



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

6 - 12 April 2015

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

On 10 April, an informal meeting of the Prime Ministers of the Baltic Council of Ministers was held in Vilnius. Prime Ministers have discussed the situation in Ukraine, preparation for the Eastern Partnership summit in Riga, and shared their opinions on the security situation in the region. Joint energy and transport projects have also been talked over.



Key messages:

- OECD membership is a priority task.
- Integration of the Baltic States in the EU energy market continues to be a top priority.
- International community has to send a clear and unified message to Russia, condemning Russia's actions in Ukraine. Sanctions directly linked to the complete implementation of obligations of the Minsk agreement.
- Riga Eastern Partnership Summit has to reflect progress in the relations with Eastern partners.
- Importance of implementing Wales Summit decisions.
- Baltic Prime Ministers welcome the EU strategic communication initiatives.
- Media watchdogs react to the incitement of hatred.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- Baltic Prime Ministers discussed cooperation and security. In their meeting, the Prime Ministers stressed that the issue of sanctions against Russia has to be very clearly and directly linked to the complete implementation of obligations of the Minsk agreement. The Prime Ministers have emphasized that it is essential to continue all kinds of support to Ukraine and its reforms. It has been agreed that it is imperative to continue to stick to the policy of non-recognition of the annexation of Crimea. 10 April 2015. [Read full news release.](#)

Security and Defence:

- The President underlined that in a changed security situation in the region the Baltic States must also take all the necessary measures to ensure their own security. We must not only increase our defense spending, but also complete the manning of the Lithuanian armed forces, increase the ability of our citizens to defend their state, and acquire sophisticated military equipment. 10 April 2015. [Read full news release](#)
 - The Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the UN organized a panel discussion on cyber/information and communications technology security, focusing on confidence-building measures with a particular emphasis on the work by regional organizations and the UN. According to Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN, information technology has become an integral part of everyday life, thus, cyber-attacks, use of the internet to spread hate and propaganda, attacks on key strategic infrastructure pose a very real threat and we must fight it. 8 April 2015. [Read full news release](#)
 - Commander of the Joint Forces Command of the United Kingdom General Sir Richard Barrons conducted visits to the Ministry of National Defence and the Joint Staff of the Lithuanian Armed Forces in Vilnius. At the meetings with Defence Policy Director of the Ministry of National Defence Dr Vaidotas Urbelis and Chief of the Joint Staff Brigadier General Vilmantas Tamošaitis the guest addressed security situation in the region, the threats Lithuania is facing and possible ways of building up regional security and defence. 8 April 2015. [Read full news release](#)
 - On April 7 joint Lithuanian-Latvian-Estonian unit, the BALTBAT battalion, began a two-week long training and certification exercise ahead of the standby for the NATO Response Force in 2016. The trilateral battalion was formed for standby in the NRF by two Estonian combat companies, one company from Lithuania and one from Latvia, anti-tank platoons from Lithuania and Estonia, one Lithuanian mortar platoon and one support element, and a trilateral staff, the total of roughly 700 soldiers (roughly 200 from them Lithuanians). 10 April 2015. [Read full news release](#)
 - U.S. soldiers deployed to Lithuania for combined training conducted their first tank live fire exercise on Lithuanian soil with M1A2 Abrams MBTs on April 8 through 9 at the Pabradės Training Area. The new shift of the rotating U.S. forces, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army in Europe, deployed to Lithuania from their home bases in Fort Stewart (Georgia, U.S.), and Vilseck (Germany) The rotation comprises roughly 150 soldiers and roughly 20 vehicles, including five M1A2 Abrams main battle tanks. 9 April 2015. [Read full news release](#)
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Energy security:

- The [Lithuanian] President and [Estonian] the Prime Minister also exchanged views on regional energy security. According to President Grybauskaitė, integration of the Baltic States in the EU energy market continues to be a top priority. Therefore, it is essential to form efficiently functioning electricity and gas markets in the region, build energy interconnections with Northern and Western Europe, and synchronize the Baltic power transmission system with the continental European grid. With the completion of the Klaipėda liquefied natural gas terminal in Lithuania, good results have been achieved in creating the regional gas market. The LNG terminal launched this year opened an alternative and secure way for gas supplies to the region. Estonia expressed interest in the possibility to import gas via the Klaipėda terminal and has already signed initial natural gas supply agreements with Lithuania. 20 percent of Estonia's imported gas is purchased from Lithuania. 10 April 2015. [Read full news release](#)
 - The [Baltic] Prime Ministers pointed out, as the continued priority, the synchronization of the Baltic power systems with the continental European system, highlighting the need for a particularly close dialogue with the European Commission and Poland. The Baltic energy ministers maintain close contacts with the Polish counterpart. Another common priority in the field of energy is the regional gas market. The Polish-Lithuanian gas link project gains a particular importance here. 10 April 2015, [Read full news release](#).
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Lithuania has been invited to open OECD accession negotiations. “The invitation is a significant acknowledgment of Lithuania’s consistent efforts which will open more opportunities to defend the interests of our state. OECD membership will enhance Lithuania’s attractiveness to foreign investors, promote closer cooperation with the most advanced countries in the world and will contribute to bolstering economic growth and welfare of our country.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 9 April 2015). [Read full news release](#)
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius, on an official visit to Brazil, presented Lithuania’s economic potential at the Federation of the Industries of the State of São Paulo (FIESP). “Lithuania’s perfect geographic location can offer favourable conditions for Brazilian companies, seeking to enter the European market.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 9 April 2015). [Read full news release](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation

