



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

23-29 March 2015

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

On 29 March, Lithuania marked the 11th anniversary of Lithuania's accession to NATO. Air Base of the Lithuanian Air Force at Šiauliai hosted the "Runway Run 2015".

[Foreign Minister on the anniversary of Lithuania's accession to NATO](#)



Photo by Ieva Budzeikaitė

Key messages:

- Ensuring national security is a key priority. Reintroduction of conscription is a contribution to collective defence.
 - Pressure on Russia should remain until full implementation of Minsk agreements.
 - EaP Summit in Riga should be a step forward from the Warsaw and Vilnius Summits.
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Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- "The support of the Baltic States by the Nordic countries was very important for establishing relations with the EU and for creation of our states; therefore, we perfectly understand that it

is now important for Ukraine to have real friends and supporters on its road to Europe. It is important to avoid the impression that in the light of Russian pressure the EU is weakening its commitment to Ukraine and other Eastern Partnership countries. We hope that the Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga will be a further step forward from the Warsaw and Vilnius Summits with regard to both concrete results and the declaration of the Summit.” (Rolandas Kačinskas, Political Director of the Lithuanian MFA, 24 March 2015) [Read full news release.](#)

- Vice Minister of National Defence Marijus Velička met with Deputy Defence Minister of Ukraine Petro Mekhed in Kiev. They discussed the security situation in the country, the assistance sent by Lithuania and other nations, and other pressing points of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. (25 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
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Security and Defence:

- Drafting into the Mandatory Military Service to begin in May. 27 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
 - “Having in mind the geopolitical situation on our borders around the Baltic states, it is important that the Baltic states, first, need to be prepared to defend themselves and only then to ask and wait for NATO partners to come.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 27 March 2015). [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuania and Germany will begin intensifying cooperation in the area of defence industry and procurement. “Lithuania’s interest to acquire the PZH 2000 howitzers should become a launch-pad for a long-term cooperation in military technology. We hope that the number of such projects will increase in the future.” [...] also welcoming Germany’s decision to send rotating forces to our region [...] “Pre-positioning is the right response to the present security situation modelled by the Russian aggression in Ukraine.” Germany will deploy its soldiers and military equipment in Lithuania as of April, while in June German military will take part in Exercise Iron Wolf held in Lithuania. Over 500 German soldiers are expected to be sent to Lithuania this year. (Defence Policy Director Dr. Vaidotas Urbelis, 27 March 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- “Membership in OECD is the most important goal for Lithuania now. I am glad to receive good evaluation from the Australian colleagues of Lithuania’s efforts to start accession procedures to OECD.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 23 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - “I am glad that Australian business people show interest in Lithuania and our region. Over past 6 years, Lithuanian exports to Australia have increased three times. Although trading volumes are still small, broader advertising of Lithuania to the world’s 12th largest economy will hopefully be productive.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 23 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - “As regards the EU trade policy in the future, we have to maintain a strong and unified voice of the EU in decisions on restrictive and discriminatory action of trading partners, using all the available instruments. In the active debate on the significance of the transport and logistics sector for the export chain as a whole, we cannot forget that in recent years Lithuania was subject to Russia’s various discriminatory measures which are found to have been very harmful to the sector that contributes up to 13% to GDP.” (Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Rolandas Kriščiūnas, 25 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - StormGeo, the biggest global provider of decision support solutions and services for weather-sensitive operations for the oil and gas, wind energy and shipping industries, is establishing a product development office in Vilnius. 26 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
 - Last year, Lithuania attracted 29 foreign companies. In the next three years the country should have about 2,000 additional jobs thanks to these new investors. 23 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
 - Top Scandinavian Financial Services Provider to Further Expand Vilnius Competence Centre. 27 March 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation

- “The relationship between Lithuania and Australia is based on common values: democracy, respect for human rights and active participation in the international arena. The relationship is also strengthened by a numerous and active Lithuanian community in Australia.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 23 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - The political consultations of Foreign Ministries of Lithuania and Kazakhstan in Astana focused on possibilities for further development of bilateral relations, Kazakhstan’s relations with the European Union, security situation and regional cooperation in Central Asia. Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Andrius Krivas stressed that Kazakhstan was the most important economic partner of Lithuania in Central Asia. (26 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
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Media links

- “They should take into account that (Russia) — a member of the UN Security Council, a permanent member, is conducting aggression against a neighbour and doing that in the 21st century, undermining all peace structures and rules of the world. Our message to democratic nations is to continue the pressure and also to apply a kind of political isolation (of Russia), which is also not happening.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, *Herald Sun*, 24 March 2015). [Read full article.](#)
 - "We in Lithuania, being a small country, will never make a difference in this conflict and it will not be decisive what we are doing, but we are providing assistance in all areas. [...] as I said is not decisive, but it is more symbolic, more a gesture of solidarity with the understanding that they have to defend their country - it is their right, and their duty, frankly speaking." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 March 2015). [Read full article.](#)
 - "Lithuania understands the Ukrainian issue and what's at stake. We went through the same process relatively recently. On the one hand, there is understanding of the Ukrainian situation. On the other hand, there is an awareness that this is not just about Ukraine. The issue is Russia's attempts to redraw the European security landscape." (Deputy Ambassador of Lithuania to Ukraine Jonas Daniliauskas, *Ukraine Today*, 27 March 2015). [Watch video.](#)
 - The Seimas has ratified the agreement of the Governments of Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine on establishing a joint military unit. All 73 members of Parliament attending a plenary session voted unanimously. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 26 March 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - The Lithuanian Parliament has urged Russia not to recognise the separation of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali and to end their occupation, implement international commitments based on 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement, including the provision to grant access in the two regions to the European Union’s monitoring mission and humanitarian organisations. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 26 March 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - President signs conscription bill into law. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 23 March 2015. [Read full article.](#)
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On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [ŽygimantasPavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Mar 28](#) Important! Parubiy: Putin 2carry out a

