



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

15 - 21 June 2015

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

"The challenge posed by Russia is global, not regional, therefore in the set of readiness measures we are developing is the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force designed to step up to these challenges of conventional and unconventional nature in no time wherever, the East or the South, they may come from,"

Commander U.S. European
Command and NATO Supreme Allied
Commander Europe General Phillip
M. Breedlove
(June 16, Lithuanian Air Force Base
in Šiauliai)



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Key messages:

- The long-term NATO assurance measures strengthen Lithuania's security.
- The challenge posed by Russia is global, not regional.
- Lithuania's economy is growing, commitment to fiscal discipline remains.
- Lithuania takes every effort to eliminate energy-isolation.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- L. Linkevičius: we need to strongly support Ukraine and to take a principled stance on Russia. [Read full news release](#)
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Security and Defence:

- “The long-term NATO assurance measures and permanent deployment and stationing of allied equipment, weaponry and troops in Lithuania is the most effective NATO measure for safeguarding security in our region. As Russia is holding large-scale war games on Lithuania’s doorstep, we can observe an increased level risk”. Minister of Defense Juozas Olekas at the meeting with the Commander U.S. European Command and NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe General Phillip M. Breedlove (16 June 2015) [Read full news release](#)
 - Exchange of diplomatic notes between US and Lithuania defines U.S. military presence in the military territories of Lithuania. The agreement also stipulates prepositioning and stationing of U.S. military equipment, weaponry and vehicles in Lithuania and enhancement of the Lithuanian Armed Forces’ infrastructure on U.S. funding. [Read full news release](#)
 - “This is another important step in helping to ensure Lithuania’s national security, step up the strategic partnership between Lithuania and the U.S., and implement the decisions on the measures of collective defense taken at NATO Summit in Wales”. Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas Linkevičius regarding the steps taken by the U.S. Government in the implementation of the European Reassurance Initiative and the allocation of some of the funds to strengthen security in Lithuania and other Baltic States (19 June 2015). [Read full news release](#)
 - “NATO allied exercises strengthen Lithuanian defense capacity”. President Dalia Grybauskaitė at the NATO’s exercise Saber Strike 2015 held to test the readiness of Lithuanian and allied troops to respond to an enemy assault (18 June 2015). [Read full news release](#)
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Energy security:

- “We welcome the idea of the Energy Union, and we are taking every effort to eliminate the energy islands: the current projects of Klaipeda liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal can already serve the diversification of the gas market in the region, the electrical interconnection LitPolLink and NordBalt ensure synchronization with the continental European networks”. Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius at the meeting with Latvian counterpart Laimdota Straujuma (15 June 2015) [Read full news release](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- “Despite the Russian sanctions and growing defense spending, Lithuania succeeds to maintain economic growth momentum, and is committed to continue the current fiscal discipline. We feel the benefits of the membership in the euro zone. The single European currency helps Lithuania to withstand external shocks: Lithuania has managed to retain the positive growth, and the cost of borrowing has remained stable”. Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius at the meeting with the European Commission Vice-President responsible for the euro and the social dialogue, Valdis Dombrovskis (16 June 2015) [Read full news release](#)
 - “The accommodating policy of the ECB and of the euro area national central banks is already giving fruit; however, monetary policy instruments alone are not sufficient to ensure enduring economic growth. It is important that the governments do not wait for a crisis to implement necessary structural reforms”. Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania, Vitas Vasiliauskas at the meeting with the European Commission Vice-President responsible for the euro and the social dialogue, Valdis Dombrovskis (16 June 2015) [Read full news release](#)
 - StormGeo CEO: “Lithuania could become IT hub of Europe” (15 June 2015) [Read full news release](#)
 - Specialist electronics manufacturer significantly expands Kaunas operations. (16 June 2015) [Read full news release](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- “Sometimes results are not delivered as quickly or as easily as hoped. However, it is important to keep moving in the chosen direction calmly and confidently”. Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas

