



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

13 - 19 April 2015

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

On 16 April in Vilnius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius in a meeting with German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier discussed strengthening bilateral partnership, armed aggression against Ukraine, relations with Russia, the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood, energy and information security issues.



Key messages:

- Importance of unanimous and consistent EU adherence to the agreed sanctions policy, which must continue to be clearly linked to the complete fulfilment of the Minsk agreements.
 - Mobilizing the international community's assistance to the Eastern Partners, particularly to Ukraine. Need to help Ukraine strengthen its economy, make reforms and get closer to the EU.
 - EU and NATO member states must work together to prevent the misleading of their citizens and ensure access to objective information.
 - Importance of implementing Wales Summit decisions.
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Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- “Our actions have to be robust in order to stop Russian aggression in Ukraine. Pressure should continue until the Minsk Agreements are fulfilled. Together we need to help Ukraine strengthen its economy, make reforms and get closer to the EU.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 16 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Defence Policy Director of the Ministry of National Defence Dr Vaidotas Urbelis and Director General of Security Policy at the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom Peter Watkins agreed to coordinate the assistance rendered to the Ukrainian Armed Forces more closely. Dr V. Urbelis underlined that many countries were offering support to Ukraine but a better coordination among the donor countries was needed. Both, Lithuania and the United Kingdom provided assistance to Ukraine in the form of various technical equipment, medical services, and by sending military instructors. (14 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
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Security and Defence:

- “The persistent presence of allied forces in the region is the most effective NATO measure that ensures security and demonstrates NATO solidarity and preparation to react to a changed security situation. We very much hope for a long-term and enduring deployment of U.S. forces, weaponry and equipment in Lithuania.” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 16 April 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- “My German counterpart and I have agreed that the developments in Ukraine have not only changed the settled order in essence but have also given a new drive for our bilateral relations in the area of security, so that we would unify our capabilities and give an appropriate response to the emerging threats in the Baltic Sea region.” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 15 April 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- “The unity and solidarity of NATO allies is the best response to security challenges. Lithuania and Germany actively cooperate in implementing NATO’s collective defense and deterrence measures.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 15 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
- [On deployment of elements of the Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) for Exercise Arcade Fusion to be held this autumn in Lithuania and Latvia:] “This is going to be the first time of deploying the headquarters elements of one of the best NATO corps in Lithuania and Latvia. It will give an excellent opportunity for Lithuania to test in practice operation of a NATO Force Integration Unit, such as will be established in the Baltic States and the Eastern European countries, in Lithuania.” (Defence Policy Director of the Ministry of National Defence Dr Vaidotas Urbelis , 14 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
- “The augmentation of the NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission and in particular the combined training of Lithuanian and allied troops are especially important factors in ensuring the security in our region and strengthening Alliance unity and solidarity.” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 14 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- Defence Policy Director of the Ministry of National Defence Dr Vaidotas Urbelis discussed situation in the region and expressed his delight about the fact that Lithuania’s and France’s perception of threats is increasingly alike at a meeting with Defence Policy Director of the French Ministry of Defence Philippe Errera in Paris. (13 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
- “It is notably delightful to witness the Alliance solidarity as we are hosting soldiers from the most distant European country [Portugal].” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 13 April 2015).

[Read full news release.](#)

Energy security:

- “We always highlight the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) as an example of regional cooperation that has brought excellent results. Once the BEMIP was developed, regional energy projects significant for Lithuania were identified, upon implementation of which the energy isolation of the Baltic states will be removed and the latter countries will be consistently integrated into the EU internal market for energy’, said Masiulis.” (16 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuanian SC Klaipėdos Nafta is projecting and this year will start building a liquefied natural gas (LNG) distribution station. JetGas, the only LNG supplier in Estonia, is interested to become a user of this infrastructure in order to supply LNG as an alternative fuel for the industries around the Baltic countries and to expand LNG regas stations’ network. (15 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Lithuania made the list of advanced economies as determined by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF attributed Lithuania to the group of advanced economies for the first time, prior to that, Lithuania had been regarded as an emerging market. “The acknowledgement from one of the most influential financial organizations in the world is not just an appreciation of the country’s progress, but a mandate to pursue sustained economic development while maintaining fiscal discipline and thus to bring closer the country’s financial system and the whole economy to the level of the most advanced economies.” (Governor of the Central Bank Vitas Vasiliauskas, 15 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- The Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius thanked the U.S. Government for its support and excellent cooperation in developing Lithuania’s defence capabilities. Rose Gottemoeller, the United States Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, congratulated Lithuania’s good economic performance and efforts to strengthen its own security and pledged targeted practical support of the United States of America for defence projects. (16 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “We want more Germany in Lithuania: we want more investment, business, culture and fight together against security challenges. Today we have agreed on a joint plan of action regarding intensified cooperation aimed at supporting media, implementation of public education projects and fostering closer ties among our civil societies. The projects include Lithuanian-German Forum, scientific and research centres, NGOs and youth exchange. Germany plays a very important role in implementation of decisions of the NATO Summit in Wales”. (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 16 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#) [Joint statement](#)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius in a meeting with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Kentaro Sonoura expressed his gratitude to Japan for supporting Lithuania’s ambition to join the OECD and noted that Lithuania is looking forward to mutually beneficial cooperation within the OECD. (15 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- Cooperation between China and sixteen Central and Eastern European countries in the “1+16” format is a great platform for cooperation in the fields of transport, infrastructure, banking sector, agriculture, education, and other areas. (15 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- President Dalia Grybauskaitė and Ambassador Wei Ruixing of the People’s Republic of China discussed the growing strategic importance of bilateral relations and cooperation in international organizations, education, student exchange and cultural spheres. (15 April 2015). [Read full news](#)

