 5 December 2014, [read full article](#).
- "Ukraine turns towards NATO, increasing tension between Russia and west" by Sergei Kuznetsov. Financial Times, 3 December 2014, [read an article](#) (subscription required) or [find the copy](#).
- Bruce S. Thornton: Why should Putin risk for Baltic States? Delfi, 1 December 2014. [Read full interview](#).

On Twitter

Ukraine, Russia:

- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · Dec 4 FM [@LinkeviciusL](#) at [#OSCEMC14](#): [#OSCE](#) cannot continue 'business as usual' when ppl in [#Ukraine](#) dying every day.
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · Dec 3 FM [@LinkeviciusL](#) congratulated [#Ukr](#) FM [@PavloKlimkin](#) on his re-appointment, stressed supp. 4th pro-European reforms <http://bit.ly/11TXTmn>
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Dec 3 Enjoy open & frank discussion in [#Basel](#) at [#OSCE](#) ministerial. Are we able to take stock? To assess our role? Litmus test is [#UKR](#)
- [Asta A. @AstaAndr](#) · Dec 1 Minister of Economy of Ukraine from Lithuania. Congrats, Aivaras Abromavicius! We are proud of you! <http://goo.gl/un9C8H>
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Dec 1 Very 'convincing' arguments of [#RU](#)- to present aggression as defence. Deja vu... via [@reuters](#) [hyperlink](#)

Security and defence:

- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian_MoD](#) Dec 7 LT Chief of Defence: [#Lithuania](#) to contribute up to 100 troops to NATO-led [#ResoluteSupport](#) mission in [#Afghanistan](#) next year
- [ŽygimantasPavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) Dec 6 High level parliamentary team landing 4th talks on the Hill: Foreign&Nat.Security Chairs, fmr FM [@Azubalis](#), [@ParlForDemoc](#) President [@Zingeris](#)
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Dec 4 My take from [#Basel](#): [#OSCE](#) shdn't reinvent wheel acc aggressors wishes, must defend principles of Helsinki Act & never compromise on them.
- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom](#) · Dec 4 The best way to [#stopfake](#): identify and deconstruct it publicly. Deconstruction of [#Russian](#) [#Propaganda](#): <http://bit.ly/1ClkJOx>
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · Dec 3 Worrying trend: smog of info polluting societies. Gets difficult discerning news from "news", the latter heavily used for propaganda war
- [Raimonda Murrumokaite @PRLTUN](#) · Dec 3 Almost there: [#Lithuanian](#) parliament [@LRSSeimas](#) ratifies the [#UN](#) Arms Trade Treaty
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · Dec 2 [@LinkeviciusL](#) after [#ForMin](#) meeting: [#ReadinessActionPlan](#) implementation shows good progress, [@NATO](#) presence in [#Lithuania](#)

increases in 2015

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Dec 1](#) 1st [#NATO](#) ForMin mtng after Wales Summit- our approach implementing decisions should be 'fast-forward', not 'rewind'. Credibility at stake.
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Energy Security:

- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Dec 4](#) 29 countries recognize the importance of the [#KlaipedaLNG](#) terminal in Lithuania at the [#EU-US #Energy](#) Council. <http://bit.ly/1vluKY1>
 - [Darius @DariusSemaska](#) · [Dec 4](#) Kerry and Mogherini discussed measures to bolster EU energy security such as the LNG terminal in Lithuania [hyperlink](#)
 - [LT PermRep EU @EU2013LTpress](#) · [Dec 3](#) [#Lithuania](#)'s liquefied natural gas ([#LNG](#)) [#terminal](#) officially launches operations [hyperlink](#)
-

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · [Dec 7](#)[#Klaipeda](#) Sea port sets new cargo handling record in November <http://bit.ly/1yrSufk>
 - [Darius @DariusSemaska](#) · [Dec 5](#) Lithuanian Euro introduction to boost trade with Germany [hyperlink](#)
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Dec 4](#) [#Lithuania](#), one of Europe's fastest-growing [#economy](#) will become 19th member of the [#euro](#) zone [@TheEconomist](#) story <http://econ.st/123iiFy>
 - [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Dec 2](#) Another [#game #industry](#) company from [#Ukraine](#) choose [#Vilnius](#) 4 relocation & investments! Welcome! [@neweuropeinvest](#) <http://meliorgames.com>
 - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Dec 1](#) LT euro starter kit- can't use now on my Brussels trip though;) we join [#eurozone](#) in a month! [#LTeuro2015](#)
 - [Gediminas Varvuolis @varvuolis](#) · [Dec 1](#) Danske Bank maintains Lithuania's GDP growth forecast - EN.DELFI [hyperlink](#)
 - [Gediminas Varvuolis @varvuolis](#) · [Dec 1](#) Lithuania visited by 10.2 percent more tourists - EN.DELFI [hyperlink](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [NeilasTankevicius@NTvyteris](#) [Dec 5](#) [#Lithuania](#) takes [#Baltic](#) Council of Ministers chairmanship in 2015. PM A.Butkevicius thanks [#Estonia](#) for 2014
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Dec 4](#) Welcome the agreement to form pro-European coalition in [#Moldova](#). Implement. of AA & reforms is key.
 - [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Dec 2](#) Meeting of Presidents of [#Baltics& #Poland](#). Regional cooperation, military, energy & information security high on agenda
 - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Dec 2](#) Short mtng at [#NATO](#) w new [#Georgia](#) FoMin Tamar Beruchashvili - Ru 'flirt' w S Osetia undermines sovereignty.
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Other:

- [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Dec 5 #Lithuania](#) one of 10 [#UNSC](#) members asking to place situation in [#DPRK](#) on Council agenda
- [Lithuania Tribune @lithuaniatribun](#) · [Dec 3 #Litvak](#) Days in London presented Jewish cultural heritage of [#Lithuania](#) - [@LTEMBASSYUK](#) [hyperlink](#)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Dec 2](#) Deepest condolences 2those affected by terrible attack on innoc civilians in [#Kenya](#). Must stand united against [#terrorism](#). [#ManderaMassacre](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Dec 2](#) Humbling&inspiring: [@Twiplomacy](#) says I'm 3rd foreign min among [#EU](#) & 4rth globaly most followed by world leaders. [hyperlink](#)
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Dec 1](#) Many thanks to Herman Van Rompuy for his work & dedication and congratulations to Donald Tusk on starting his Presidential term at [#EU](#)
- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Dec 1](#) On 1st day in office as the [#President](#) of [#EU](#) Council [@donaldtusk](#) calls [@BarackObama](#) 2 talk on [#TTIP](#)! Congrats! [hyperlink](#)< /span>

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