



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

18 - 24 May 2015

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

Photo of the Week

On 22 May, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution, submitted by Lithuania and cosponsored by 56 UN members, on small arms and light weapons, underlining the suffering they caused to civilians.

[Read more.](#)



Upcoming event at the UN: On 27 May, Lithuanian and Latvian Foreign Ministers will host panel discussion “Protection of journalists and media freedom – key to sustainable future.” [Invitation and concept paper.](#)

Key messages:

- EU re-confirms clear commitment to the Eastern partnership and European aspirations of partners.
 - Illicit trade and misuse of small arms and light weapons must be stopped.
 - Burden-sharing of refugees among EU member states must be based on the principle of voluntarism.
-
-

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- “The annexation of Crimea, continuing Russian support for the separatists and terrorists in eastern Ukraine with weapons, failing to comply with the Minsk accords, and a crawling annexation of the occupied territories of Georgia send an alarm signal, which, if ignored, may undermine the fundamental values and principles that constitute the foundation of the Council of Europe.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 19 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas underlined the need for the European Union to give more support to Ukraine in its implementation of defence reforms, to strengthen military-technological cooperation between Ukraine and the EU, and to contribute to Ukraine’s capacity to respond to hybrid threats and cyber-attacks. (18 May 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuania suggested increasing support to Eastern Partnership countries - Georgia, Moldova, and, particularly, Ukraine - in the field of security and defence, also taking steps to ensure information security of individual EU countries and fighting against propaganda. The Foreign Minister called on his counterparts to clearly identify threats and challenges posed by Russia. (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 18 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
-

Security and Defence:

- On May 21 the largest national exercise Lithuania held this year, Lightning Bolt 2015, was declared closed. The first of the kind, the exercise tested various of types of situations - a speedy mobilisation of the Lithuanian reserve, actions in case of a hybrid warfare and terrorist attacks, and tactical training. [Read full news release.](#)
 - “The U.S. remains an active ally of Lithuania in addressing military, energy, economic and information security issues,” stressed Lithuania’s Foreign Vice-Minister Neris Germanas. He underlined the importance of strengthening the transatlantic community’s strategic communication in the fight against propaganda disseminated by Russia and other countries. (18 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - “In the context of the security changes in Europe the European Council in June should focus on enhancing the capacity to respond to hybrid threats, deepening defence cooperation with our Eastern partners, strengthening the EU-NATO dialogue, preparing the European Security Strategy and increasing defence financing.” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 18 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuania’s Foreign Minister pointed out the modernisation of Russia’s armed forces and intensive large-scale exercises, and said that “actions by Russia’s Baltic Fleet, not to mention the Russian Air Force, are obviously intended to test all of us” with the recent incidents in the Baltic sea in mind. (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 18 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuania’s Foreign Minister drew attention to the fact that 22 EU member states were members of NATO, thus it was particularly important for the EU to identify common threats together with NATO, while ensuring their security and avoiding duplication of effort and cost. (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 18 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
-

Energy security:

- The President underscored the growing Lithuanian-Finnish relations in the energy sphere. Gas and power interconnections between the Baltic States and Finland are among the EU’s priority projects. Two power links between Estonia and Finland are already in place, and the gas link will connect the Baltic countries and Finland by the end of 2018. They will help build the regional electricity and gas markets of the Baltic and Nordic countries and enhance regional energy independence. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 21 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
-

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Lithuania has been recognized as one of the leaders in the EU for growth in innovation in a new European Commission report. The report, called the “Innovation Union Scoreboard,” uses 25 different indicators to compare the capacity for innovation of different EU member states. It identified Lithuania as a rapidly developing business location for research and development. (21 May 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
 - According to the President, close business relations with Finland and other Nordic countries not only contribute to creating new jobs, but also promote transparent business culture with greater emphasis on innovation and environmental issues. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 21 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuania steps up cooperation with Shandong Province, China. (18 May 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
-

Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- “The Eastern Partnership programme contributes to promoting the well-being in our Eastern neighborhood. The EU will continue supporting its Eastern partners in their efforts to implement major reforms, strengthen their economy and institutions, and fight corruption. More democratic, more European and more advanced Eastern partners will become more resistant to external pressures and more attractive to investors. Stable and European-mined Eastern partners are in the interest of the whole of Europe.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 22 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “The summit in Vilnius a year and a half ago was a turning point in the Eastern Partnership policy. Since then, the geopolitical situation in Europe has changed dramatically highlighting different objectives of Eastern partners. The President underlines that in the near future it is very important to help Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine implement free trade agreements, and the EU must remain open to the citizens of Eastern Partnership countries. According to the President, the people of Georgia and Ukraine should get visa-free access to the EU once these countries meet all the necessary requirements. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 21 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- President Dalia Grybauskaitė together with Finland’s former President Tarja Halonen unveiled sculpture “Suomis” in Vilnius. At the unveiling ceremony, the President underlined that this sculpture was a symbol of close friendship between Lithuania and Finland. “Lithuania and Finland are part of the Nordic-Baltic region. We are not only close neighbors; we are partners bound by strong economic, political and cultural ties. This sculpture represents a dreaming man and countries that pursue common goals. It is a symbol of friendship between our two nations and intensifying people-to-people contacts.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 21 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “The EU member states must act in solidarity and contribute to the joint EU operations, provide development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Burden-sharing of refugees is one form of solidarity and it must be based on the principle of voluntarism as we agreed during the meeting of the European Council in April.” (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 19 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- “Kazakhstan is a major partner of Lithuania in Central Asia. We are pleased that political relations gather momentum and trade relations improve, yet we have not fulfilled the potential yet: we aim at developing partnership in the fields of transport and logistics, science and education, medicine, culture, and tourism.” (Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius, 21 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- The Council also prepared the ground for the European Council to be held on June 25-26. During the discussions, Linkevičius noted that the draft review of the foreign and security policy should include a proper assessment of security environment, reflect new threats, such as Russia’s aggressive actions in the EU neighbourhood, ensure synergies between other EU policies and strategies – challenges in the European neighbourhood, domestic security, migration and others. In the context of the relationship with Russia, Linkevičius underlined that the European Council had agreed in March on a package of restrictive measures targeting sectoral cooperation and

exchanges with Russia until the full implementation of the Minsk agreements, so it was necessary to start the procedures on these issues. (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 19 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

- "It is good to hear that the Ukrainian Foreign Minister has very clear commitment to begin the provisional application of the 2014 EU-Ukraine Association Agreement on 1 January 2016." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 18 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- As regards the illicit migration challenge, the Foreign Minister said that Lithuania was active not only at the EU level, but also as the Presidency of the UN Security Council aiming to adopt a resolution to prevent a flow of illegal immigrants. According to Lithuania's Foreign Minister, it is also very important to address this problem mostly at its origin and the EU has to find the right balance between the southern and eastern dimension of the EU's Common Immigration Policy. (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius 18 May 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

Media links

- The Seimas of Lithuania on Thursday backed amendments, drafted by President Dalia Grybauskaitė, on countering hostile propaganda, after 79 lawmakers voted in favour, four were against and 27 abstained. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 21 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- With a thrust from the eurozone, affordable air-fares on the route Vilnius-Tel Aviv and just generally better Israeli-Lithuanian relations, tourist flows between the two countries have peaked lately. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 22 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- Grybauskaite: world's leading businesses invest in Lithuania. *The Baltic Course*, 19 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- A scientific research website was launched in Lithuania, providing opportunities for business to order research. E-moksloportai.lt ("e-science gate") will be the largest website in Lithuania where you can outsource your research services from various fields. Lithuanian and foreign companies as well as academic and research institutions will be able to easily and conveniently get information on research services, projects and funding opportunities. The website will contain all information about research services in Lithuania, including equipment of research institutions, services and personnel they can provide. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 22 May 2015. [Read full article.](#)

