



# Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

## 4 - 10 May 2015

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

### Photo of the Week

On 8 May, Lithuania honored all the victims of the World War II, regardless of whether they were soldiers, civilians or victims of post-war repressions in Lithuania.  
[Read more.](#)



[Statement of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania at the Meeting of the UN General Assembly in commemoration of all victims of the Second World War](#)

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## Key messages:

- Lithuania commemorates the end of World War II, underlining that true freedom to its people came only 50 years after.
  - We should pay equal attention to revisionist and aggressive intentions now, preventing further tragedies like World War II.
  - Need to support countries which had chosen the European path and to provide assistance in implementing reforms.
  - EU should coordinate its efforts in countering Kremlin's propaganda.
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## Top lines, statements

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### Ukraine, Russia:

- "The ceasefire no longer exists. [...] The situation is changing of course every day, but we are relying on NATO information, and NATO information is such that, really, the Minsk agreement

is over." (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, *Reuters*, 5 May 2015) [Read full article](#)

- "Those who call themselves the conquerors and liberators of Europe have begun a new war in Europe against a sovereign state wishing only to decide its own future." (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, *The Telegraph*, 7 May 2015) [Read full article](#)
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## Security and Defence:

- "The Nordic and Baltic States share the same opinion that the EU should coordinate its efforts in finding countering propaganda. The EU needs strategic communication, which would be based on facts and openness, and would support independent media. In the face of Kremlin's aggressive propaganda, we are also calling on NATO to strengthen its strategic communications capabilities." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 6 May 2015) [Read full news release](#) [Statement by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden on strategic communication and support to independent media](#)
  - "We must join our efforts in order to deliver a proper response to the use of force in Europe and to unconventional threats such as propaganda, cyber-attacks or the peril of using energy supplies as an instrument of political pressure." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 5 May 2015). [Read full news release](#)
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## Energy security:

- The last 50 kilometres of NordBalt cable will be soon laid to the seabed. There's been three incidents in March and April this year when the commands by the Russian military navy were received by the vessels involved in the NordBalt cable installation. (5 May 2015) [Read full news release](#)
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## Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Moody's credit rating agency has upgraded Lithuania's long-term borrowing rating from Baa1 (positive outlook) to A3 (stable outlook). (8 May 2015) [Read full news release](#)
  - Lithuania's economy is expected to maintain growth of 2.8% in 2015, despite a fall in exports to Russia. With employment and real disposable incomes rising, domestic demand is expected to remain the main growth engine. Expected pick up in investment is set to boost real GDP growth to 3.3% in 2016. Inflation remains low. The improvement in public finances is expected to pause in 2015. [Spring 2015 Economic Forecast](#)
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## Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- "There is no doubt about Moldova's European perspective. Lithuania has always supported this objective of Moldova, but the key to ultimate success is in your hands. The successful formula of European integration is based on the implementation of reforms, particularly in the legal, administrative and energy sectors, fighting corruption, increasing transparency of the banking and media sectors, as well as improving protection of human rights." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 5 May 2015) [Read full news release](#).
- Lithuania allocates humanitarian assistance to Nepal, Syria, Ukraine, Vanuatu and the fight against Ebola. (4 May 2015) [Read full news release](#)
- President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili awarded Lithuania's outgoing Ambassador Jonas Paslauskas the Order of Honour for his outstanding contribution to the strengthening of friendship between Georgia and Lithuania. (5 May 2015) [Read full news release](#)
- "Roman Gary, Jascha Heifetz and Jacques Lipchitz are just a few famous Litvaks. We will

never forget the Vilna Gaon and the Litvak community - that have lived in Lithuania since the 14th century and thanks to them Vilnius, our capital city, had earned the title of the “the Jerusalem of the North”. Litvaks have created a priceless legacy which must be preserved for future generations through the implementation of the YIVO Vilna project that will digitize and virtually reunite YIVO’s archives located in New York City and Vilnius.” (Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Mantvydas Bekešius, 4 May 2015) [Read full news release.](#)

- Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Rolandas Kriščiūnas stressed that he was optimistic about the first months of EU’s free trade with Moldova and Georgia - trade volumes were growing and reforms were being implemented, but the countries would reap the greatest benefits from free trade only after the implementation of most of the planned reforms. (8 May 2015) [Read full news release](#)
- “Twenty five years ago, our citizens decisively assumed full responsibility for their future and later did not waver in their choice to pursue a European path of statehood and democracy. Symbolically, this year your country marks its important anniversary standing at the helm of the European Union in a difficult period for our region and Europe as a whole. Your successful presidency of the Council of the European Union proves that a generation of responsible and wise European citizens has emerged in Latvia over twenty five years.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 4 May 2015) [Read full news release](#)

