



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

1 - 7 June 2015

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

On 4 June in Paris, Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius signed an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the OECD on the Privileges, Immunities and Facilities granted to the Organization. Linkevičius stressed that this Agreement is the first concrete step towards Lithuania's membership in the OECD.

[Read more.](#)



Key messages:

- OECD membership - one of Lithuania's economic foreign policy priorities.
 - Allied presence in our region - a clear message about the unity of the Alliance.
 - Lithuania consistently supports independence, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, with Crimea as its integral part.
 - Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns the bloody attack on town of Marinka by the Russia-backed separatists.
 - Implementation of the essential provisions of the Minsk Agreements lies with the responsibility of Russia in particular.
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Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- “Today, as tensions risk to explode into open military conflict once again, sadly, Russia chooses once again to blame the victim – Ukraine, for defending itself, while protecting and arming the illegal militants.” (Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė, 5 June 2015) [Read full Lithuania's statement at the UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine](#)
 - Russia, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, has itself become an aggressor that undermines the international security system by its actions in Ukraine. It is indeed a phenomenon in the world history. Therefore, the duty to peace is growing for all of us. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, State of the Nation Address, 4 June 2015). [Read full statement.](#)
 - Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns the bloody attack on town of Marinka, close to the city of Donetsk on June 3, by the Russia-backed separatists who used heavy weaponry, which had to be withdrawn according to the package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk Agreements agreed on February 12, 2015. Any aggressive acts or attempts to expand controlled territory by Russia-backed separatists and Russian forces are in violation of the Minsk Agreements while the implementation of the essential provisions lies with the responsibility of Russia in particular. MFA of Lithuania emphasizes that the Minsk Agreements carry fundamental importance in resolving the conflict in the Donbass. Lithuania consistently supports Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. (4 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Security and Defence:

- Lithuania's direct and clear position on military threats, energy and economic blackmail, information wars has been heard in the European Union, NATO and the United Nations. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, State of the Nation Address, 4 June 2015). [Read full statement.](#)
 - On June 1 through 19 exercise Saber Strike 2015 held concurrently in the three Baltic States and Poland will train roughly 6 thousand troops from 13 NATO allies and partner nations. It will concentrate the most numerous allied capabilities on the soil of Lithuania since accessing NATO. [Read full news release.](#)
 - Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas discussed NATO reassurance measures in the Baltic region, bilateral defence cooperation and other issues of security and defence at a meeting with Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Lithuania David Hunt. (4 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Energy security:

- By building a liquefied natural gas terminal and critically important energy interconnections, Lithuania has freed not only itself from the energy yoke. We had the courage to initiate an antitrust probe against Gazprom. And the European Commission opened proceedings to investigate suspected market abuses in as many as eight member states where unfair prices were imposed and free trade in gas was hindered. Lithuania's unyielding and consistent posture in this fight will help to ensure energy security in the whole region. From now on, it will be more difficult for the Kremlin to use Gazprom as a tool of political and economic blackmail in Europe. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, State of the Nation Address, 4 June 2015). [Read full statement.](#)
- At the joint meeting of the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) High-Level Group and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in the field of energy policy, the participants agreed on the

Memorandum of Understanding on the reinforced BEMIP and approved the new BEMIP Action Plan. The new MoU declares the readiness of the Member States to cooperate in addressing the current challenges in the sector. The Action Plan defines the six key areas, namely electricity and gas markets, security of supply, energy infrastructure, power generation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, in which concrete projects need to be further developed to achieve the objectives and indicators defined in the Action Plan. (2 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)

Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- President Dalia Grybauskaitė has noted that Lithuania successfully overcame economic difficulties and is now recognized as a reliable business partner on the international arena. Lithuania's economy is one of the most rapidly growing and its unemployment level fastest declining in the EU. We have well-educated and highly-qualified employees. Direct foreign investments in our country are increasing. Global giants NASDAQ, AIG and Skandia are opening their service centers in Lithuania. (5 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
 - Lithuania has climbed six positions to lead the Central and Eastern Europe region in the IMD World Competitiveness Centre's annual global competitiveness ranking. IMD, a leading international business school based in Switzerland, uses over 300 criteria to rank countries' competitiveness in its annual report. In this year's ranking Lithuania comes in 28th position globally, rising from 34th in 2014. (4 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
 - Euro adoption amplifies investors' confidence in Lithuania's economic prospects. (2 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
 - [Invest Lithuania June Newsletter.](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- "Our two nations are getting closer and closer because Lithuania and the Kingdom of Sweden maintain an all-inclusive political dialogue, while their people expand and strengthen mutually beneficial contacts in trade, science and education. Swedish business people willingly invest in Lithuania. I am delighted to note that we are united by common values and clear goals: to improve the welfare and security of our people and all Europeans as we work responsibly together in the Baltic Sea region and the European Union." (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 6 June 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- According to the President [Dalia Grybauskaitė], the Kingdom of Denmark is one of the closest partners and allies of Lithuania in developing bilateral relations and protecting common interests in the European Union and NATO. The values, interests and goals that unite both countries promote even further cooperation between Lithuania and Denmark on issues of importance to the two nations and the whole of Europe. (5 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- By encouraging Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, by protecting their sovereignty, by assisting the Eastern Partnership countries to implement the rule of law reforms, we are slowly building a ring of security and democracy around Lithuania. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, State of the Nation Address, 4 June 2015). [Read full statement.](#)
- "The like-minded countries must work together to counter the challenges of today's economic and regional security. In this geopolitical context, the OECD membership has become important as never before, therefore no efforts will be spared to achieve it". (Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius, 3 June 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- President Dalia Grybauskaitė extended congratulations to President-elect Raimonds Vējonis of the Republic of Latvia. According to the President, Latvia is one of the closest partners of Lithuania in the region and an important ally in the European Union and NATO. Lithuania-Latvia relationship is consolidated not only by close neighborhood, history and culture, but also by shared values and aspirations. (3 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- On June 3, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius met with the French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. During the meeting, the two ministers stressed good bilateral cooperation and prospects of strengthening economic ties. Minister Linkevičius thanked his counterpart for the enhanced cooperation on security and defense and active participation in the NATO air policing mission to protect the Baltic air

space. The ministers agreed that migration needs to be addressed jointly, but it should be based on voluntary principle. Lithuanian Foreign Minister thanked France for its support for Lithuania's accession to OECD and said that he expects further cooperation with French experts. (4 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)

- On 31 May, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius officially opened the Consulate General of Lithuania in Los Angeles. It will contribute to the development of economic, trade and cultural relations with one of the biggest economic and cultural centres in the U.S., as well as facilitate consular services in the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Alaska and Hawaii. (1 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Media links

- Lithuania's energy minister said on Friday that Russia's Gazprom was blocking the Baltic country's plans to start exporting natural gas to Ukraine, blaming political reasons. *Reuters*, 5 June 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - European leaders will have additional leverage to use stronger rhetoric when speaking with Russia upon the adoption by the European Parliament of a report on EU-Russia relations, says Lithuanian MEP Gabrielius Landsbergis, one of the rapporteurs. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 5 June 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - The rise of Lithuania as a force in IT: Why Google and Nasdaq are investing here. Lithuania's ICT sector is evolving, full steam ahead. An increasing number of companies have arrived in the country, drawn by its infrastructure, people, and business-friendly mindset. With some of the fastest and most affordable internet connections in Europe and a tech-savvy population ranking 16th in the world for ICT skills, Lithuania has recently attracted giants such as Google, exchange group Nasdaq, and AIG to set up shop. *ZDNet*, 4 June 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuania opens OECD membership talks, expects to join in 2-3 years. Lithuania's Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius told BNS from the French capital that Lithuania could achieve fully-fledged membership within two or three years. In his words, the membership will enhance investor confidence in the state and will give access to professional analytical information. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 5 June 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuania's economic comeback over the past five years has been impressive, according to the IMF. Real [GDP](#) has surpassed its previous peak and external and internal imbalances have been corrected. Euro adoption in January went smoothly and came with important upgrades to policy frameworks. Financial stability has increased further. Resilient growth in the face of recent external challenges speaks to Lithuania's strong economic fundamentals and augurs well for the future, but risks in the external environment persist, the IMF warns. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 2 June 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - New Lithuanian Consulate General inaugurated in Los Angeles. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 1 June 2015. [Read full article.](#)
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On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN Jun 5](#) Militant Russian proxy attacks like one on Mariynka [#Ukraine](#) shows ceasefire very fragile, can't allow [#Ukraine](#) disappear fr [#UNSC](#) agenda