On Twitter

Follow us on Twitter: [@LT_MFA_Stratcom](#)

Ukraine, Russia:

- [Asta A. @AstaAndr](#) May 21 #VyshyvankaDay in #Vilnius, #Lithuania with students from Donetsk. For your and our Freedom! #radiosvoboda @uatodaytv
- [LT OSCE @LT_OSCE](#) May 22 RU military 'tourists' captured recently by #Ukraine confessed to the #SMM that they are members of RU armed forces <http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/159296...>
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) May 21 #Russia Security Council head #Patrushev calls @NATO aggressive. Someone has forgotten to take a look at the mirror. <http://goo.gl/nkHMxS>
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) May 20 Calling 4Ukrainian-centered US strategy in Europe's East at 75th anniversary of @UkrCongComAm @UNISdirect @GeoffPyatt
- [Asta A. @AstaAndr](#) May 20 Chairman of #Lithuania's Const Court D.Žalimas in #Lviv: #Lithuania supports #Ukraine, your fight is the fight for us <http://lnu.edu.ua/index.php?q=information&new=1931...>
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius](#) May 19 Redrawing borders, annexing territories of Ua and in

- Geo, continuing aggression against Ua- all by Rf-shake very foundation [#CoE](#) is based on
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 19](#) After ministerial discussion at Council of Europe: can member-state [#Russia](#), that wages war against neighbor- be considered as democracy?
- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom May 19](#) It's up to [#Kremlin](#) to stop "military tourism" to [#Ukraine](#). [#RussiainvadedUkraine](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 18](#) Russia calls public demonstration in Macedonia "another West-inspired color revolution". Déjà entendu, isn't it?
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 18](#) Intl community should not lower focus on situation in occupied [#Crimea](#)

[Petras Austrevicius @petras_petras May 18](#) A group of MEPs after visiting Mariupol. Ukraine needs our solidarity and support!

- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 18 #Lithuania](#) 2 help set up psychological rehabilitation centres for Eastern [#Ukrainians](#) affected by [#Russian](#) aggression <http://goo.gl/RkfyJD>

Security and defence:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius May 24](#) Taking over baton in charity run [##MakeAWish @SHAPE](#). Proud 2be part of [#LT](#) team, Allied solidarity on&off the stadium
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 22 #NATO - #EU](#) relations showcased at a high peak as [#Allied](#) ships enter [#Riga](#) port during the [#EaP #RigaSummit](#) today [@USNATO @TurkeyNATO](#)
- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius May 21](#) It's necessity 2get EU,NATO, national insitutions, academia act 2gether 2counter disinformation [@NerijusM @NATOpres](#)
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 19](#) DefMin [#Olekas](#) 2 [@NATOdsg](#) today: [#Wales](#) decision on the [#ReadinessActionPlan](#) must be implemented smoothly and on time
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 19](#) DefMin [#Olekas](#) at NATO HQ today: Defence Capacity Building highly important, should be offered to [#Ukraine](#) as well
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB May 19](#) INFOR. OPERATIONS AS A FOREIGN POLICY TOOL- SITUATION IN BALTIC STATES&CONSEQUENCES FOR SWEDEN <http://www.folkochforsvar.se/event/information-operations-as-a-foreign-policy-tool-the-situation-in-the-baltic-states-and-consequences-for->

Energy Security:

- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 19](#) All u need 2 know on energy as a hyrid war tool. New read by [@NATO](#) experts Ruehle&Grubliauskas goo.gl/PDKCkH

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius May 20](#) Good trend, keep it up [@Invest_LT](#): more and more innovation, R&D companies relocate their operation centers 2 Vilnius <http://bit.ly/1c5127N>
- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB May 20](#) Baltic states are seen by Swedish entrepreneurs as a good place to do business <http://en.delfi.lt/nordic-baltic/swedish-entrepreneurs-undeterred-from-investing-in-baltics-survey-shows.d?id=68021632#ixzz3agaO7Lwn> ... [@Invest_LT @EnterpriseLT @LithuaniaMFA](#)

Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 22](#) Riga confirms the vision for Eastern partners, recognizing European choice, setting roadmap for visa free to Geo, UA, more ambitions to come

- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT_MFA_Stratcom May 22](#) It's 4th the #EU and its sovereign partners 2decide on how they want to proceed in their relations - #EaP #RigaSummit : <http://bit.ly/1FCLjIZ>
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 22](#) Pres. @Grybauskaite_LT at #EaP #RigaSummit :Lithuania supports and stands by with those who want deeper #EU integr. [https://youtu.be/lamb6IA1VzA?list=PLodeDt40MJHkaFqdlkxOLObutgES3R7Ws ...](https://youtu.be/lamb6IA1VzA?list=PLodeDt40MJHkaFqdlkxOLObutgES3R7Ws...)
- [Petras Austrevicius @petras_petras May 20](#) Happy being able to initiate the letter of 95 #MEP's calling for real commitments fo #Eastern Partner in #Riga summit
- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL May 21](#) Heading to #Riga's #EaP Summit. War, annexations, pressure will not stop european aspirations of #Ukr, #Geo, #Mld. #EU stays engaged
- [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE May 20](#) #Baltic states consider setting up joint film production support fund - EN.DELFI [http://en.delfi.lt/nordic-baltic/baltic-states-consider-setting-up-joint-film-production-support-fund.d?id=68000296#dreload1432128107877 ...](http://en.delfi.lt/nordic-baltic/baltic-states-consider-setting-up-joint-film-production-support-fund.d?id=68000296#dreload1432128107877...)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA May 20](#) Our deepest sympathy to everyone affected by the fire of multi-storey living building in #Baku.
- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas May 19](#) Had great #Nordic #Baltic #USA Political directors mtng in Brussels today on #EU & #NATO policies re #Russia, #Ukraine, #energysecurity also on #StratCom. We all agreed that the best strategy for strategic communication is to have strategic actions | @eu_eeas @NATO
- [Algirdas Butkevičius @AButkevicius May 19](#) In #Astana along with the Prime Minister of #Kazakhstan. Focus on economic cooperation and bilateral investments.
- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian_MoD May 18](#) #LTU DefMinister: the upcoming #EuropeanCouncil should focus on cyber defence, defence cooperation w/ EaP countries & #EU-NATO cooperation
- [Vytautas Leskevicius @Leskevicius May 18](#) NATO&EU face common challenges, need to get their act 2gether. Positive trend: @FedericaMog attending NATO, @jensstoltenberg EU Ministerials

Other:

- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO May 23](#) Your myths about #Lithuania are about to be busted. Or not :) Enjoy this Extraordinary Show and visit #Lithuania <https://vimeo.com/128377688>
- [ExpoMuseum.com @ExpoMuseum Apr 20](#) Expo 2015 Lithuania Pavilion subway ad, Milan, Italy #Expo2015 #Lithuania #subway #ad #adv... <http://ift.tt/1H9szSZ>
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis May 20](#) New movie / Lithuania: Bel Powley 2Star in WWII Drama 'Ashes in the Snow' <http://j.mp/1QZldU8> via @thr @LTUworld @Jovita_Pra @RKacinskas
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 20](#) World heritage site Palmyra survived for centuries. Will it survive the new barbarians of Dae'sh?
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN May 19](#) Intl community, #UNSC should step up efforts on #accountability in #SouthSudan

Copyright © 2015 Lihuanian MFA Strategic Communication Group. E-mail: komunikacija@urm.lt

[Read online](#)

Share:    

[Subscribe](#)

You have received this message because your e-mail address has been subscribed to our newsletter
To unsubscribe, please click here [Newsletter unsubscribe](#)