



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

8 - 14 June 2015

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

After thirteen years of participation in Afghanistan Lithuania completed her ever longest nonstop international mission abroad. Lithuanian flags were lowered as a symbol of the completed mission by the Lithuanian Special Operations Forces.

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Key messages:

- Lithuania marks the tragic 75th anniversary of the Soviet occupation in 1940, mourns and remembers victims of the massive deportations to Siberia undertaken by the Soviet regime.
- 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.
- OECD membership - one of Lithuania's economic foreign policy priorities.
- Allied presence in our region - a clear message about the unity of the Alliance.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- "I believe we could transfer the long experience of our long-standing cooperation to Ukrainian military. I propose the

Pennsylvania National Guard to consider sending instructors to our training centres and run joint training activities for Ukrainian soldiers.” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 11 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)

Security and Defence:

- Minister of National Defence discussed bilateral cooperation, exchange of air and maritime surveillance data, Baltic-Nordic defence cooperation and other defence and security issues at a meeting with Ambassador of Finland Harri Maki-Reinikka at the Ministry of National Defence. (9 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Energy security:

- “The smooth implementation of the electricity interconnection project “LitPolLink” is an example of our excellent cooperation. We should follow this example when implementing another mutual project – the gas pipeline interconnection between Lithuania and Poland (GIPL). [...] The implementation of GIPL would ensure the creation of the EU energy union and eliminate energy islands. Therefore, it is essential to solve the issue of financing for this project as soon as possible.” Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius at the meeting with the Prime Minister of Poland Ewa Kopacz, 11 June 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Forecast: this year, economic growth will be weaker; the purchasing power of households will increase. The Bank of Lithuania forecasts that this year, due to the worse situation of exporters, the country’s Gross Domestic Product will grow 2 per cent. The previous forecast was 2.7 per cent. Next year, economic development is projected to accelerate to 3.4 per cent (the previous projection was 3.5%). (10 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Rolandas Kriščiūnas met with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Kentaro Sonoura to discuss bilateral political and economic relations, cooperation on maintaining international peace and security, aggression against Ukraine. The Foreign Vice-Minister thanked Japan for consistent support to Lithuania’s OECD membership. According to Sonoura, Japan values Lithuania as a very important partner in the international arena and welcomes its involvement in activities of the United Nations Security Council. (11 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- Linkevičius stressed that good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation was one of the required conditions for the Western Balkans countries seeking closer European integration. The development of mutual relations is necessary for the reconciliation and stability of the region that has recently survived military conflicts. (8 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- Lithuania supports strengthening of relations between the European Union and Cuba. However, issues relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba remain important. Currently, the negotiations for an EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement are taking place. Lithuania also welcomes the decision to renew relations between the U.S. and Cuba. (8 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- According to the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, the United Kingdom is Lithuania’s significant partner and ally, and the two countries enjoy strong economic and political ties. Linkevičius underlined that the United Kingdom was an important member of the European Union. The head of the Lithuanian diplomacy welcomed the United Kingdom’s strong and consistent position on Russia. He also thanked the Ambassador for cooperation on strategic communications and the fight against propaganda. (9 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- The Lithuanian Foreign Minister thanked the Japanese Ambassador for her active efforts aimed to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation. The Minister also welcomed the growth in bilateral Lithuania-Japan trade in recent years. Linkevičius highlighted the importance of cooperation in the field of international peace and thanked for maintaining a principled position on the Ukrainian crisis. (9 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
- The Government of Shandong Province granted the title of China-Lithuania Friendship Ambassador to

Lithuania's outgoing Ambassador to China Lina Antanavičienė for outstanding merits in the development of cooperation between Shandong Province and Lithuania. Since 2009 the title of Friendship Ambassador has been granted only to 78 foreigners. (9 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)

- “Our two countries [Lithuania and Portugal] are bound by common economic and energy interests as well as by the shared objective of ensuring the welfare and security for our people and all Europeans. I firmly believe that working together in the European Union we will effectively address the challenges of today and continue building an open, committed and prosperous Europe.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 10 June 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - Since 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of National Defence, Klaipėda State Seaport, JSC Lithuanian Railways and foreign partners have been actively involved in NATO cargo shipment, especially for the U.S. Army and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. (10 June 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Media links

- Lithuania marks the Mourning and Hope Day on June 14, commemorating the start of the occupation by the Soviet Union in 1940 and the beginning of mass deportations. [Read full article.](#)
 - Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius: Détente With Russia Won't Work This Time. *The Wall Street Journal*, 8 June 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - 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 Butkevicius 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.](#)
 - New Lithuanian Consulate General inaugurated in Los Angeles. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 1 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.](#)
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On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN](#) Jun 12 2/2 Deplorable that Russia continues 2block expansion of mandate of @OSCE border observation mission beyond 1% currently observed #Ukraine
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN](#) Jun 12 1/2 Effective & comprehensive monitoring of Russia- #Ukraine state border a must 4a sustainable political solution, as per #minskagreements
- [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
- [Vytautas 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
 - [Vytautas 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> ...
 - [Vytautas 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:

- [Lithuanian_MoD @Lithuanian_MoD Jun 13](#) Video: interoperability #among the allies is drilled in the Ex #SaberStrike in #Lithuania. #AlliedStrong https://youtu.be/6QKH_qxvfT8
 - [Vytautas 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 @LitdelNATO Jun 5](#) Together with 14 Allies [#Lithuania](#) acquires first [#AGS @NATO](#) unmanned airplanes [#GlobalHawks](#) <https://goo.gl/OYOI3P>
 - [Vytautas 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](#)
 - [Zygmantas 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:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT Jun 13](#) Warmest congratulations to Queen Elizabeth II and the people of [#UK](#) on Her Majesty's Birthday!
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT Jun 13](#) Congratulations to the royal family and the people of

- [#Sweden](#) on the royal wedding day! All the best to Prince Carl Philip and his bride!
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT Jun 14](#) our thoughts are with the families of victims of the #Tbilisi flood. Wishing strength to #Georgia to overcome the disastrous consequences
- [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 @LitdelNATO 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>

Other:

- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA Jun 12](#) The most important challenge is ensuring [#peace](#), [#stability](#) and [#security](#) in [#Europe](#) - Ambass. [@DariusSemaska](#)
- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT MFA Stratcom Jun 12](#) [15/06/1940](#) USSR occupied [#Lithuania](#). We never gave up, never forgot, learned lessons. We must stand [#UnitedForUkraine](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) [1940 June 15](#) Soviet Union occupied Lithuania, [1941 June 14](#) massive deportations started. [#neveragain](#) [#aggression](#)
- [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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