- [Vytas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 5](#) Any major international commitment that Russia has not renege on yet? Name it. And think again with Stephen [#Blank](#) <http://bit.ly/1lpaukO>
 - [Asta A. @AstaAndr Jun 2](#) Lithuanian&Ukrainian Ministers of Economy in [#Odessa](#) for LT-UA govt coop comm meeting on UA reforms & LT assistance
 - [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jun 4](#) Under request of [@LithuaniaUNNY](#) [#UNSC](#) will hold tomorrow 9:30 am briefing on [#Ukraine](#). [@OSCE_SMM](#) expected to brief.
 - [LT OSCE @LT_OSCE Jun 4 #OSCE](#) PC- RU says that Mariinka belongs to separatists, therefore yesterday they wanted to take what it belongs to them....
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB Jun 3](#) What evidence we still need to prove Russia's role in Eastern Ukraine ? Eitvydas Bajarunas retweeted [Carl Bildt @carlbildt](#) OSCE Mission report clear on the Russian-backed attack against Marinka in eastern Ukraine yesterday. <http://www.osce.org/node/162116>
 - [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jun 3](#) RU-supported militants offensive in Maryinka UKR fizzled out. Gravest violation of ceasefire happened a day after V.Surkov visit 2Donetsk
 - [Vytas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 3](#) The lynchpin of Ru mythology- the myth of Russia "being surrounded and humiliated" well explained by Lilia [#Shevtsova](#) <http://bit.ly/1K8JXaV>
 - [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN Jun 3](#) Kremlin's proxies threatening shaky ceasefire in eastern [#Ukraine](#) [#UkraineUnderAttack](#) [#MinskAgreements](#) <https://twitter.com/APDiploWriter/status/606082627611828225> ...<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6fd5d6fe7e6c452d97f9d0864d1ad94a> ...
 - [Vytas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 1](#) Ru meaning of "de-escalation": grab land, put nucs 2keep it- Ru threatens placing nucs in Crimea via [@TheNatlInterest](#)
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 1](#) Is there an end to faking history? Conspiracy-hunting turns into sport in Russia..lessons not learned. [#propaganda](#) Linas Linkevicius retweeted [BBC News \(World\) @BBCWorld](#) Russian documentary accused of rewriting history on 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia <http://bbc.in/1FpOAla>
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Security and defence:

- [Vytas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 6 #BALTOPS](#) gets rolling in Baltic Sea: 49 ships, 61 aircraft, more than 5000 troops from 17 [#NATO](#) countries+partners
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdeINATO Jun 5](#) Together with 14 Allies [#Lithuania](#) acquires first [#AGS](#) [@NATO](#) unmanned airplanes [#GlobalHawks](#) <https://goo.gl/OYOI3P>
 - [Vytas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 3](#) Business as usual for [#NATO](#) [#BAP](#): scrambling to accompany Ru planes flying w/o pre-filed plans or transponders off
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 1](#) Solidarity in action- one of the biggest Allied exercise in Baltics 'Saber strike 2015' starts today! 13 [#NATO](#) members&partners! [#NATOready](#)
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Energy Security:

- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB Jun 2](#) Discussions of Swedish & Lithuanian experts/media on Baltic gas & [#LNG](#) markets. Great. [#KlaipėdosNafta](#) [#Nynashamn](#)
 - [Zygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis Jun 2](#) Proposing future LNG exports from [#AlaskaLNG](#) 2the Baltic Region w/ [@KaraGMoriarty](#) at [@AOGA](#) [@AKWorld](#) [@AKBusinessMonth](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas Jun 4](#) Global economists & 120 [#Lithuanian](#) Honorary [#consuls](#) gather at the [#Baltic](#) [#Investors'](#) Forum
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 7 #LT](#) DefMin [#Olekas](#) in Afghanistan to meet [#LT](#) troops & Afghan officials. [#LT](#) SOF serve in [#NATO](#)-led [#Resolute](#) Support
 - [Gediminas Varvuolis @varvuolis Jun 2](#) Coop in action! MOU on collocation signed between [#Belgium](#)&[#Lithuania](#), in the runup 2 Lux EU presidency [@LithuaniaMFA](#)
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 2](#) Buona [#FestaDellaRepubblica](#) , happy national day to all Italian friends! [@PaoloGentiloni](#) [@FarnesinaPress](#)
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdeINATO Jun 2](#) Historical [@NATO](#) PCSC visit 2 [#Moldova](#). Symbol of good cooperation and recognition of Moldova as an important partner
 - [LTembassyUA @LTembassyUA Jun 2](#) Enhancement of economic cooperation is being discussed today during the 16th meeting of [#Lithuania](#) - [#Ukraine](#)... <http://fb.me/1GxYnOB5W>
 - [LTembassyUA @LTembassyUA Jun 1](#) ATTENTION! Want to study in [#Lithuania](#)? There are 40 scholarships available for Ukrainian students! [#Ukraine](#)... <http://fb.me/4JeQhVBna>
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Other:

- [Mantvydas Bekesius @Bekesius Jun 5](#) 2 days of fruitful discussions, business contacts established, 120 Hon. Consuls of LTU & 60 countr. leave Vilnius happy
 - [Lithuania MFA](#) retweeted [Forbes @Forbes Jun 6](#) Lithuania boasts the fastest average public WiFi download speeds worldwide at 15.40 Mbps: <http://onforb.es/1ARFsPQ>
 - [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis Jun 4](#) Why Lithuania is punching above its startup weight <http://www.geektime.com/2015/06/04/why-lithuania-is-punching-above-its-startup-weight/> ... [@SimonasSatunas](#) [@AmLithBC](#)
 - [Arūnas Gelūnas @ArunasGelunas Jun 3](#) LT MFA [@LinkeviciusL](#) meeting [@UNESCO](#) DG [@IrinaBokova](#) for discussion on safety of journalists
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 3](#) Today presented [#Lithuania](#)'s candidature to the Executive Board of [@UNESCO](#) 2015-2019 [@LTUworld](#) [@LithuaniaMFA](#)
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas Jun 2](#) [#Vilnius](#) airport makes headlines by opening its own 'airside' cinema. Located in the departure lounge, no doubt it'll be a hit w/ passengers
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 1](#) Grateful to President [#Reagan](#) for his vision of Europe whole & free. Honored to receive letter from Nancy Reagan...
 - [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jun 1](#) . [@LithuaniaUNNY](#) team thanks everyone for cooperation & support in May. Good luck for new UNSC Presidency [#Malaysia](#)!
 - [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN Jun 1](#) Much needed initiative RaMurmokaite retweeted [Child Soldiers Int.](#) [@ChildSoldiersIn](#) 37 States have endorsed the [#SafeSchoolsDeclaration](#), committing to protect schools and universities during conflict <http://protectingeducation.org/news/countries-join-safe-schools-pact> ...
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA Jun 1](#) The winner of [#BelieveinFreedom](#) Nata from [#Georgia](#) w her sister begin 2discover [#Lithuania](#)! Welcome! [@Amb_Salukvadze](#)
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 1](#) Memory will always prevail, noted S. [#Kanovich](#) at a ceremony marking restoration of a Jewish cemetery in [#Šeduva](#)
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