- President Dalia Grybauskaitė met with Taavi Rõivas, the head of the new Estonian government which assumed office yesterday. The meeting focused on bilateral relations, enhanced security issues and energy cooperation. 10 April 2015. [Read full news release](#)
- Ties with Brazil are gaining momentum. “Today we are talking about our cooperation in the fields of innovation, life sciences, agriculture and tourism, as we can see mutual benefits of this. Export of Lithuanian fish and fishery products to Brazil’s market of almost 200 million citizens have been authorised by the Government of Brazil. This is a good start in terms of further development of economic relations.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 8 April 2015). [Read full news release](#)
- The [Baltic] Prime Ministers have agreed that the Riga Eastern Partnership Summit has to reflect progress in the relations with Eastern partners. It has been noted that it is vital that the EU member states complete the ratification process of the Association Agreements with Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova prior to the Riga Summit. Likewise it is important to achieve tangible

agreements with Ukraine and Georgia in the fields of people mobility of citizens and visa liberalisation. 10 April 2015. [Read full news release](#)

- The economic ties between Lithuania and India are not yet very intensive, but Lithuania is interested in exports to this country. High technologies are one of the most perspective fields of cooperation. Laser exports to India increased fourfold in 2014. Bilateral cooperation could also be reinforced in education, tourism and film industry sectors. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 10 April 2015). [Read full news release](#)
- President Dalia Grybauskaitė underlined that Lithuania highly valued Chile's support to its aspiration for membership in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Chile is an important trading partner of Lithuania from Latin America, while Lithuanian milk processing companies are actively interested in exports to Chile. Therefore, it is important to further promote economic relations of the two countries. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 8 April 2015). [Read full news release](#)

Media links

- Lithuania's media watchdog has blocked broadcasts by Russian TV channel RTR Planeta on grounds of inciting hatred over Ukraine. Its Radio and Television Commission took the decision on Wednesday (8 April), with the three-month ban to enter into force on 13 April. (*EU Observer*, 9 April 2015). [Read full article](#).
- Lithuania marks 100 days since euro adoption. Thanks to Lithuania's adoption of the euro, the country's credit ratings improved, and the costs of borrowing and currency exchange decreased. It is estimated that over the first three months residents, business and the public sector saved approximately 8.68 million euros in litas-to-euro exchange costs. (*The Baltic Times*, 11 April 2015) [Read full article](#)
- Lithuania to encourage shale investment. Lithuania's environment and energy ministries form a joint initiative to attract foreign investment into the country's prospective shale industry. Discussing the future tendering of the Silute-Taurage area, the minister of environment, Kestutis Treciokas, and minister of energy, Rokas Masiulis agreed that a joint effort of the two ministries is require to attract foreign investment. *Shale energy insider*, 9 April 2015) [Read full article](#)
- Nordic countries pledge closer military cooperation in face of Russian aggression. The Nordic countries, as well as the three Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, have reported a sharp rise in Russian military activity over the past year, including several airspace violations and incidents of military aircraft flying without their identifying transponders. The ministers said "Russia's propaganda and political manoeuvring are contributing to sowing discord" within NATO and the European Union. (*The Lithuania Tribune*, 10 April 2015) [Read full article](#)

On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 10](#) Very useful read by [@peterpomeranzev](#) on

Kremlin's dirty play of **#propaganda** / psyops. via [@guardian](#) <http://bit.ly/1DMtMz4>