[release.](#)

Media links

- Lithuania is a stalwart US ally, and one of the most resolute voices in Europe in support of Ukraine's right to choose its future. Deborah A. McCarthy, United States Ambassador to Lithuania, "Defending the Tower in the Age of Twitter: Lithuanian Lessons on Russian Disinformation". [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuania, as a small nation, needs to unite all forces, including politicians and journalists, on security issues in the wake of existing threats, Lithuanian [President Dalia Grybauskaitė](#) says. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 17 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, [Linus Linkevičius](#), says that the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe ([OSCE](#)) is the only organisation able to at least partially observe the conflict in eastern [Ukraine](#). Therefore the OSCE must be granted access to hotspots of the most intense fighting. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 17 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Hybrid warfare ultimately works against countries that are weak and unwilling to defend themselves; the Baltic states do have the will and it works as the first and most important line of defense, senior editor of the newsweekly *The Economist* Edward Lucas said ahead of his appearance at the Lennart Meri Conference in Tallinn later this month. *Postimees in English*, 15 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Germany's defense minister, Ursula von der Leyen, wrapped up her two-day tour of the Baltic states with a visit to the Lithuanian capital on Wednesday. Following a meeting with her Lithuanian counterpart, Juozas Olekas, the two defense ministers announced a military equipment deal which will see the purchase of heavy weapons from Germany's Bundeswehr. *Deutsche Welle*. [Read full article.](#)
 - Poland and Lithuania top EU defence budget hikes in 2015, as conflict in Ukraine continues to foment instability. *EUObserver*, 13 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuania opens honorary consulate office in Richmond. *Richmond Times – Dispatch*, 17 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
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On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Apr 18](#) Long term strategy needed as Russia gets more aggressive - [@AndriusKubilius](#) at [@JBANCchatter](#) annual event [@AmbHeffern](#)
- [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · [Apr 18](#) True colors of false custodian of [#Minskagreements](#): Kremlin pushes illegal creation of lawless "republics" in east [#Ukraine](#), now signals it may recognise them? Just won't stop breaching UN Charter, international norms
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Apr 18](#). [@AndriusKubilius](#): clear terminology needed "Putin's war" - not "Ukrainian crisis"! Stop this Putin's gangster war!
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Apr 17](#) [#Lithuania](#) considers aid for [#Ukraine](#)'s railway transport. [http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/transport/?doc=105069 ...](http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/transport/?doc=105069...) [#UnitedForUkraine](#)
- [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · [Apr 16](#) All previous denials quickly turned into boots on the ground. "[@ianbateson](#): [#Putin](#): No Russian forces in [#Ukraine](#) "

- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · Apr 16 .@AndriusKubilius at @AtlanticCouncil: we need 2fight 4Ukrainian EU membership perspective. US role - crucial @VP
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas](#) · Apr 17 #Russia accuses #NATO of seizing “geopolitical space” by exercising in Europe. This, after RU annexed #Crimea | #Doublestandards #Ukraine
 - [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom](#) · Apr 17 .@NATOPress response to misleading and incorrect statements about #NATO made by senior Russian officials in Moscow: [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_118761.htm ...](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_118761.htm...)
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · Apr 13 Russia's current interpretation of the world: State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin about American imperialism [http://www.vedomosti.ru/opinion/articles/2015/04/14/instinkti-kolonizatorov-ili-podopleka-globalnogo-liderstva#.VSyxv84Q_3F.twitter ...](http://www.vedomosti.ru/opinion/articles/2015/04/14/instinkti-kolonizatorov-ili-podopleka-globalnogo-liderstva#.VSyxv84Q_3F.twitter...)
 - [Darius @DariusSemaska](#) · Apr 16 Kremlin's latest propaganda effort—dubbed “Sputnik”—has opened 29 new media offices across Central and Western Europe [http://www.wsj.com/articles/countering-putins-information-weapons-of-war-1429052323 ...](http://www.wsj.com/articles/countering-putins-information-weapons-of-war-1429052323...)
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Security and defence:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · Apr 15 Discussed regional security challenges with #Germany's Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · Apr 14 Taking defense seriously: #Lithuanian Parliament passed amendments to Law on Conscription [@LRSeimas @Lithuanian_MoD](http://bit.ly/1JGV0pD)
 - [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom](#) · Apr 15 Historical #propaganda plays a key role in justifying the actions&conquests of #Russia's aggressive #foreignpolicy [https://www.kapo.ee/cms-data/text/138/124/files/kapo-aastaraamat-2014-en.pdf ...](https://www.kapo.ee/cms-data/text/138/124/files/kapo-aastaraamat-2014-en.pdf...)
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) · Apr 18 Major mil drills in @NATO air space over #Baltic states 2 start soon. 10 Allies+partners Sweden&Finland 2participate <http://bit.ly/1DS09NR>
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Energy Security:

- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · Apr 13 RT @Lucian_Cernat: Lithuania opens #LNG trade: small dot on the IGU gas map but big move. <http://goo.gl/mqGMuH>
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB](#) · Apr 14 Lithuania was coming to this for the last 25 years RT @MotuzasR: his is our time. #IMF classifies #Lithuania's economy as developed.
- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom](#) · Apr 17 What is the most discussed topic on #socialmedia in #Lithuania? - #TTIP - 71 percent of Lithuanians support it. [http://mccarthymonitor.blogspot.be/2015/04/ttip-most-discussed-topic-on-social.html ...](http://mccarthymonitor.blogspot.be/2015/04/ttip-most-discussed-topic-on-social.html...)
- [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE](#) · Apr 14 #German #Creditreform: #Lithuania reaps the rewards of major economic reforms - EN.DELFI [http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/economy/german-creditreform-lithuania-reaps-the-rewards-of-major-economic-reforms.d?id=67702166#dreload1429028810237 ...](http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/economy/german-creditreform-lithuania-reaps-the-rewards-of-major-economic-reforms.d?id=67702166#dreload1429028810237...)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · Apr 14 Newly released data shows that #German firms are the largest foreign direct #investors in #LT manufacturing industry [http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/markets_and_companies/?doc=104864 ...](http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/markets_and_companies/?doc=104864...)
- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · Apr 16 #American #Businesses #Investment in Lithuania Continues to Grow #Google #NASDAQ <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20150415005091/en/American-Businesses-Investment->

Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 17](#) I always appreciate the level of frankness of our discussions w [#Luxembourg](#) FM Jean [#Asselborn @gouv_lu](#)
 - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 16](#) Frank disc w Frank W.Steinmeier on [#Ukraine](#), [#Easternpartnership](#), Ru propaganda. 'We need more Germany in LT'
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Apr 14](#) Trends of [#EasternPartnership #EaP](#) by [@AMO_cz](#) <http://trendy2015.amo.cz/en/>
 - [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Apr 16](#) Our freedom friends in Senate: [@SenatorDurbin](#) [@SenJohnMcCain](#) w/ [@AndriusKubilius](#) [@RKacinskas](#) [@LTUworld](#) [@UNISdirect](#)
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Other:

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 19](#) Horrifying tragedy near [#Lampedusa](#) as hundreds of people are feared dead. Wishing strength for rescuers who are trying to save so many lives
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Apr 18](#) Strongly condemn a terrorist attack by IS in [#Jalalabad](#) today. Indiscriminate killing of civilians is deplorable act of evil in all religions
 - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 14](#) I join UN SC Ban Ki-moon in urging the world not to forget [#Chibok](#) girls. International community must fight [#BokoHaram](#)
 - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Apr 16](#) Today we add 10 names 2the honorable 870 Righteous Among the Nations who saved Jews in LT during Holocaust. Everyone can make a difference
 - [Gediminas Varvuolis @varvuolis](#) · [Apr 16](#) Congratulations Kaunas city (Lithuania) for receiving in [#Brussels](#) the award of [#EuropeanHeritageLabel!](#) [@LinkeviciusL](#)
 - [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite_LT](#) · [Apr 15](#) Welcome the [#NoCeilings](#) initiative: better understanding of gender inequalities means more incentives for global change.
 - [RaMu @PRLTUN](#) · [Apr 15](#) At [#UNSC](#): Responsibility 2protect civilian populations, incl from crimes of rape, sexual violence as a tactic of war lies with the state. Where states fail to protect perpetrators of mass atrocities incl sexual crimes must b held 2account through intl justice mechanisms, ICC
 - [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY](#) · [Apr 15](#) READ full [#Lithuania](#)'s statement at [#UNSC](#) open debate on women, peace and security <http://un.mfa.lt/missionny/en/news/lithuanias-statement-at-the-un-security-council-debate-on-women-peace-and-security ...>
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