



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

27 April - 3 May 2015

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

Photo of the Week

Twitter Chat - taking questions on upcoming @LithuaniaUNNY #UNSC presidency in May. Lithuania intends to focus on protection of civilians - safety of journalists in conflict situations, threat posed by small arms and light weapons to the civilian population; as well as ways to combat the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, possible links between organized crime and human trafficking in the Mediterranean. [Read more.](#)



Key messages:

- Russian navy attempts to interfere Lithuanian-Swedish project of laying the sea cable *NordBalt*.
- Media freedom and human rights situation in Crimea have deteriorated seriously since Russian illegal occupation.
- Lithuania joins commemorative events honouring victims of the WWII, on 8 May.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN, Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė reiterated

that Lithuania would not recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea. She emphasized the need for the international community to maintain its attention on human rights, the situation of Tatars and other ethnic minorities in Crimea. (27 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)

Security and Defence:

- On April 27 defence cooperation between Lithuania and Hungary, security situation in the region, and contribution to multinational operations was discussed at the Ministry of National Defence. (27 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
 - Staffs of U.S. and Lithuanian brigades took part in combined training events in Rukla and Alytus. (29 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuanian and Portuguese reconnaissance personnel are training to act alongside each other. (29 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
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Energy security:

- Foreign Ministry of Lithuania summoned the Russian ambassador to express strong protest. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrius Krivas expressed strong protest on the repeated Russia's naval activities in the exclusive economic zone of Lithuania in the Baltic Sea, which disrupt peaceful shipping and economic activity in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provisions. (30 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Lithuania: Road towards OECD membership. [Deskdrop](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [...] Lithuanian-Polish Constitution of May 3 – adopted in 1791 – symbolized the wish of our two nations to foster strong statehood traditions based on the ideals of freedom and democracy. “The serious historical challenges that Lithuania and Poland faced revealed the true value of freedom and democracy. Therefore, today we cannot stand indifferent when threats are once again leveled against sovereign nations and their right to decide their own future and when we see direct danger to human dignity and freedoms in our immediate neighborhood.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 3 May 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius officially opened the first Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. “I’m happy to officially welcome Mr Mahfouz Marei bin Mahfouz, who is a member of the famous and respected family in Saudi Arabia, to the club of Lithuanian honorary consuls. I strongly believe that his extensive business connections in Saudi Arabia will facilitate open the Saudi market for Lithuanian entrepreneurs and promote cooperation in the areas of culture, research and development, as well as develop cooperation between universities.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 28 April 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “Our two countries [Lithuania and the Netherlands], united by common values and goals, are very close partners and allies in the European Union and NATO. I am pleased to note that we address newly emerging economic, political and security challenges in the spirit of solidarity and mutual understanding. In Lithuania, we highly value your country’s contribution to maintaining peace in

the Baltic states region.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 27 April 2015.) [Read full news release.](#)

Media links

- Lithuania has accused Russian warships of interfering with work on an [undersea power cable](#) linking it to Sweden that is intended to reduce its dependence on energy from Russia. *Financial Times*, 2 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Russian naval ships have repeatedly disrupted cable-laying work between Sweden and Lithuania in the past few months, prompting diplomatic protests from both countries affected. *The Local*, 2 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Opinion: How not to cede hearts and minds of Lithuanian citizens to Putin. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 1 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two in Poland and will also pay respect to war victims in Lithuania. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 30 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Opinion (by Marius Laurinavičius): The Russians are coming to occupy the Baltic states. I purposefully chose a title for my piece to evoke the notorious phrase from 1949 by the then US Secretary of Defense, James Forrestal: "The Russians are coming. The Russians are coming. They're right around. I've seen Russian soldiers." *The Lithuania Tribune*, 29 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Energy union, the EU's next revolution *The Lithuania Tribune*, 27 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuanian leaders say they do not wish to be audience for Russia's show of power *The Lithuania Tribune*, 27 April 2015. [Read full article.](#)
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On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [LT OSCE @LT_OSCE May 3](#) Worrying info from [#Ukraine](#), pro-Russian separatists used artillery against [#SMM](#) <http://www.osce.org/ukraine>
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Apr 30](#) US sees that it is Russia who orders and directs separatists in Ukraine <http://bit.ly/1JbGSE8> via [@AP](#) [@PMBreedlove](#)
- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom Apr 29](#) Why [#Putin's](#) 'Russification' Campaign Against the [#Baltics](#) Should Be Big # News for Us <http://dailysignal.com/2015/04/29/why-putins-russification-campaign-against-the-baltics-should-be-big-news-for-us/> ...
- [LT OSCE @LT_OSCE Apr 29](#) Kazakh citizen sentenced for joining Russia-backed separatists in [#Ukraine](#) (RFE/RL) Good example for Moscow to follow.
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN Apr 29](#) Great mtg w [#Ukraine](#) FM [@PavloKlimkin](#) 2day. Stressed [#Lithuania's](#) firm support 4undivided UA incl [#Crimea](#), [#Savchenko](#)
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB Apr 28](#) Get ready. Putin to spend €643mn on media this year <https://euobserver.com/foreign/128499>
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Apr 28](#) Increased RU mil posture in&around Ukraine, signals from UA leadership – is Kremlin preparing for 'victorious' commemoration of May 9?
- [LTembassyUA @LTembassyUA Apr 28](#) Transparency in public management, stability of financial sector and social balance are key to successful... <http://fb.me/3D8rZnrIS>
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Apr 28](#) Alarming state of UA pilot Nadia Savchenko after resuming hunger strike due to illegal capture in Russia. Join calls to [#FreeSavchenko](#) !
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Apr 27](#) At meeting w. Crimean Mejlis leader, [@PRLTUN](#)

reiterated: [#Lithuania](#) will not recognize illegal annexation of [#Crimea](#)

