



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

20 - 26 April 2015

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

On April 22 in Chisinau, President Dalia Grybauskaitė was awarded Moldova's highest state decoration – the Order of the Republic of Moldova – for her personal contribution to the development of the Moldovan-Lithuanian relations and for continued support to the efforts of Moldova's European integration.



Key messages:

- Migrant flows is an EU-wide problem.
 - EU member states must maintain sanctions against Russia until complete implementation of Minsk agreements.
 - Need to ensure Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and rapprochement with the EU.
 - Conflict resolution impossible without an international monitoring of the Ukraine-Russia border - need to strengthen the OSCE special monitoring mission and ensure its free movement and security.
 - Lithuania ready to increase practical support to Ukraine's reforms in security and defence area.
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Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- “We all must continue to fully support Ukraine while calling on the country to implement all the necessary reforms.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 22 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “Reforms are needed to build Armed Forces capable of defending against aggressor,” Minister of National Defence J.Olekas said at the meeting with Ukrainian Minister of Defence Colonel General Stepan Poltorak. According to J. Olekas, the reforms would also help to increase public trust and support to state institutions. (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 20 April 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- Dalia Grybauskaitė and Lamberto Zannier discussed regional security issues and OSCE’s role in ensuring the implementation of the Minsk agreements. According to the President, it is necessary to strengthen the OSCE special monitoring mission and ensure its free movement and security. The President pointed out that conflict resolution would be impossible without an international monitoring of the Ukraine-Russia border. (20 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “One of the most important Ukraine lessons for Europe and the entire NATO is that European security and future are not achievable without a secure and prosperous Europe, therefore security and defence cooperation between NATO and Ukraine must be deepened.” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 20 April 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- The Minister of National Defence (Juozas Olekas) addressed possibilities of cooperation by assisting the Ukrainian side in arranging aftercare for wounded participants of the Antiterrorism Operation (ATO) at the meeting with representatives of Ivano-Frankivsk administration. The meeting officials also discussed a possibility to invite children of ATO participants for vacation in Lithuania through mediation of NGOs. (21 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

Security and Defence:

- Air capabilities of NATO allies and partner nations will train in the Baltic airspace (20 April 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- Over 200 German soldiers have been deployed in Lithuania for combined training and exercises as NATO increases the agreed reassurance measures in the Baltic region. The German military personnel are bringing various types of military equipment and will take part in combined training together with units of the Lithuanian Land Force. (21 April 2015) [Read full news release.](#)

Energy security:

- “Together with Estonia we implement strategic energy and transport projects that contribute to the integration of the Baltic infrastructure to the networks of the EU,” said the Lithuanian Foreign Minister. He named the synchronization of the Baltic electricity grids with the continental European grid, the implementation of the gas transmission project with Poland and the creation of a regional gas market as priorities for the energy sector. “During the implementation of these projects it is very important for the three Baltic States to cooperate closely with each other and to coordinate with Poland and the European Commission.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 22 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed to agree on common power trading principles for the LitPol Link, the new Lithuania-Poland power interconnection planned to open in the end of 2015. (20 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- “The influx of migrants from various turbulent regions of the world is becoming an EU-wide problem. We cannot say it is far away from us. The European Union must demonstrate solidarity and take complex measures to address refugee flow issues and curb people trafficking.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 23 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
- “Moldova, just like Ukraine, is under external political and economic pressures today. Therefore, it needs wide-ranging support in maintaining its European choice and territorial integrity, dealing with the frozen conflict in Transnistria, and implementing European reforms in the country. Concerted efforts by all Moldovan political forces are needed to carry through substantial reforms and ensure the well-being of the people.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 22 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#) The Lithuanian head of state underlined that Lithuania also had walked an uneasy path of reforms and can now contribute to the development of Moldova with its expert knowledge. Various field-experts from Lithuania are already helping Moldova to transform its judiciary, state service, customs and civil society sectors.
- At the meeting with China’s new Ambassador to Lithuania Wei Ruixing, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius underlined the importance of promoting business relations, as well as cooperation in the sectors of transport, logistics, finance, education and culture. Lithuania’s Foreign Minister pointed out that the cooperation between Lithuania and China had been increasing on both - bilateral and multilateral - levels. (23 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
- “The past two decades of bilateral relations between Lithuania and Israel have been marked by dynamic and constantly expanding contacts in political, economic, cultural and educational spheres. I strongly hope that the newly opened Israeli embassy in Vilnius will further our cooperation, creating new opportunities for interaction.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 22 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
- “What is happening off the coast of Lampedusa is a great disaster. This year alone the number of the refugees who died is as big as the number of victims of the Titanic tragedy. International criminals, human traffickers carry out crimes against humanity. It is important not only to ensure that assistance is provided to refugees in distress, but also to fight those who are risking lives by illegal transportation of refugees. It is not enough to merely protect state borders to avoid immigrants, a wave of war refugees, to be more precise. We have to deal with the root causes and they are currently in the territory of Libya. The involvement of all international institutions is necessary. We believe that we must discuss the issue at the UN Security Council.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 20 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN, Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė said that the situation in the region [Middle East] had rarely been more dramatic. The worst humanitarian crisis ever is unfolding and human rights abuses are being committed. The situation is further compounded by the threat of radical extremism and terrorism spreading in the region. (22 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia Keit Pentus-Rosimannus, who came to Lithuania for a working visit. The meeting focused on bilateral relations between Lithuania and Estonia, the security situation in Europe, the situation in Ukraine, relations with Russia, as well as cooperation in the implementation of strategic energy and transport projects. (22 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “Thousands of women face real threats to their security and life in ongoing military conflicts in the world. But they bravely struggle for the future of their families and society. Our responsibility is to help them by creating the environment in which they could be active fighters for peace.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 20 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)

Media links

- On a visit to Chisinau, Grybauskaitė spoke with correspondent Mihaela Gherasim of RFE/RL's Moldovan Service about the crisis in Ukraine, how Moldova can confront pressure from Moscow, and what Chisinau can expect at the EU's Eastern Partnership summit. *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, 23 April 2015. [Watch video.](#)
- Lithuania establishes cyber security council. *Global Post*, 23 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- The situation in the Lithuanian gas market has changed materially in recent years and now it's up to the country to decide where to buy gas, the country's energy minister has said in comments about antitrust charges on Wednesday filed by the [European Commission](#) (EC) against the [Russian gas concern Gazprom](#). *The Lithuania Tribune*, 23 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz on Sunday has received Lithuania's Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius at his palace in the capital Riyadh. During the meeting, King Salman and Linkevicius discussed cooperation between the two countries and the latest regional and international developments. *Al Arabiya*, 26 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- When attending the NATO Week opening event at the National University of Defence of [Ukraine](#) Minister of National Defence [Juozas Olekas](#) underlined that the Russian war in Ukraine had become an alarm signal for the whole of Europe and [NATO](#). *The Lithuania Tribune*, 20 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- Lithuania is ready to step up its involvement in migrant rescue missions and provide humanitarian aid as the European Unions mulls ways to deal with the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean Sea, Lithuanian [President Dalia Grybauskaitė](#) says. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 21 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- A two-day Baltic Region Air Training Event (BRTE XX) is starting in the Baltic airspace on Tuesday, involving fighter jets from Belgium, Spain, Italy, Poland, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Germany. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 21 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- Despite the Ukraine conflict, German companies continue to believe in the good prospects of the three Baltic markets. Nine out of ten German investors participating in the recent survey of the AHK Baltic States would re-invest in the region. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 21 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)

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