



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

8-14 December 2014

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

- Investigation and accountability for human rights violations in Ukraine is necessary.
- Lithuania welcomes the commitment of the United States of America to further strengthen security in the Baltic States.
- Every day we face new information warfare attacks – Lithuania will defend its information space.
- Lithuania upgraded its defence financing by nearly one third in comparison to last year.
- Baltic and Polish Defence Ministers agreed on joint response to deter Russia.
- Lithuania is becoming a natural choice for new, fast growing companies looking for quality and growth potential.
- Lithuania strengthens ties with Turkey, supports its euro-integration.
- The promotion of human rights is an integral part of Lithuania's foreign policy.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- “The violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in parts of Ukraine under the control of armed pro-Russian groups are in the centre of attention of the United Nations and other international organizations. The international community must also place in the spotlight the deteriorating human rights situation in occupied Crimea. It is necessary to investigate and ensure

accountability for human rights violations in Ukraine.” (Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN, Ambassador R. Murmokaitė, 12 December 2014), [read full news release](#).

Security and Defence:

- "Every day makes us face new information warfare attacks. Their targets are our people. People are fed with information which encourages mistrusting their state, history and armed forces, membership in the European Union and NATO. The Constitution obliges us to protect the information space of Lithuania. We must not stay defenceless in this warfare." (President D. Grybauskaitė, 12 December 2014), [read full article](#).
 - On the decision of the United States House of Representatives to authorize \$1 billion for the "European Reassurance Initiative": „We welcome the commitment of our strategic ally – the United States of America – to further strengthen security in the Baltic States and other eastern European countries. This is one of the most important steps to implement the decisions on the measures of collective defence taken at NATO Summit in Wales this September.“ (Minister L. Linkevičius, 8 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - Seimas' approval of the Lithuanian Defence Budget encompassing a defence financing upgraded by one third nearly in comparison to last year [...] „was a critical step for Lithuania. The will to increase defence spending primarily proves our own responsible approach to national defence and a staunch fulfilment of our commitments.“ (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 8 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - "We have observed a rise in the activity of the Russian Federation's forces in the Kaliningrad region as well as in the western part of the Russian Federation. Therefore, a decision was made to put several of our military units on a higher state of preparedness. These are rapid response units as well as units responsible for military tasks during peacetime." (Chief of the Joint Staff V. Tamošaitis, 8 December 2014), [read full article](#).
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Energy security:

- „We basically invest the same money in energy security as we would otherwise potentially lose in a year due to political circumstances. Taking into account a potential loss due to a possible embargo of several years, it becomes obvious that we have avoided a huge financial risk.“ (KPMG partner R. Kasperavičius, 9 December 2014), [read full article](#).
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- “The position of Lithuania is changing – we are becoming a natural choice for new, fast growing companies that are looking for quality and growth potential, rather than simply low costs. [...] We can offer a business environment well-suited to rapid development.“ (Director of the Investment Development Department at Invest Lithuania J. Pagirys, 8 December 2014), [read full article](#).
 - „The advancement of bilateral trade with Turkey [...] is in the economic interests of Lithuania. Over the first six months of this year, Lithuanian exports to Turkey grew by 27 percent. New prospects for bilateral business cooperation are offered by the fast container train Viking, which connects Asia with the Baltic Sea, as well as collaboration in the areas of innovation, IT, lasers, energy, health sciences and research.“ (Press Service of the President of Lithuania, 8 December 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - "In terms of inflation, the time for the currency changeover is particularly favourable. Lately, the price vectors on international food and energy resources markets have been going down, while our small and open economy has been importing these trends. There is not much stimuli for a price rise in the country either." (Chief analyst of the DNB bank I. Genytė-Pikčienė, 8 December 2014), [read full article](#).
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- „Baltic States and Poland are facing the same threats, therefore it is crucial to coordinate our response. Let us work with one accord so that Russia knows that its venture to put the principles of NATO collective defence to test might bring about heavy effect.“ (Minister of National Defence J. Olekas, 12 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - „We are proud of the strong good-neighborly bond connecting Lithuania and Latvia, the special sisterly relations between the Baltic nations and the almost one-hundred-year long partnership on the path of defending our freedom and independence.“ (President D. Grybauskaitė, 10 December 2014), [read full press release](#).
 - Turkey is „an important ally of Lithuania and NATO, contributing in a significant way to the stability of the whole region. [...] Lithuania backs Turkey's membership in the EU.“ (Press Service of the President of Lithuania, 8 December 2014), [read full press release](#).
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Other:

- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania L. Linkevičius received an annual human rights award from the Lithuania-based Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HRMI). “Lithuania’s active involvement in the activities of international human rights institutions shows that the promotion of human rights is an integral part of Lithuania’s foreign policy.” (Minister L. Linkevičius, 10 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
 - „Obligations of the EU and other donor countries concerning future financing instruments of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda must be bound with specific obligations of recipient countries to implement reforms and to seek changes. Lithuania is ready to share its knowledge and experience in implementing reforms with all partner countries.” (Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs A. Krivas, 12 December 2014), [read full news release](#).
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Media links

- „US analyst: Lithuanian-Russian relations give new meaning to "the dialogue of the deaf"“. Delfi, 12 December, [read an interview](#) with Bruce Jackson, president of the Project on Transitional Democracies.
 - Charles Ries: Lithuania has security stake in US-EU trade agreement. The Lithuania Tribune, 11 December 2014, [read full iterview](#).
 - „Opinion: Deluded leader in search of spiritual sources“ by Ramūnas Bogdanas. Delfi, 11 December 2014, [read full article](#).
 - „Opinion: Reality check for Russia“ by Vykintas Pugačiauskas. Delfi, 8 December 2014, [read full article](#).
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On Twitter

Ukraine, Russia:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Dec 14](#) Do we need a catastrophe to change smth? [#Russia](#) mil plane near colision w Swedish civilian aircraft, again...
- [Petras Austrevicius @petras_petras](#) · [Dec 14](#) Russian military planes try use unacceptable and provocative methods over Baltic sea. From little green men to flying men??

- [Darius @DariusSemaska](#) · Dec 13 Russian tanks exposed in Ukraine: Fresh video of huge convoy adds to Kremlin guilt [hyperlink](#)
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · Dec 13 Does a permanent [#UNSC](#) seat mean additional responsibility for global order? [#Russia](#) might disagree [#Sweden](#) [#MH17](#) <http://t.sr.se/1BvvXBP> "
- [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · Dec 13 "[@ConflictUkraine](#): At least 4,634 people were killed and more than 10,000 wounded as a result of fighting in eastern Ukraine - UN"
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Dec 10 Congrats to new [#EP](#) group of Friends of Ukraine.. many Lith MEPs in it, incl the chair P.Austrevicius. United we stand! [@petras petras](#)
- [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · Dec 10 [#Lithuanian](#) Govt. decides on voluntary contributions to [#UN](#) [#CERF](#), [#UNHCR](#), [#OSCE](#) SMM in eastern [#Ukraine](#), [#UN](#) HRMM in [#Ukraine](#)
- [Asta A. @AstaAndr](#) · Dec 10 Ukraine's Business Ombudsman - Lithuanian Algirdas Semeta, former EU Commissioner. Congratulations! [hyperlink](#) via [@zn ua](#)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · Dec 8 FM [@LinkeviciusL](#): It's difficult 2engage in any frank talk when one of the parties denying any involv.at all <http://bit.ly/1uZlxlol> [#Ukraine](#)
- [ŽygimantasPavilionis@ZygisPavilionis](#) Dec 8 Interesting read: The Greatest Challenge 2US-European Sec. Cooperation 2day: The Ukraine Crisis [hyperlink](#) via [@thenatinterest](#)

Security and defence:

- [Lithuanian MoD@Lithuanian_MoD](#) Dec 12 Number of [#Lithuanian](#) troops on duty in [#NATONRF](#) [#EUBG](#) & NATO/EU HQs to increase in 2015-2016 <http://bit.ly/1zURwdQ>
- [Lithuanian MoD@Lithuanian_MoD](#) Dec 11 LTU National [#CyberD efence](#) Centre will be operational from 1Jan to address [#cyber](#) threats on state level <http://bit.ly/1x5FzEB>
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · Dec 11 [#Lithuania](#) glad 2 engage in [@NATO #ICI](#) coop in energy security field. Table-top exercise in [#ENSECCOE](#) in Oct in [#Vilnius](#) - good contribution
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · Dec 11 Economy, finances, trade & [#TTIP](#) negotiations, Euro adoption in [#LT](#)-everything has a security dimension in an increasingly interlinked world
- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom](#) · Dec 9 Worth to read and to share raising awareness of internet [#troll](#) army's selling the Kremlin's parallel universe <http://tiny.cc/sswlqcx>
- [Lithuanian MoD@Lithuanian_MoD](#) Dec 8 [#Russi a](#) continues showing force near the Baltic States borders. RU strategic bombers intercepted by NATO jets. <http://bit.ly/1ubni1m>

Energy Security:

- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · Dec 10 RT "[@BBGVisualData](#): Pipeline politics: 1/3 of Europe's gas comes from Russia. <http://bloom.bg/1qqklyL> "
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · Dec 9 [#KlaipedaLNG](#) - breaks down gas supply monopoly in the region: Estonia purchases first [#gas](#) from LT, bypassing Russia. <http://bit.ly/1qoMBSw>

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · Dec 11 [#Lithuanian](#) Pixelmator – [#Apple](#)'s Pick For Best iPad App Of The Year [hyperlink](#)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · Dec 11 Three [#Baltic](#) countries has noted the highest growth in value of nation brands in CEE. <http://bit.ly/1qzxNR2>
- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · Dec 10 Only 20 days left till [#Lithuania](#) switches to [#euro](#). Read [#facts](#) about [#LTeuro2015](#) here: <http://bit.ly/1B8bvH1>
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · Dec 9 Lithuania is among the countries having the highest number of high-growth firms in Central and Eastern Europe. <http://bit.ly/1uk8HSv>
- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · Dec 9 What is between [#Alaska](#) & the [#Baltics](#)? Answer - [#TTIP!](#) [hyperlink](#) [@ZygisPavilionis](#) [@LithuaniaMFA](#)

- [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE](#) · [Dec 8](#) In 2013, [#FDI](#) in [#Lithuania](#) grew by 5.1% [hyperlink](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Dec 8](#) Official visit to [#Turkey](#): closer bilateral cooperation-stronger ties btw [#NATO](#) allies&new opportunities for business
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Dec 8](#) Just signed MoU on [#EU](#) cooperation w colleague [@volkan_bozkir](#). [#Lithuania](#) will continue support [#Turkey](#)
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Other:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Dec 14](#) Congratulations [@MartinSchulz](#). [#Charlemagne](#) 2015 Prize is the recognition for your commitment to [#Europe](#)
 - [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) [Dec 14](#) Off 2New Orleans 2open 23rd Lithuanian Honorary Consulate in US led by [@JackieClarkson](#) [@RKacinskas](#) [@NOLANews](#) [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Dec 11](#) Heartfelt condolences to [#PAL](#) on tragic death of Minister Ziad Abu Ein. Call for transparent investigation and for restraint.
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Dec 10](#) Welcome the new Gov. in [#Kosovo](#). Further progress in the normalization of relations w Serbia & restart of the European reform agenda is key.
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Dec 8](#) Decade of growth and sharing –10 years to LT [#development](#) [#cooperation](#), stepping into [#EYD2015](#). Thanks to all partners around the world
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