



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

11 - 17 May 2015

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

On 14 May, President Dalia Grybauskaitė together with EU leaders and other distinguished guests attended the Charlemagne Prize (known as "Oscar in Politics") award ceremony in Aachen for this year's laureate, President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz. President Grybauskaitė was invited to take part in the festive event as laureate of the Charlemagne Prize 2013.

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Key messages:

- At EaP Summit in Riga it is important to support goals of the EaP countries, their European perspective, greater mobility and deeper relations.
 - Strong NATO – timely and resolute implementation of NATO Wales. Permanent NATO presence in the East needed to defend and deter.
 - Call on NATO to continue its open door policy, especially with regard to Eastern European countries.
 - International community must urgently address the problem of the spread of weapons.
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Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- "We hope that Russia will at least start showing some signs of implementation, as it says, of the Minsk agreement, but I personally have no illusions. (...) Russia still claims that it's not

involved in the conflict. Russia still claims there's no Russian army in the territory of Ukraine, despite many documented facts of the opposite. Unfortunately, we see no changes for the better. There are some statements, some assurances which had been made before. But we see no real improvement in the situation.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 14 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

- “It is not only about Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, not only about the continued non-compliance and breaching of the Minsk accords, not only the support to separatists. We feel Russia's aggression along the Alliance's entire Eastern front. We can mention the recent developments in the Baltic Sea when Russian warships were impeding commercial navigation and commercial projects in the Lithuanian economic zone, there's no other way to describe it than aggressive demonstration of power by Russia.” (Lithuania's Ambassador to NATO [Vytautas Leškevičius](#), 13 May 2015). [Read full article.](#)
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Security and Defence:

- Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas met with Defence Minister of Hungary Dr Csaba Hende. Minister J.Olekas thanked for Hungary's decision to join the NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission from this autumn. “This mission stands out as one of the clearest examples of Alliance solidarity, therefore it is delightful that the number of participating allies increases,” Minister J.Olekas said. (15 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius stressed that Russia tried the Alliance's vigilance and unity, and called on NATO to ensure permanent presence of its troops in the Baltic States. On the threats from the South, Linkevičius assured that Lithuania would contribute to joint efforts to fight the Islamic State and search for solutions to problems concerning migration at the European level. (14 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuania's Foreign Minister thanked the United States for its leadership in deploying troops in Lithuania, participation in military exercises and Baltic Air Policing mission, contribution to the implementation of the Readiness Action Plan. (14 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - “It is important for NATO to timely and decidedly implement decisions taken at the Wales Summit, strengthen the Alliance's defence capabilities in response to Russia's aggression in Ukraine and the threat of Islamic fundamentalism in the South. Strength and credibility of NATO depend upon its ability to adapt quickly and offer security guarantees to its member states and their population – this is especially true in the events when the threats are so close to us.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 13 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - “The international community must urgently address the problem of the spread of weapons. Every year, these weapons kill more than half a million people. In 2013, this Council adopted a landmark resolution 2117 that established a framework for UN action on small arms-related issues. We believe it is urgent to put this framework into practice by taking concrete measures that would translate the Council's efforts to tackle the devastating effects of illicit arms trade into more concrete action.” (Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN, Ambassador Raimonda Murrmokaitė, 13 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas met with Dr Karl A. Lamers, Deputy Chairman of the Defence Committee of the Bundestag and member of the Presidium of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. K. Lamers assured that Germany will give every kind of support to Lithuania for solving the security and defence issues the region was facing, which means political Germany's support, and regular deployment of German soldiers to combined exercises in Lithuania. (13 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas discussed Lithuanian-Czech security and defence cooperation at a meeting with the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Lithuania Bohumil Mazánek. (13 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- President underlined that Lithuania highly valued close and open cooperation between Lithuania and Norway in the fields of politics, trade, energy, science and defense, as well as

Norway's contribution within NATO to maintaining security in the Nordic and Baltic region. (17 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