- **Lithuania in NATO** [@LitdelNATO](#) · [Apr 10](#) **#Russia**'s propaganda & political manoeuvring add to discord inside [@NATO](#) & **#EU**, 5 **#Nordics** agree in a joint agreement <http://goo.gl/4ZZCku>
 - **Lithuania MFA** [@LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Apr 9](#) Recommend to read [@LaurinaviciusM](#) Opinion: **#Russia**'s nuclear blackmail and new threats of covert **#diplomacy** <http://m.en.delfi.lt/article.php?id=67654958> ...
 - **Linas Linkevicius** [@LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 8](#) RU increasing supply w forces&weapons to separatists-definitely not preparation for Orthodox Easter...'Commitment' to Minsk is cristal clear
 - **Linas Linkevicius** [@LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 8](#) BBC reveals how Russian TV cynical propaganda fuels hate & incites war against Ukraine, <http://bbc.in/1H34dce>
 - **Lithuania MFA** [@LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Apr 8](#) Interesting [@NewEastEurope](#) piece about a network of **#freedom** and **#EU** unity standing **#UnitedForUkraine** <http://www.neweasterneurope.eu/articles-and-commentary/1546-a-network-of-freedom> ...
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Security and defence:

- **Lithuania MFA** [@LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Apr 10](#) **#Norway** and **#Italy** to take over **#Baltic** air policing mission in Lithuania <http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/defence/norway-and-italy-to-take-over-baltic-air-policing-mission-in-lithuania.d?id=67667822#ixzz3WtmInFs1> ... **#smartdefence**
 - **Lithuanian MoD** [@Lithuanian_MoD](#) · [Apr 9](#) 1st ever tank LIVEX of allies held in **#Lithuania** as a part of **#AtlanticResolve**. <http://bit.ly/1a9x3ua>
 - **Lithuania in UN NY** [@LithuaniaUNNY](#) · [Apr 8](#) As we're dependent on **#cyber** space, crucial 2address cyber-crimes, Internet use 4propaganda & hatred, targeting key infrastructure [@PRLTUN](#)
 - **Lithuanian MoD** [@Lithuanian_MoD](#) · [Apr 10](#) The tri-lateral LTU-LVA-EST battalion **#BALTBAT** starts training for the **#NRF16** standby <http://bit.ly/1lz7phu>
 - **Lithuanian MoD** [@Lithuanian_MoD](#) · [Apr 9](#) 1st ever tank LIVEX of allies held in **#Lithuania** as a part of **#AtlanticResolve**. <http://bit.ly/1a9x3ua>
 - **Lithuania in NATO** [@LitdelNATO](#) · [Apr 8](#) Modernization programs & monetary backing needed to make [@NATO](#)'s East stronger and better defendable [@WorldReviewInfo](#) <http://goo.gl/KxVIF4>
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Energy Security:

- **ŽygimantasPavilionis** [@ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Apr 7](#) Lithuanian Energy Freedom: Will the US Help? | World Affairs Journal <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/lithuanian-energy-freedom-will-us-help> ... via [@WAJournal](#) [@LithuaniaMFA](#) [@RepMikeTurner](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- **Invest Lithuania** [@Invest_LT](#) · [Apr 8](#) Director magazine: "**#Lithuania** is becoming one of the most exciting commercial hubs in EU" http://www.investlithuania.com/director-magazine-focus-on-lithuania/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=0408directormagazine&utm_campaign=timeline ...
- **Dalia Grybauskaitė** [@Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Apr 9](#) Decision made. **#Lithuania** to begin negotiations for **#OECD** membership
- **Linas Linkevicius** [@LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 10](#) **#OECD** decision to start accession talks w **#LT-**

boost to our Government to continue in the same spirit. Membership is our priority task

Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- **Dalia Grybauskaitė** @Grybauskaite_LT · [Apr 10](#) #Lithuania & #Estonia-close friends & allies.Working together for greater regional security & energy independence.
 - **Dalia Grybauskaitė** @Grybauskaite_LT · [Apr 10](#) 5 years since the tragic plane crash in #Smolensk: our thoughts are with all people of #Poland. #NeverForget
 - **Linas Linkevicius** @LinkeviciusL · [Apr 11](#) Statue of freedom in #SaoPaulo- same as in my native #Kaunas. Reminder of common spirit & believe in freedom.
 - **Linas Linkevicius** @LinkeviciusL · [Apr 7](#) Huge potential 4 economic, political coop in the discussion with #Brazil FM Mauro Vieira, @Itamaraty_EN. OBRIGADO!
 - **Linas Linkevicius** @LinkeviciusL · [Apr 9](#) Congrat @KeitPentus on re-appointment as FM. Lithuania & Estonia will further strengthen our friendship. Looking fwd 2 welcoming you in LT
 - **Marius Janukonis** @MJanukonis · [Apr 6](#) Glad to return to LT Embassy Kyiv in 8 months as Ambassador. Bilateral relations&Ukraine EU integration as priority.
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Other:

- **Ronald Reagan House** @ReaganHouseLT · [Apr 10](#) EaP in action:state of survival or vital breakthrough? Conf.Prior to Riga's Summit-Contact @narkeviciute to register!
 - **WFP Govt Partners** @WFPGovts · [Apr 10](#) Support from @LithuaniaMFA to the #EbolaResponse allowed @WFP to continue providing food to affected families and communities #āčiū
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