



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

16-22 March 2015

Key Lithuanian Foreign Policy messages of the week. All materials included are public.
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Photo of the Week President Dalia Grybauskaitė was presented with Ukraine's Person of the Year 2014 award. The title was bestowed on the President of Lithuania for her solid support to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and European aspirations. 21 March, Kyiv, [Read full news release.](#)

Key messages:

- Need of a unified EU response to Russian disinformation.
 - Energy union will boost the energy security of the entire EU and ensure transparency of relations with external suppliers.
 - Sanctions are directly linked to complete implementation of Minsk agreements.
 - Need to respect and support European aspirations of the Eastern Partnership countries.
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Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- "The Person of the Year is a Ukrainian. Your whole nation who has stood up for its choice. And it is supported by all free European citizens. Twenty five years ago we, Lithuanians, also had to defend our

choice. Therefore we support and understand you today. You all are heroes, because you are fighting for your own future and for peace in the whole of Europe.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 21 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

- “Today Ukraine is in a very difficult situation. The country’s east is still a long way from peace despite declared truce. Every day the defence of the country not only claims human lives, but also involves huge expenses. At the same time, Ukraine needs to implement complex reforms seeking ways to strengthen its economy. Such situation calls for the unity and togetherness of Ukrainian people and for responsible efforts of all political forces.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 21 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - “We must fight, together and consistently, against Russian disinformation. We cannot allow misleading people, diminishing European values and spreading lies in the EU public space.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 19 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - The whole organization cannot be taken hostage by one delegation’s - Russia’s wishes. The discussion about Russia’s crimes against Ukraine should be open and uncensored. (Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the OSCE ambassador Giedrius Čekuolis 19 March 2015). (Representations of Lithuania and Ukraine to the OSCE were not allowed to organise a photo exhibition, dedicated to the anniversary of the illegal occupation and annexation of Ukraine’s Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol at the Conference Centre of the OSCE in Vienna) [Read full news release.](#)
 - Systematic violations of the Minsk agreements do not allow softening our stance on the aggressor. Terrorists are consistently strengthening their positions with new weapons. Sanctions are needed to ensure the security of the whole Europe. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 19 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - “Russia has openly admitted it has annexed Crimea. Russia fails to comply substantially with the Minsk agreements. For these reasons, the EU should keep up the pressure on Russia. We have to extend the existing sanctions and consider new sanctions if the situation keeps deteriorating.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 18 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted a statement condemning the continuation of the occupation and annexation of Crimea. 18 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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Security and Defence:

- Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania approved as a matter of urgency the draft amendment to the law on the principal structure of the Lithuanian Armed Forces in 2015-2020 and the limit numbers of servicemen which provides for reinstatement of the 9-month Continuous Mandatory Initial Military Service as of this year. The first draft is planned to be conducted in the second semester of this year, 3 to 3.5 thousand draftees will be called up annually. 19 March 2015, [Read full news release.](#)
 - Deputy Commander of the German Army Lieutenant General Jörg Vollmer confirmed at a meeting with Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas that Germany planned sending rotating forces and military materiel for combined training in Lithuania this year. The meeting officials also discussed issues of regional security, Germany’s involvement in military exercises in the Baltic States, the NATO Force Integration Unit to be established in Lithuania, and acquisition of weaponry. 17 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
 - Geopolitical environment and shifting military tactics are affecting operational principles and procedures of NATO forces. This is the issue that the exercise of leaderships of Baltic special operations forces addressed in Vilnius in March. The exercise arranged by the NATO Special Operations Headquarters focused on interoperability between the NATO Response Force, national and allied special operations units. Ministry of National Defense Republic of Lithuania, 17 March 2015, [Read full news release.](#)
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Energy Security:

- “To ensure full energy security for ourselves and resistance to external blackmail we must not only build power interconnections with Sweden and Poland. We also need to instill new power system control principles and ensure its synchronous operation with continental Europe. This will contribute to achieving the European energy union.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 19 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “We have to create a fully functioning European Energy Union. It can only be achieved after the Baltic States reduce their energy dependence on Russia. We need to synchronize our electricity grids with Continental Europe Networks, which will allow internal electricity market to function in the EU.” (Foreign