Security and defence:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius May 3](#) Clear words of [#EUCOM2015](#) posture statement: [#EUCOM](#) must be able to assure, deter & defend against Russian aggression <http://go.usa.gov/3BvdA>
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB Apr 30](#) Security in the Nordic-Baltic region: The Ultimate Deterrent <http://www.icds.ee/blog/article/the-ultimate->
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Apr 29](#) NATO [#BAP](#) contingents change over 2day. Thanks 2Poland, Italy, Norway 4guarding NATO skies over Baltics credibly
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Apr 29](#) NATO Baltic Airpolicing jets scrambled again 2help Ru plane not 2stray from course as it flew w/o agreed flight plan
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Apr 28](#) Norwegian F-16 have already landed in Lithuania for Baltic [#Airpolicing](#) mission. Takk og velkommen! [@borgebrende](#) [@forsvaret_no](#) [@nato](#)
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB Apr 27](#) "It would be logical for Europe as a whole and for European security if Sweden and Finland joined NATO"- [@IlvesToomas](#) [http://www.dn.se/arkiv/nyheter/svensk-usvang-inget-automatiskt-intrade ...](http://www.dn.se/arkiv/nyheter/svensk-usvang-inget-automatiskt-intrade...)
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Energy Security:

- [Darius @DariusSemaska May 1](#) Europe's alternatives to Russian gas - strangely enough, LNG import from US is not in the analysis | ECFR [http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_europes_alternatives_to_russian_gas311666 ...](http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_europes_alternatives_to_russian_gas311666...) via [@ecfr](#)
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas Apr 28](#) No politics behind antitrust case. It's a purely legal dispute to prevent [#Gazprom](#) from abusing its dominant position
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB Apr 27](#) Recognition? [#Russian](#) ambassador says [#EU](#)'s case against [#Gazprom](#) is political and driven by [#Lithuania](#) [http://en.delfi.lt/eu/russian-ambassador-says-eus-case-against-gazprom-is-political-and-driven-by-lithuania.d?id=67819864 ...](http://en.delfi.lt/eu/russian-ambassador-says-eus-case-against-gazprom-is-political-and-driven-by-lithuania.d?id=67819864...)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE May 1](#) [#Lithuania](#)'s goal: bridge [#Asia](#) and [#Europe](#) in terms of transport and logistics [http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/transport/?doc=105686 ...](http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/transport/?doc=105686...)
 - [Invest Lithuania @Invest_LT Apr 30](#) [#Kaunas](#) is on the rise! [@BentleySystems](#) chooses the talent and potential of [#Lithuania](#)'s second largest city! <http://www.investlithuania.com/bentley-systems-to-open-second-office-in->
 - [Invest Lithuania @Invest_LT Apr 29](#) [@AIGinsurance](#) is choosing [#Lithuania](#) for its new centre in Europe! http://www.investlithuania.com/leading-us-insurer-aig-opens-service-center-in-vilnius?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=0429AIG&utm_campaign=timeli ne ...
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT May 3](#) Common [#LTU-#POL](#) constitution was adopted 224 years ago. It was the 2nd in the world and the very first created by two countries equally
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 3](#) Today [#Lithuania](#) & [#Poland](#) celebrate 224 anniv of 1st codified Constitution in Europe (1971). Gratulacje, drodzy sąsiedzi! [@PolandMFA](#)
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis May 2](#) Power of Lithuanians in Chicago - from

basketball 2powerful foundations <http://www.lithuanianfoundation.org/LT/> @AmbHeffern @GudynasM

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) May 1 Lithuania was always part of Europe, despite artificial boundaries after WWII. Today - 11 y in #EU, standing firm for Europe whole and free!
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) Apr 30 11 years ago #LTU joined #EU & proved: hard work brings results. Today we remain committed to open Europe, based on freedom and democracy
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN](#) Apr 30#Lithuanian Government allocates funds 2 #UNHCR @Refugees 4 #Ukraine, #Syria hum needs, #WFP 4 #EbolaResponse, #UNICEF 4 #Vanuatu disaster

[Vidmantas Puriys @v_puriys](#) Apr 30 Comprehensive consultations in #Vilnius w/colleague from @AlbanianMFA DG Gjoka on bil rel, EU enlarg, reg security

- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN](#) Apr 28 Great mtg today w #Georgia 's Foreign Minister Tamar Beruchashvili. Common concerns, common interests, common vision of #Euroatlantic space
- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) Apr 27 ArabNews: #Lithuania ties cemented w/#SaudiArabi @LithuaniaMFA #trade @LinkeviciusL @RKacinskas

Other:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) May 3 World Press freedom day - we need independent&free word more than ever! Safety of journalists - LT priority @UNSC Presidency this month!
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN](#) Apr 29 #Lithuania 27th! Women in Business and Management: Gaining momentum http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_334882/lang-en/index.htm
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) Apr 29 Welcome the rescue of 200 girls & 93 women in #Nigeria yesterday. I hope the #ChibokGirls will also be liberated.
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) Apr 28 #Twiplomacy2015: #Lithuania's experience: <http://twiplomacy.com/info/europe/lithuania/> ... Also <http://twiplomacy.com/blog/dont-feed-the-trolls-keep-them-on-a-diet/> ... Thanks, @Twiplomacy !
- [Remigijus Motuzas @MotuzasR](#) Apr 28 #Lithuania chosen as a top destination for #Russian start-ups: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/lithuania-chosen-top-destination-russian-startups-toma-kondrate> ...
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) Apr 27 Strongest condemnation of brutal killing of 5 #Libyan TV #journalists by ISIS. Terrorism will never silence #freespeech

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