- Lithuania's Foreign Minister and his Georgian counterpart discussed preparation for the Eastern Partnership Summit to be held in Riga next week. Linkevičius expressed Lithuania's strong support for Georgia's EU integration efforts and underlined the need to ensure a timely implementation of all reforms. (14 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Mantvydas Bekešius in Tel Aviv met with representatives of organizations of the Lithuanian Jewish diaspora - Beit Vilna, Igud Jocei Lita and Izraelita - and Honorary Consuls of Lithuania in Israel. Lithuanian initiatives to protect and safeguard Jewish cultural heritage in Lithuania, Holocaust educational projects aimed at perpetuating its memory were presented to the audience. (13 May 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- "The latest developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina are a clear demonstration of the European choice of its people and the firm determination of the country to move forward on the path of EU integration." [Lithuania's statement at the UN Security Council debate on Bosnia & Herzegovina](#), 12 May 2015.
- According to the President, France is a strategic partner of Lithuania. The two countries actively cooperate in the fields of politics, energy, defense, economy, science and culture. The President also underlined that Lithuania valued France's active participation in the air policing mission in the Baltics. Among the other issues discussed at the meeting with the Ambassador were intensifying trade relations between Lithuania and France. Last year, these relations grew by five percent making France Lithuania's 11th biggest trade partner. Dalia Grybauskaitė thanked France for its support to Lithuania's membership in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (11 May 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- "Lithuanian Diplomacy Star" was awarded to Seiichi Mizuno, the Chairman of Japan-Lithuania Friendship Association for his active engagement and promotion of Lithuanian business and culture in Japan, strengthening contacts between entrepreneurs, scientists and artists, academic communities of the two countries, and raising awareness of Lithuania's achievements through the Japanese media. Minister Linkevičius expressed his gratitude to the members of Japan-Lithuania Friendship Association for perpetuating the memory of eminent personalities of Lithuania and Japan, supporting Lithuanian children with cancer and promoting people-to-people contacts. (11 May 2015) [Read full news release.](#)

Media links

- The Lithuanian society clearly understands the treats coming from the East, however, the situation in Southern Europe require just as much attention, as wars are also possible there, says Lithuania's Ambassador to NATO Vytautas Leškevičius. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 13 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- EU supporting Lithuania gas pipeline. AB Amber Grid has signed an agreement regarding financial support for the construction of a gas transmission pipeline in Lithuania. *LNG Industry*, 15 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- The Baltic States will formally ask NATO to deploy several thousand troops as a deterrent to Russia, Lithuania said Thursday, but the alliance gave no assurance that the request would be accepted. *AFP*, 14 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- Lithuanian State Tourism Department and the Lithuanian Embassy in Sweden, together with partners in Stockholm, held an event presenting Lithuanian tourism opportunities to Swedish tourism media. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 12 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- Lithuanians in Stockholm founded a business club. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 16 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- For years now, the Embassies of the EU member states in Washington DC open their doors on the second Saturday of May. This year the Lithuanian Ambassador to the USA, Žygimantas Pavilionis expressed his solidarity with Ukraine and hosted several Ukrainian organisations. This year, the visitors could also buy a number of Ukrainian souvenirs with all the proceeds going to hospitals and other needy organisations in Ukraine. More than 3000 visitors savoured Lithuanian and Ukrainian culture, food and drinks. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 11 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)

On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [Asta A. @AstaAndr May 15](#) Lithuanian Ambassador in Ukraine: [#Lithuania](#)'s security depends on [#Ukraine](#)'s security, we support UA eurointegration <http://www.veidas.lt/ambasadorius-%e2%80%9eapie-50-proc-ukrainieciu-noretu-integracijos-ir-i-nato%e2%80%9c...>
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 15](#) [#Ukraine](#) borders and sovereignty continue 2b violated as 25th Russian convoy drives in 2 militant-held areas on 14 May [#MinskAgreements](#) ???
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius May 13](#) Strong [@NATO](#) Allies support for [#Ukraine](#) in a meeting with [@PavloKlimkin](#) today. Statement here: <http://ow.ly/MUdIP> [#UnitedForUkraine](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 13](#) Admire strong Canada's [@HonRobNicholson](#) stance in support 2Ukraine&against Ru aggression. True transatlantic unity!
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 13](#) Overall 100Ukr troops received treatm.in [#LT](#). Today Gov.allocated add EUR 50,000 4humanitarian aid. [#UnitedForUkraine](#)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 12](#) [#UnitedForUkraine](#): RT [@NATO](#): [VIDEO] Wounded in [#Ukraine](#), recovering in [#Lithuania](#) <https://youtu.be/Sr7bmUNIsW4>
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · May 11 I said it then http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/07/vladimir-putin-defended-nazi-soviet-pact-west-world-war-two?CMP=share_btn_tw..., will repeat now: Putin's defence of the Nazi-Soviet pact is dangerous.<http://f24.my/1PdJHQT>
- [Asta A. @AstaAndr May 11](#) EP proposes to change EUstrategy in Russia relations reacting 2 occupation of Crimea&continuing aggression in Ukraine <http://tinyurl.com/qgyr422>
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB May 12](#) NATO reportedly expels dozens of alleged Russian spies from Brussels headquarters | <http://fxn.ws/1KDKFzj>
- [LT OSCE @LT OSCE May 11](#) [#FreeSavchenko](#): 329 days of ongoing judicial nihilism in Russia against UA parliamentarian and PACE member. [#SavchenkoList](#) should be looked@
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 11](#) On the day of Nadiya's birthday we wish her strength. You are not alone! [#FreeSavchenko](#) <https://twitter.com/LinkeviciusL/status/564767998423343104...>

