



Believe in Freedom

LITHUANIA

11 MARCH, 1990

# Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

## 9-15 March 2015

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

“25 years ago we stood as one to restore our independence. We proved - no gun can destroy desire of freedom.” President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 11 March 2015.

Last week Lithuania celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Restoration of Independence! Thanks for celebrating together! Greetings on [Youtube](#) and [Storify](#).

### Key messages:

- Lithuania grateful for strategic partnership with US, US leadership is key implementing NATO decisions at Wales.
- Rotating presence of Allied forces in Lithuania – clear message of deterrence.
- Need to support Ukraine’s European integration ambitions through robust assistance to internal reforms.
- Pressure on Russia must continue to ensure full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

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## Top lines, statements

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### Ukraine, Russia:

- Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Andrius Krivas on his visit to Kyiv and

Dnepropetrovsk on March 9-11 discussed Ukraine's security situation, the reform agenda and NATO-Ukraine cooperation. [Read full news release.](#)

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## Security and Defence:

- “We are very grateful for the strategic partnership with the United States, which contributes to the security of Lithuania and the whole region. We need to have more leadership of the United States in implementing NATO Summit decisions taken in Wales, and in containing Russia’s aggression in Ukraine.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 9 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
  - “I am absolutely certain that the rotating presence of allied forces in Lithuania is not only a great opportunity for our soldiers to enrich their skills and knowledge to act side by side with our strategic allies through combined training but also a clear message to those who may attempt on the stability and peace in the region [...]” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 13 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
  - “Lithuania appreciates U.S. close and intense cooperation, staunch support and deployment of troops and equipment for training in Lithuania, in particular in light of the shifting security environment in the region.” (Vice Minister of National Defence Marijus Velička, 10 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
  - Formal homecoming ceremony was held at the Ministry of National Defence for the soldiers of the Protection Team of the Head of the Lithuanian Special Mission in Afghanistan who had completed the international mission in the country. 9 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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## Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Lithuania’s economic development and outlook.](#) Bank of Lithuania 13 March 2015.
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## Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- “This year we are commemorating the anniversary of the Lithuanian state together with the President of Iceland. Twenty five years ago, Iceland was the first to break silence and recognize the re-independent state of Lithuania. It was an example of courage, respect for freedom and solidarity of a small nation” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 10 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
  - At the bilateral meeting on 10 March in Vilnius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius expressed his gratitude to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson for his country’s courageous action – recognition of Lithuania’s independence on 11 February 1991. In June, this event will be commemorated in Vilnius by civic campaign “Thank You, Iceland”. 10 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
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## Media

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- Lithuanian President decries naive approach to Putin. CNN, March 10, 2015. 10 March 2015. [Watch video.](#)

- Israeli diplomat stresses historic importance of Vilnius to Jews in embassy opening ceremony. The Lithuanian Tribune, 12 March 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- Nordic, Baltic and Visegrad countries support Energy Union, The Lithuanian Tribune, 13 March 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- EC president calls Lithuania "success story" for all Eastern neighbours. The Lithuanian Tribune, 10 March 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- Crimean Tatar leader: If all European countries were like Lithuania, Ukraine crises could have been prevented. The Lithuanian Tribune, 10 March 2015. [Read full article.](#)

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## On Twitter

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### Ukraine, Russia:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 15](#) [#Russia](#) created its "Feldzug in Polen". Bad attempts 2justify aggression& crimes against [#Ukrainian](#) people in "[#Crimea](#).Road to Homeland"
  - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Mar 15](#) It's clear, Russia's authorities don't need cooperation with its neighbours: Nordic countries close offices in Russia [http://barentsobserver.com/en/politics/2015/03/nordic-countries-close-offices-russia-13-03 ...](http://barentsobserver.com/en/politics/2015/03/nordic-countries-close-offices-russia-13-03...)
  - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · [Mar 13](#) Thorough analysis by [#RUSI](#) of Russian military actions in Ukraine <http://bit.ly/1NTuRr5>
  - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · [Mar 13](#) Feeling proud! [#Lithuanians](#) in [@LitdelNATO](#), [@NATO](#) & [#EU](#) institutions in [#Brussels](#) donate 1510 € to [#Ukrainian](#) charity
  - [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Mar 13](#) Crimea occupation that should never be forgotten [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6R6MeMMG2g ...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6R6MeMMG2g...) [#UnitedforUkraine](#)  
[@UNISdirect](#) [@Ukroblogger](#) [@SenatorDurbin](#) [@LTUworld](#)
  - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 13](#) [#Putin](#) admits:[#Crimea](#) was taken by his orders.[#Ru](#) redrawing map in Europe acc 2 its rules.More confessions to follow?  
<http://bbc.in/1Fzvq3A>
  - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 12](#) Even business agrees there can't be 'business as usual' with the Kremlin. PR company quits work for Russia:  
[http://www.prweek.com/article/1337821/ketchum-calls-quits-russia-work ...](http://www.prweek.com/article/1337821/ketchum-calls-quits-russia-work...)
  - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Mar 12](#) Cease-fire. Russian version RT [@rConflictNews](#): BREAKING: DNR leader Zakharchenko: "We prepare the [#Mariupol](#) pocket." <https://youtu.be/hXZoHSSEt9U>
  - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 11](#) New US treasury sanctions & US new aid to UA defence forces- much needed step in support to Ukraine. EU has to stand united next week.
  - [Raimonda Marmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Mar 9](#) After massive lies to the contrary including at [#UNSC](#), Kremlin admits early plan 2annex [#Crimea](#) <http://bbc.in/1C2448M> [#ukraineconflict](#)  
How many more eye-openers are needed 4 internatl community 2finally see things as they really are, and take a stance? [#ukraineconflict](#)
  - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Mar 9](#) Referendum of Crimea? What referendum? Its only for naive people ... Unreal ... <http://youtu.be/x2TxcHg-Vi4>
  - [Raimonda Marmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Mar 12](#) [#Ukraine](#) says 28 ceasefire violations by the militants since yesterday evening, a total of 49 attacks during the last 24 hours
  - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 12](#) Disarming believers in [#Minsk](#) compliance by [#Russia](#):heavy wpons withdrwl-partial,troops concentr by contct line& flow thr border contin.[#OSCE](#)
  - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 12](#) [#OSCE](#) 2double the size of observers in UA: right step towards right direction but w/little effect w/out access to external [#Rus/#Ukr](#) border
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## Security and defence:

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 15](#) Allied reassurance in action: [#US](#) Abrams tanks arrived to [#Lithuania](#). Strategic partnership for greater security!
  - [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT\\_MFA\\_Stratcom](#) · [Mar 10](#) Moscow [#trolls](#) have become much more active in [#Lithuanian](#) [#media](#) outlets in recent days. Via [@EuromaidanPress](#) [http://euromaidanpress.com/2015/03/08/vilnius-editor-moscow-using-free-lithuanian-media-against-lithuania/...](http://euromaidanpress.com/2015/03/08/vilnius-editor-moscow-using-free-lithuanian-media-against-lithuania/)
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## Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE](#) · [Mar 13](#) [#Google](#) sets up company in [#Lithuania](#) - EN.DELFI <http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/economy/google-sets-up-company-in-lithuania.d?id=67418136#dreload1426247675193...>
  - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Mar 10](#) Collection of [#euro](#) coins dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of Lithuania's Restored Independence! [#BelieveinFreedom](#)
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## Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 9](#) My gift to Sec [#Kerry](#)- Lith. National [#Basketball](#) Team jersey. [#LT-#US](#) relations: One Spirit, One Team, One Mission
  - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 12](#) New opportunities to strengthen our important partnership, as Israel opens Embassy in Vilnius today, [@AvigdorLiberman](#) ,[@IsraelMFA](#)
  - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 12](#) Good to meet colleagues from [#Visegrad](#), [#Nordic](#) & [#Baltic](#) countries and [#EC](#) [@MarosSefcovic](#) in marvelous High Tatras. Thanks [@MiroslavLajcak](#)
  - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 14](#) In honour of [#StPatricksDay](#) river Vilnele in [#Vilnius](#) today gets green! Via [@IrishEmbVilnius](#) [@CharlieFlanagan](#)
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## Other:

- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Mar 15](#) We strongly condemn attacks against Christian churches in [#Pakistan](#) today. Any actions of [#religious](#) intolerance must be stopped.
- [Aurimas Taurantas @ATaurantas](#) · [Mar 11](#) Lithuanian poles together with other citizens celebrate the 25th anniversary of regained Independence of [#Lithuania](#)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Mar 10](#) [@LinkeviciusL](#) at Int Journalist forum: Free [#media](#) makes our democratic world possible. [#BelieveinFreedom](#) [#Lithuania](#)
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY](#) · [Mar 9](#) Comprehensive negotiated peaceful solution to Iran's nuclear issue will lead to greater stability and security in ME and beyond
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 9](#) "[@TheNextWeb](#): Lithuania: Europe's secret tech powerhouse? <http://tnw.me/VmJn68j> [pic.twitter.com/OPpIRrKli](http://pic.twitter.com/OPpIRrKli)" We are small, we have to be smart!
- [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Mar 12](#) 4 yrs of [#Syria](#) crisis: 4 Russian vetoes at [#UNSC](#), more than 200,000 dead, nearly 12 mn refugees+IDPs, 12.2m in need of aid [#WhatDoesItTake](#)
- [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Mar 12](#) [#Lithuania](#) at [#CSW59](#): Gender equality not just women's issue, also men's. Further progress on the matter will benefit societies as a whole. natl.gap btw women/men employment rates almost closed; women's unemployment rate lower than men's; pay gap decreasing
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Mar 9](#) My article on our 1st EU

## Photo of the Week



9 March 2015. "It is symbolic that our meeting takes place on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence. It presents an excellent opportunity for us to express our gratitude to the United States for the policy of non-recognition of Soviet occupation and for staunch support during our accession to NATO," said the Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius. [Read full news release.](#)

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