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- “While the EU economy is slowly recovering, effective measures are needed to boost growth at both EU and national level. We should take note of the conclusions of the European Commission and take all the necessary measures to ensure the welfare of Lithuanian people.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 20 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuania has the best business conditions globally for Business Process Outsourcing according to a newly published index. The Business Process Outsourcing and Shared Service Location Index is published by Cushman & Wakefield, the world’s largest privately held real estate agency. And in this year’s index, Lithuania, a new entrant, was rated first in the world in the business conditions category, and took 11th place in the overall index, making it the highest ranked new entrant. 18 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
 - According to new data, more than 25,000 jobs are created each year by companies newly registered in Lithuania. The data also shows that after two years of operations this figure increases by another 60%, with some companies registering a tenfold growth in employee numbers. 16 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
 - Google, the global web search and digital marketing giant, have opened a sales and marketing office in Vilnius in order to support local companies and partners in the Baltic region more easily. 16 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- “We need to send a clear and strategic political signal to our Eastern neighbours that the EU remains ambitious and committed to fulfilling its obligations. The Eastern Partnership countries have to choose their own path towards development and it has to be defended. We cannot allow Russia to influence our policies.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 17 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - “It is also important for the EU to cooperate with African regional organizations, which sometimes have more effective ways to address economic and security challenges. This must be a true partnership, a dialogue between equals.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 17 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - On the "Treaty on Alliance and Integration" between the Russian Federation and South Ossetia region of Georgia: Lithuania reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. Like the previous agreements between Russia and Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, this “treaty” has no legal force. It severely harms international efforts for peaceful resolution of the conflict and has a negative impact on the security situation in the whole region. Geneva International Discussions remain the sole format for ensuring security and stability and reaching for peaceful resolution of the conflict. 18 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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Media

- Arrival and doorstep by Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of Lithuania, at the European Council on 19 March 2015, in Brussels. [Watch video.](#)
- Informal comments to the media by H.E. Raimonda Murrmokaitė, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN, Mr. Mustafa Dzhemilev, human rights activist and leader of Crimean Tatars, and by H.E. Mr. Yuriy Sergeyev, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN. Media Stakeout, 19 March 2015. [Watch video.](#)
- Germany to send over 500 troops to Lithuania for training this year. BNS, 17 March 2015, [Read full article.](#)
- Arrival and doorstep of Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius. Foreign Affairs Council, 16 March 2015. [Watch video.](#)
- Lithuania and Poland establish Chamber of Commerce. The Baltic Course, 18 March 2015. [Read full](#)

On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · Mar 21 Met with [#Poroshenko](#) & [#Jaceniuk](#): for necessary reforms [#Ukraine](#) needs political responsibility & joint efforts by all
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · Mar 22 Revealed: Ukraine silently surrenders more territory under the Minsk 2 agreement <http://wp.me/p5sx0x-bB> via [@Conflict_Report](#) [@VP](#) [@WBStevens](#)
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · Mar 16 1 year after annexation of [#Crimea](#): shameful & unjustifiable act in 21st century [#Europe](#)
- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom](#) · Mar 18 Dear Kremlin, it's not [#1yearCrimea](#), it's [#1yearofCrime](#) against Crimea! [#CrimealsUkraine](#) [#UnitedForUkraine](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Mar 19 Russia ignores [#UNSC](#) meeting on [#Crimea](#) – may be fair, after publicly admitting of giving the order to occupy it...
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Mar 22 Hypocrisy: Ru hosts Europe's most extreme far-right & fascist parties mtng. We must fight fascism, not flirt w it! <http://www.interpretermag.com/the-far-right-international-russian-conservative-forum-to-take-place-in-russia/> ...
- [Darius @DariusSemaska](#) · Mar 16 Since June 2014, number of political prisoners in Russia has doubled from 92 to 181. <http://www.inostrannyi-agent.org/en/news/>
- [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · Mar 18 Integrating? Annexation is the word "[@coalitionfd](#): Putin signs treaty integrating South Ossetia into Russia <http://apne.ws/1BUHVHC>" [@GeorgiaUN](#)
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY](#) · Mar 19 Crimean Tatar leader M. Djemilev [@NB8](#) meeting: RU didnt find "Kadyrov" among Tatars then chose repressions
- [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · Mar 19 In z context of [#UNSC](#) Arria meet on [#Crimea](#): [@CPJ Eurasia](#) says on Apr1 Crimean Tatar news outlets will have 2shutdown <http://cpi.org/x/5f62>
- [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · Mar 19 Kremlin's proxies have been violating [#MinskAgreements](#) from the day they were first signed Sept last year and continue 2do so but as expected Russia seeks 2put blame on [#Ukraine](#), proposes new [#UNSC](#) draft resolution urging Ukraine 2implement. More inverted reality
- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · Mar 21 Patriarch of [#Moscow](#) & All [#Russia](#): [#Kaliningrad](#) is a (Sacred?) Russian land w/ a special mission. Unbelievable!
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · Mar 18 [#Crimea](#) [#Tatar](#) leader [#Dzhemilev](#) tells [@Leskevicius](#) he expects tough Western sanctions on [#Russia](#) to undo annexation
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · Mar 19 EU to strike back at Russian propaganda ... Finally. We already wasted a lot of time. Time to act ... <https://euobserver.com/foreign/128071>
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · Mar 18 Europeans becoming more aware of Russian propaganda, which aims to discredit EU, erode support for legitimate govnmnts. <http://bbc.in/1MK9VBi>
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · Mar 17 Speakers of parliaments of [#Nordic-#Baltic](#) countries in [#Kyiv](#). Very important. [@UrbanAhlin](#) [@LRSeimas](#) pic.twitter.com/82EGyctm3n via [@vBeckerath](#)