Security and defence:

- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian MoD May 17](#) Allies from [#US](#), [#PT](#), [#ITA](#), [#GER](#), [#NOR](#) took part at [#Lithuanian](#) Armed Forces&Society Day in Marijampole [#AlliedStrong](#)
- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas May 17](#) Defence budget for 2015: Challenges to security forces [#Poland](#) & [#Baltics](#) ([#Lithuania](#) [#Latvia](#) [#Estonia](#)) to rearm
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius May 15](#) Coordinated action-key to success. Imperative that NATO Allies exercise 2gether <http://bit.ly/1PnEXDG> [#TridentJaguar](#)
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB May 15](#) Indeed, important for the Baltic region: [#NATO](#) looking at increasing defence cooperation with Finland, Sweden <http://uk.mobile.reuters.com/article/idUKKBN0NZ25K20150514?irpc=932...#săkpol>
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 14](#) Good 2see shared view of min that challenges in East require not only immediate means, but long-time adaptation of [#NATO](#) defence&deterrence
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 14](#) [#Netherlands](#) pilots received medals of gratitude for [#BalticAirPolicing](#). Thanks for solidarity in action! [@DutchMFA](#)
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB May 13](#) Interesting [@AnnwieAnna](#): [#Finland](#) opens door for [#NATO](#) membership within coming years, commission will look into it: <http://bit.ly/1cUK1ye>
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 13](#) Great to meet [#NATO](#) SG [@jensstoltenberg](#) . We need strong leadership implementing Wales decisions. [#NATOready](#)

- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian_MoD May 12 #LTU](#) warship & helicopter trained at the world largest naval search&rescue EX [#BALTICSAREX](#). <http://bit.ly/1L07NUD>
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Energy Security:

- [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE May 15](#) 27% all natural gas was imported from [#Lithuania](#) to [#Estonia](#) in April <http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/energy/?doc=106241> ...
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 14](#) Strengthening [#energysecurity](#) MT [@NatGasEurope](#) EU grants €10.6 mln 2preparatory works 4 [#Lithuania](#)- [#Poland](#) pipeline <http://buff.ly/1G8zkDE>
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Linās Linkevičius @LinkeviciusL May 18](#) Happy Syttende Mai celebration to the people of [#Norway!](#) [@borgebrende](#) [@NorwayMFA](#) [#syttendemai](#)
 - [Consulado H Lituania @LituaniaenMex May 14](#) [#Lithuania](#) opens its stand [@CulturasAmigas](#) [#CDMX](#) over 1mil visitors [@LithuaniaMFA](#) [@RKacinskas](#) [@ZygisPavilionis](#)
 - [Linās Linkevičius @LinkeviciusL May 14](#) Another great meeting with [#US](#) Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland- truthfull friend of Lithuania.
 - [Linās Linkevičius @LinkeviciusL May 13](#) Always using time 2reassure Georgia of LT support on its path closer 2#NATO & [#EU](#)- mtg FM T. Beruchashvili [@MFAgovge](#)
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas May 13](#) Had pleasure of hosting Amb Magheru, PolDir [#Romania](#) in MFA for consultations -10 days ahead of the [#Riga](#) [#EaP](#) Summit
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Other:

- [Linās Linkevičius @LinkeviciusL May 14](#) Alarming news from [#Burundi](#). Call for restraint and urge to renew political dialogue among all stakeholders
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 14](#) What would [@LinkeviciusL](#) tweet S.Lavrov, if the latter had a Twitter account? [#Login2015](#) Video (LT) [#Twiplomacy](#) <http://www.delfi.lt/video/verslas/login/login-2015-l-linkevicius-apie-lietuvos-twitter-diplomatijos-sekme.d?id=67913354> ...
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 13](#) We strongly condemn the terrorist attack on a bus in the [#Pakistani](#) city of [#Karachi](#). Our condolences to the country and affected families.
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB May 12](#) RT [@expo2015photo:#lithuania #pavilion](#) [#expo2015](#) [#expo2015photo](#) [@LT_EXPO_2015](#) [@Expo2015Milano](#) pic.twitter.com/Dyokufwt5y <https://twitter.com/expo2015photo/status/598110874558210048> ...
 - [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY May 11](#) Find out more about May 29 [#UNSC](#) ministerial briefing on foreign [#terrorist](#) fighters, check out the concept paper: <http://un.mfa.lt/missionny/en/news/concept-paper-for-un-security-council-ministerial-briefing-on-foreign-terrorist-fighters> ...
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