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## Media links

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- "Having divided Europe for half a century, World War II took dozens of millions lives. It was the great pain of the XX century, giving rise to the Holocaust and Siberia forced labour camps. As we mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, we must do everything we can to safeguard peace and fates of nations and people." (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, *The Lithuania Tribune*, 8 May 2015.) [Read full article](#)
- For Lithuanian resistance, Soviet WWII win meant new war. (*AFP*, 8 May 2015) [Read full article](#)
- US troops underline NATO commitment during Lithuania visit. (*The Lithuania Tribune*, 8 May 2015) [Read full article](#)
- Lithuania launched a military exercise on Wednesday to simulate an attack on its new gas terminal, a move its strongly anti-Moscow president said was intended to show the Kremlin that the tiny country would defend itself. (*Reuters*, 6 May 2015) [Read full article](#)
- Minister Linkevičius: Russia's spying in Lithuania shouldn't surprise anyone. (*The Lithuania Tribune*, 5 May 2015) [Read full article.](#)
- Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaitė, commenting on Vilnius' decision not to send even its ambassador to the events in Moscow, said that no Lithuanian should be made to stand in a military parade in Moscow underneath flags of occupied Crimea. (*The Lithuania Tribune*, 5 May 2015) [Read full article](#)
- Lithuania is a country with a good business environment. Lithuania is one of the leading countries in terms of investment friendliness. The overall conditions for setting up a business here are good. Norwegians feel welcome here and our investment is expanding in many sectors. (Malmer Halvorsen, Ambassador of Norway to Lithuania, *Invest Lithuania*, 4 May 2015) [Read full article](#)

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## On Twitter

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### Ukraine, Russia:

- [Marius Janukonis @MJanukonis May 9](#) Spectacular WW2 Victory celebrations in Kyiv with EU flag and Ode to Joy. Ukraine is Europe!

- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT\\_MFA\\_Stratcom May 9](#) Little green man, gone with the wind commander.....the reality of " #VictoryDay" in #Donetsk <https://youtu.be/bJ-RlyKnOXI>
  - [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 8](#) Monument' al cynicism <http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-monument-polite-people-crimea-invasion/27000320.html> ...
  - [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 8](#) Whitewashing history: a new statute to mass murderer Stalin erected in Lipetsk, Russia. [http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=c56\\_1430935901&comments=1](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=c56_1430935901&comments=1) ...
  - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 7](#) . [@LinkeviciusL](#) at #Login2015: Time for military parade in #Kremlin to include #TV screens marching, together w tanks and Gazprom pipes...
  - [Darius @DariusSemaska May 6](#) Evidence proving that flight MH-17 was taken down by a BUK missile <http://www.rtlnieuws.nl/nieuws/buitenland/evidence-proving-flight-mh-17-was-taken-down-buk-missile> ...
  - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 5](#) Appetite grows while eating. #Crimea today, #Rome tomorrow, says a poster in a #Russian town ahead of May 9th fest
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## Security and defence:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius May 10](#) Lithuania's PM [@AButkevicius](#) attending #LightningBolt2015 drill: we have to be prepared to respond to hybrid warfare
  - [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian\\_MoD May 9](#) An agreement on the purchase of 16 #Pzh2000 howitzer for #LithuanianArmedForces is reached w/ Germany <http://bit.ly/1P9dNQZ> [@bundeswehrInfo](#)
  - [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian\\_MoD May 8](#) Reaction to a terrorist attack on the #LNG terminal was trained at the LTU EX #ZaiboKirtis. <http://bit.ly/1RjWon8>
  - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 6](#) #Lithuania will up the number of its troops 6 years in a row & establish a new Motorized infantry brigade this year.
  - [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 5](#) Informed colleagues at #NB8 mtng about #RU Navy repeated violations of #UN Convention, disrupting free activity in #LT Econ Zone
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## Energy Security:

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 7](#) Lithuanian "Independence" brings energy security & more poss of gas supply for whole region. Just visited. Impressive
  - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius May 7](#) #LNG terminal in #Lithuania brings twofold gain: strategic energy independence + commercial viability. [@BryzaMatthew](#) <http://bit.ly/1PtKB1Y>
  - [Vidmantas Purlys @v\\_purlys May 7](#) Undersea electricity cable generates friction between Russia and Baltics <http://on.wsj.com/1KMentY> via [@WSJ](#)
  - [Darius @DariusSemaska May 6](#) "LNG is the only realistic prospect for a substantial addition of gas for a period of time." <http://www.politico.eu/article/they-look-for-gas-here-they-look-for-gas-there/> ...
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## Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 9](#) Condolences to the families of victims of Spanish military plane crash near #Seville. [@MAECgob](#) , [@SpainMFA](#)
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 9](#) Happy #EuropeDay, #EU #Allies! We are united in diversity to ensure peace & prosperity, to foster freedom & democracy
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 8](#) Congratulation on Europe's day! Values which united Europe 65 y ago today are challenged & tested again.
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 8](#) Glad to welcome colleague Philip Hammond back to the office! Work continues, challenges the same, need strong UK leadership. [@foreignoffice](#)
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 8](#) Thoughts with [@NorwayUN](#), [@UNPhilippines](#) after helicopter crash in #Pakistan takes lives of their colleagues ambassadors [@GeirOPedersen](#)

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT May 8](#) Congratulations to [@David\\_Cameron](#) on re-election. Looking forward to continue our close cooperation.
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 8](#) Sad to learn about the death of [#Russian](#) diplomats in Nepal. My condolences to the families & RU diplomatic community, [@Russia\\_MFA](#)
- [Marius Janukonis @MJanukonis May 7](#) IDP center in Kyiv and LT-CZ-SK team of clowndoctors performing with kids. Perfect therapy through entertainment.
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 6](#) Thoughts with families of [#Tanzanian](#) peacekeepers killed or missing after patrol ambush by Ugandan rebels [@MONUSCO @KoblerSrsq](#)
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 5](#) 3Baltic states at [#UNGA](#) meet 2day: At time of creation of the UN Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were illegally annexed to Soviet Union, liberated themselves decades later. This is our story, can't b denied, can't b downplayed 2irrelevance, can't b called "rewriting history"

## Other:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT May 9](#) Welcome the President of [#Croatia @KolindaGK](#) to the Council of Women World Leaders. Encouraging women's leadership - our common goal.
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 9](#) Ominous "[@Pynnoniemi](#): Snyder: "memory mutation" as Putin re-interprets meaning of WWII & Molotov-Ribbentrop pact [http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2015-05-08-snyder-en.html ...](http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2015-05-08-snyder-en.html...)"
- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas May 8](#) For [#Baltics](#), the end of [#WWII](#) on this day 70 years ago meant the [#Soviet](#) occupation, deportations and war after war
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 8](#) Today 70y ago Europe woke up free and at peace-not Lithuania, staying under the Soviet occupation.
- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian\\_MoD May 8](#) Thousands of candles lit up by Lithuanian [#Riflemen](#) in [#Vilnius](#) to honor the victims of the [#WWII](#)
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis May 8](#) Proud 2join special V-E Day 70th Anniversary Commemoration [#stopPutin #USarmUkraine](#) 2save postIIWW order! [@UNISdirect](#)
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 8](#) We pay tribute to all the victims of [#WW2](#). We hope the world has learned the painful lesson - no more [#Molotov-Ribbentrop](#) pacts! Never again
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 7](#) Lithuania honours the Allied effort in [#WWII](#), pays tribute to all victims&calls to denounce any efforts to revive nazism&revisionism today.
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 7](#) Chlorine attacks in [#Syria](#) increased since adoption of [#UNSC](#) Res2209. Need attribution of responsibility mechanism, 2ensure accountability
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT May 7](#) [#WWII](#) was driven by aggression and hatred. [#Europe](#) was rebuilt by unity and solidarity. History lessons must be learned
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 6](#) 2day we celebrate t day Lithuanian word&press got free from Ru tsar suppression. We bow our heads 2 those who kept it alive&brought it back!
- [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE May 6](#) [#Vilnius](#) named among [#Europe's](#) most beautiful holiday destinations - EN.DELFI [http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/culture/vilnius-named-among-europes-most-beautiful-holiday-destinations.d?id=67898856#dreload1430920484215 ...](http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/culture/vilnius-named-among-europes-most-beautiful-holiday-destinations.d?id=67898856#dreload1430920484215...)

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