large-scale military operation against Ukraine before May 9 <http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/parubiy-putin-to-carry-out-a-large-scale-military-operation-against-ukraine-before-may-9-1574.html> ... via [@MirrorWeekly](#)

- [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · [Mar 27](#) Birds of a feather...[#Syria](#)'s Assad speaks to Russian ZvezdaTV, welcomes RUS bases in Syria, supportive of RUS actions vs. [#Ukraine](#)
 - [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY](#) · [Mar 27](#) A year ago UNGA res 68/262 confirmed Crimea is part of Ukraine. But Putin awards RU paratroopers 4 massive heroism. Where did they fight?
 - [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · [Mar 24](#) They just won't stop."A Just Russia" faction of RUS Duma wants reauthorization 4 Kremlin 2 send troops 2 [#Ukraine](#)
http://tvzvezda.ru/news/vstrane_i_mire/content/201503241055-hfxx.htm ...
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 - [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom](#) · [Mar 25](#) War by non-military means: Understanding [#Russian](#) [#information](#) warfare http://www.foi.se/ReportFiles/foir_4065.pdf ...
 - [ŽygimantasPavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Mar 26](#) European Commission highlights progress in Ukraine: Progress Report 2014 <http://europa.eu/!FD64dM> [@EURPressOffice](#) [@UNISdirect](#) [@OlexanderMotsyk](#)
 - [ŽygimantasPavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Mar 26](#) United in front of [@WhiteHouse](#) we demand [#stopPutin](#) before its too late [@UNISdirect](#) [@Ukroblogger](#) [@WBStevens](#) [@LTUworld](#)
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Mar 29](#) Indeed. "Russia should be seen for what it is: a threat to peace in Europe", says [@pwolodarski](#) <http://www.dn.se/ledare/signerat/peter-wolodarski-vissa-uttalanden-ska-man-ta-pa-allvar/> ...
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Security and defence:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Mar 29](#) 11 years in [@NATO](#): Security, same values, Democracy and Partnership.
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 29](#) Lithuania celebrates 11y in [@NATO](#) today! Proud to be part of strong and united Transatlantic family& serve the purpose of peace&freedom.
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · [Mar 29](#) 29 March 2004: huge leap towards Europe whole and free was made on this day 11 years ago, as [#Lithuania](#) and 6 others countries joined [@NATO](#)
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) [Mar 29](#) Along with our Allies-we stand united defending values enshrined in [#Washington](#) Treaty establishing [#NATO](#) Alliance. One for all- all for one
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdeINATO](#) [Mar 29](#) 11 years in the [@NATO](#) family... We would like to and will work hard to spend the 12th year in an even stronger Alliance and a safer world
 - [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian_MoD](#) · [Mar 29](#) LTU Minister of Def, "The 11th LTU 's year in the Alliance has revealed the true NATO's importance for Lithuania". http://www.kam.lt/en/news_1098/current_issues/nato_11_more_relevant_than_ever.html ...
 - [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY](#) · [Mar 27](#) [#Lithuania](#) proud to take part in 1st ever Chiefs of Defence conference.
 - [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · [Mar 26](#) First [#DefenceChiefsMeeting](#) to discuss [#UN](#) [#peacekeeping](#) in NY. Over 100 member states attending, [#Lithuania](#) among them
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdeINATO](#) · [Mar 23](#) [#US](#) [#Apaches](#) roamed the [#Lithuanian](#) skies this weekend. Many felt surprised, yet safe & proud <http://goo.gl/wQXJaA>
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- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Mar 23](#) Want 2 increase [#exports](#) 2 [#Australia](#)? Australian-Lithuanian [#Business](#) Council will help u! <http://www.albc.org.au>
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Mar 25](#) [#Lithuania](#) and [#Armenia](#) strengthening [#economic](#) cooperation. <http://armenpress.am/eng/news/798792/armenia-and-lithuania->

- [establishing-new-economic-relations.html ...](#) ... [#business](#) [#investment](#)
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Mar 25](#) Short overview of FM [@LinkeviciusL](#) visit to New Zealand and Australia - [#trade](#) [#Investments](#) [#OECD](#)
<https://storify.com/LithuaniaMFA/lithuania-s-fm-linkevi-ius-visit ...>
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

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 - [Eityvydas Bajarunas @EityvydasB](#) · [Mar 23](#) With [@YvonneRuwaida](#) Swedish Environment Secretary of State. Many common issues, incl. on nuclear safety in our region
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Other:

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 - [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · [Mar 25](#) Open [#UNSC](#) debate on children in armed conflict begins. Shocking numbers: some 300,000 child soldiers in the world
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