




Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

30 March - 5 April 2015

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

Photo of the Week

In the documentary "Blood Brothers - Why Lithuanians feel Ukraine's pain", which is available in multiple languages, NATO Review takes an in depth look at how Lithuanians' recent past has echoes in today's Ukraine – and how they managed to avoid the same fate.

 Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL · Mar 30
NATO TV team movie well explains Lithuania's freedom fight in 90ies & our compassion to Ukraine now, bit.ly/1yuDuOX

 YouTube



Key messages:

- Lithuania strengthens its defence capabilities to defend itself, ensure proper hosting of Allies, and perform collective defence operations.
 - Concerns over the situation of the Crimean residents, forced closure of Crimean Tatar-language media outlets.
 - Importance of implementing Wales Summit decisions.
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Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- The importance of ensuring territorial integrity and assistance to Ukraine was underlined during the discussion of the situation in Ukraine. The ministers [Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Linas Linkevičius and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu voiced concerns over the situation of the Crimean residents after its annexation by Russia. The Minister of Turkey expressed his appreciation to Lithuania for the consideration of the problems of the Crimean Tatars whose rights were increasingly restricted in Crimea. Both Ministers expressed concerns over the forced closure of Crimean Tatar-language media outlets. 3 April 2015. [Read full news release.](#)

Security and Defence:

- “For Lithuanian people the Air Policing Mission in the Baltics has been symbolizing strong commitment to defend the Baltic States since the first day of our membership in NATO. I want to take this opportunity to most sincerely thank all the soldiers who have guarded the airspace over the Baltic States for 11 years.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 31 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - The United States was contributing in a very concrete way to increasing the security of Lithuania: after Russia’s aggression in Ukraine, the U.S. was the first to strengthen the Baltic Air Policing mission; it also sent troops for joint exercises. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 2 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - “U.S. presence in Lithuania is a message that we are not alone.” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 2 April, 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Soldiers of the Portuguese Armed Forces arrived in Lithuania for combined training as part of NATO reassurance measures in the Baltic region. Roughly 140 reconnaissance personnel will be training in joint exercises with scouts of the Lithuanian Land Force. “We highly appreciate Portugal’s involvement in finding solutions to the security issues of our region. Even though a geographically remote country, Portugal takes an active part in the military projects in the Baltic region, take fighter jets deployed on the NATO Baltic Air Policing mission or rotating forces in Lithuania.” (Chief of Defence of Lithuania Major General Jonas Vytautas Žukas, 31 March 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuania joined Movement Coordination Centre Europe. 2 April 2015. [Read full news release](#)
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Energy security:

- NordBalt cable laying resumes in the Baltic Sea. The last 150 kilometres will be laid by the end of summer. The first electricity ‘bridge’ with Sweden will start to operate in December. On a warm summer day the 700 megawatt NordBalt cable can supply more than 90% of Lithuania’s energy needs. The NordBalt cable will be the world’s longest high voltage direct current extruded cable. 2 April 2015, [Read full news release.](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- “Development of relations with Turkey is among the priorities of our economic diplomacy. We enjoy closer political ties and our economic cooperation is constantly growing. We see a lot of opportunities to further promote business ties, particularly in the field of transport, enhance trade and investment environment.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 3 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Invest Lithuania. [Latest insights and updates](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- The President underlined that the United States was a reliable partner of Lithuania and that the two countries were bound by a strong relationship and intensive cooperation ties. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 2 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “Turkey is an important partner of Lithuania and its NATO ally. Our political and economic

relations are steadily growing. The Lithuanian business people are discovering new markets for export in Turkey. The scientists of our both countries cooperate actively in the fields of research, innovation, nano and biotechnology". President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 3 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