Security and defence:

- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · Mar 22 One of those cases when locals warmly welcome foreign troops. Today [#Lithuania](#)'s streets. US solders met with flowers <http://www.delfi.lt/fotogalerijos/kaunieciai-pasitiko-jav-karius.d?id=179758#lDgs=dgslt-179758:5878457> ...
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · Mar 18 United for security: two thirds of Poles say Poland shall defend Baltic States in case of an attack.
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · Mar 18 [#NATO](#) jets scrambled from [#Lithuania](#) overnight to escort

Energy Security:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Mar 19](#) [#Energy](#) Union - greater transparency, more security and solidarity. No more space for political blackmail. [#euco](#)
-

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 23](#) I thank [#Australian](#) colleague [@JulieBishopMP](#) 4 support in [#OECD](#) process & working holiday scheme
 - [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Mar 21](#) Good 2 hear strong words by [#NZ](#) Minister Murray [#McCulley](#) on Lithuania's accession 2 [@OECD](#) during [@LinkeviciusL](#) visit
 - [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Mar 23](#) [#Lithuanian](#) [#exports](#) 2 [#AU](#) increased 3 times from 2007 to 2014: wood&wood products, [#furniture](#), electrical devices & [#machinery](#) [@BuzzFeedOz](#)
-

Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Mar 20](#) Hon. [@LinkeviciusL](#) opens a new Hon. [#Consulate](#) in [#Auckland](#), New Zealand, to boost [#business](#) [#trade](#) links [@MeilunasE](#)
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · [Mar 16](#) FM [@LinkeviciusL](#): [#Riga](#) declaration on [#EU](#) Eastern partnership [#EaP](#) should be [#Warsaw](#) & [#Vilnius](#) 'plus', not 'minus'
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 17](#) Grateful 2 [@dreinders](#) 4 excellent bilat rel, solidarity in implementing security assurance, expanding regional ties
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 19](#) Met w the Speaker of [#NZ](#) Parliament [@DavidCarterMP](#). Small countries don't mind long distances. Solidarity is a key. With [#NZ](#) colleague Murray [#McCully](#) agreed to co-ordinate closely actions within [#UNSC](#).
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 21](#) Arrived in [#Australia](#) for first ever visit. Looking forward to meet colleague [@JulieBishopMP](#) to thank for value- based foreign policy
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Other:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Mar 18](#) Civilian lives lost and more in danger in Bardo Museum in [#Tunisia](#). Another brutal senseless [#terrorist](#) attack.
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Mar 20](#) We deplore terrorist attacks in [#Yemen](#) mosques. Terrorism has no place in any <http://religion.int> 'I' comm. will continue 2 fight this evil
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 22](#) Following a joint call by Bishops, today Lithuanians across the country pray for the peace in Ukraine, Syria & other conflict areas
 - [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Mar 20](#) “[@lonelyplanet](#): 10 reasons to visit Lithuania: <http://bit.ly/1nwWoEo> by [@markbakerprague](#) [#travel](#) [#lp](#)”
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