Media links

- Former Lithuanian PM invited to join Ukrainian president's reform advisers team. (The Lithuanian Tribune, 1 April 2015). [Read full article.](#)
 - Russia is waging a "hybrid war" to destabilise the Baltic States, Lithuania's foreign minister said, warning President Vladimir Putin will only grow more brazen if the West falters before his threats. (International Business Times, 2 April 2015). [Read full article.](#)
 - "The only thing Lithuania needs now is a politically reliable, reasonably priced, long-term supply of natural gas. America, in the middle of an energy boom and with a stake in strengthening Lithuanian freedom and energy independence, would seem to be a natural choice of supplier." (World Affairs Journal, April 2015). [Read full article.](#)
 - Russia's consul general to Klaipėda Vladimir Malygin was last year sent out of Lithuania as an agent of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service who aimed to collect non-public information about the country's politics and energy projects, the Lithuanian State Security Department said on Monday. (The Lithuanian Tribune, 30 March 2015). [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuania's Armed Forces intend to establish a new motorized infantry brigade in western Lithuania, with the brigade staff to be set up next year. (The Lithuanian Tribune, 3 April 2015). [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuania, spooked by Russian military assertiveness, outlined plans on Friday to raise defense spending by a third in 2016, contributing the highest share of its [economy](#) to defense since it joined NATO in 2004. Lithuanian State Defence Council wants additional EUR 150m in defence spending. (Reuters, 3 April 2015). [Read full article.](#)
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On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Mar 31 Mounting evidence of crucial Russian military role in attacking #Debaltseve, #Ukraine. [http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32114522 ...](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32114522...)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Apr 1 Russian repressions against freedoms in Crimea continue: great concern as Crimea's only Tatar television station goes off air, #SaveATR
- [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · Mar 30 Formr boss of RUS proxies in E #Ukraine Strelkov: "I dream of a Russia in its natural borders. At least those of 1939"[http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/the-ukraine-war-from-perspective-of-russian-nationalists-a-1023801.html ...](http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/the-ukraine-war-from-perspective-of-russian-nationalists-a-1023801.html...)
- [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · Mar 31 Really? Kremlin's campaign to white-wash, re-write own history now reaching into the 16th century <http://nyti.ms/1Dld4GA>
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · Apr 6 Worrying trend- and it gets growing: Ru mil concentration in Kaliningrad <http://bit.ly/1y8hGOR>
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · Mar 30 Ukrainian & Georgian Ambassadors are not impressed: @UN Charter violated by Russia every day today @OlexanderMotsyk
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · Mar 30 Kremlin Election Fraud Revealed. Again. [http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/blog/vladimir-kara-murza/kremlin-election-fraud-revealed-again ...](http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/blog/vladimir-kara-murza/kremlin-election-fraud-revealed-again...) via [@WAJournal](#) [@RKacinskas](#) [@RenatasNorkus](#) [@McFaul](#) [@rightsintrussia](#) [@UNISdirect](#)

- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Apr 1](#) Russian soldiers have given up pretending they are not fighting in Ukraine: <https://news.vice.com/article/russian-soldiers-have-given-up-pretending-they-are-not-fighting-in-ukraine...> via [@vicenews](#) [@NATOSource](#) [@WBStevens](#)
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · [Apr 2](#) Media reports [#Russia](#) blackmailing [@NATO](#) over [#Baltics](#) saying same conditions for mil action exist as was in [#Ukraine](#) <http://goo.gl/DYxHuj>
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · [Apr 6](#) [#Russia](#)'s influence games in Western Europe. Hackers expose direct [#Kremlin](#) link with [#French](#) National Front party: <http://www.newsweek.com/hackers-claim-leak-messages-between-kremlin-and-frances-front-national-319442...>
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Mar 30](#) [#Lithuanian](#) MP [@GLandsbergis](#): It's high time to open the eyes to [#Russia](#) and give a strategic response. [#EU-RU-report](#) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/afet/pr/1054/1054054/1054054en.pdf...
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · [Apr 1](#) It's difficult to distinguish the Truth from Lies when you constantly lie yourself. <https://meduza.io/en/lion/2015/04/01/eu-newspaper-s-april-1-joke-fools-russian-news-agencies...>
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · [Apr 1](#) Senators Menendez and Johnson lead letter calling on [#FIFA](#) to deny [#Russia](#) the privilege of hosting 2018 [#WorldCup](#)
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Security and defence:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 31](#) Off to greet PL&IT deployments in Šiauliai airbase, securing Baltic skies. Allied solidarity was visible from day 1 of our [@NATO](#) membership!
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 4](#) Shared values, solidarity & unshakable resolve for Allied security: Happy Birthday, NATO! Proud to be a member of the Family.
 - [Vytautas Leskevicius @Leskevicius](#) · [Mar 30](#) NATO SG [@jensstoltenberg](#) speaks clearly: make no mistake- NATO will defend every part of Alliance [@NATO](#) [@NATOSource](#) <http://bit.ly/1bJBItT>
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) · [Mar 30](#) When real life resembles a novel - head of [#Russian](#) consulate in [#Klaipeda](#) sent out of [#Lithuania](#) as an [#SVR](#) spy <http://goo.gl/4AIMyc>
 - [Vytautas Leskevicius @Leskevicius](#) · [Mar 30](#) NATO response 2 increased [#Ru](#) mil activities close 2Alliance-more planes &ships on patrol in Baltics,troops on exercises-[@jensstoltenberg](#)
 - [Vytautas Leskevicius @Leskevicius](#) · [Mar 31](#) Newsweek's E.Brow: arms keep flowing to Kaliningrad from where Iskander missiles could reach Warsaw,Vilnius,Berlin <http://bit.ly/1affLNc>
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Apr 3](#) [#IMF](#) on [#Lithuania](#): [#Growth](#) is set to pick up to 3.2% in 2016r & to 3¾% in the longer term <http://www.imf.org/external/np/ms/2015/040115.htm...>
 - [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Mar 31](#) [#Lithuania](#) is strongly committed to become [@OECD](#) member. More updates of our journey towards this strategic goal http://urm.lt/uploads/default/documents/Ekonomini%20diplomacija/Lithuania_Desk_Drop/Lithuania_Desk_Drop_No_6.pdf...
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · [Mar 30](#) Great evaluation. Top Swedish investor [#Wallenberg](#) 'impressed' by [#Lithuania](#)'s ability to switch to new markets <http://en.delfi.lt/nordic-baltic/wallenberg-impressed-by-lithuanias-ability-to-switch-to-new-markets.d?id=67554378#ixzz3VrONVDIq...>
 - [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · [Apr 3](#) Welcome! More [#GameDev](#) companies coming to [#Vilnius](#): AlternativaPlatform to Open new Office <http://www.investlithuania.com/alternativaplatform-creators-of-tanki-online-to-open-office-in-vilnius/...> [@EitvydasB](#) [@Invest_LT](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · [Mar 30](#) [#Lithuania\(n\)](#) ambassadors to [#EU](#) Eastern partnership ([#EaP](#)) countries meet in [#Vilnius](#) ahead of the [#Riga](#) summit

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 3](#) Delighted to welcome [@MevlutCavusoglu](#) 4talks on strengthening our partnership/NATO/acc neg w/EU/helping Ukr/rel w/RU
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Apr 3](#) · [@LinkeviciusL](#): we want to see progress in [#Turkish](#) accession negotiations with [#EU](#)
 - [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Mar 31](#) "We never let your flag down" - fmr [@StateDept](#) Sec. Shultz told me at SF City Hall. W/ [@SenFeinstein](#) [@US_Protocol](#)
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Other:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 2](#) Welcome framework agreement with [#Iran](#). Hope the final deal will be reached soon and will make our world safer. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-32166814> ...
 - [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · [Apr 2](#) Al-Shabab [#GarissaAttack](#) in [#Kenya](#) reminds: terrorism like many-headed hydra. Cut one, another appears. More needs 2bdone 2combat the theat< > [@PRLTUN](#) · [Apr 3](#) Attacks against schools violation of intl humanitarian law, affront to humanity.No to impunity. Perpetrators must bear consequences.
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Apr 1](#) We condemn deadly terrorist attacks in [#Istanbul](#) this week, international community have to fight terrorism in all its forms
 - [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Mar 30](#) W/Chief of US_Protocol Selfridge at SF [#Fairmont](#) hotel where [@UN](#) Charter was created. [@PRLTUN](#) presides UN SC in May!
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