Linkevičius at the International Conference “Georgia’s European Way”. (18 June 2015) [Read full news release](#)

- “The Nordic and Baltic countries are an excellent example of strong regional cooperation. We are bound by common values, traditions, culture. The Midsummer festival – known as Joninės in Lithuania – is the best proof of this. It has become a much-awaited community event, highlighting the strong bond between our nations”. President Dalia Grybauskaitė (18 June 2015) [Read full news release](#)
- Turkey is willing to increase the volume of bilateral trade between Lithuania and Turkey, to promote cultural exchange and cooperation in the field of defense. Turkey is also well aware of Lithuania’s fears over the security situation in the region (18 June 2015) [Read full news release](#)

Media links

- Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius participated in the 6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) in Jurmala, Latvia. He met with his Latvian counterpart Laimdota Straujuma to discuss intergovernmental cooperation and bilateral and multilateral meetings that are planned to be held in Lithuania. *Delfi*, 16 June [Read full article](#)
- Lithuania and 18 other EU member states may exceed their 2020 renewable energy targets, the European Commission said in its latest renewable energy progress report published on Tuesday. *Delfi*, 16 June [Read full article](#)
- Lithuania is readying itself to host heavy U.S. military equipment while talks continue with the United States on a permanent location for the arms. *Reuters*, 14 June [Read full article](#)
- [For your information](#): Courtesy of US mission in Ukraine. Please [click here](#) to read the book “Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin” by Timothy Snyder in Russian.

On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB Jun 21 Stockholm, Sweden](#) Must read: Anatomy of an Info-War: How [#Russia](#)’s Propaganda Machine Works, and How to Counter It <http://bit.ly/1fqkRIL> via [@StopFakingNews](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) Clear priorities of Russia-backed separatists: 'No' to 8 humanitarian convoys w medicals from [#Ukraine](#), 'yes' to 13 Ru tanks overnight...
- [LT OSCE @LT_OSCE Jun 20](#) Mandate of [#OSCE](#) observer mission at RU 2 BCP extended for 3 months. It's not enough to prevent flow of RU military 'tourists' to UA.
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 19](#) RU „defensive“ actions: RU MoD speaks of 10 battalions of RRF ready to operate abroad (link in [#Russian](#)) <http://bit.ly/1LjkehW>
- [Lithuania in NATO @LitdeINATO Jun 19 #Russian](#) ambassador threatens [#Sweden](#): if you join [@NATO](#), there will be military responses. <http://goo.gl/FUI8ea>
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN Jun 18](#) Toll of Russian proxy war ag [#Ukraine](#) on children: 161000 children among registered IDPs, total No. of affected children 1.7 mn [#CAAC](#)
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaitė LT Jun 17 #NadiaSavchenko](#) being still imprisoned proofs exchange of hostages as part of [#MinskAgreements](#) is not fully implemented. [#FreeSavchenko](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 17](#) Already a year since Nadia Savchenko was illegally captured&held in custody in Russia. We continue demanding [#FreeSavchenko](#) !
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN Jun 17](#) 1yr since her abduction and illegal detention, we reiterate [#FreeSavchenko](#) [#Ukraine](#) [@Yuriy_Sergeyev](#) [@AmbassadorPower](#) pic.twitter.com/QLr3LRq1Po
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA Jun 17](#) 1year since Nadia was illegally abducted&imprisoned in RU. We stand firm [#UnitedForUkraine](#), demanding [#FreeSavchenko](#)!

- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN Jun 16](#) 1yr since her abduction and illegal detention, we reiterate [#FreeSavchenko](#) [#Ukraine](#) [@Yuriy_Sergeyev](#) [@AmbassadorPower](#)
 - [LT MFA Stratcom Jun 15](#) What does dialogue mean for [#Kremlin](#) - ballistic missile systems, groundless accusations, ... [#Kremlindialogue](#)
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 16](#) It's now that Ua has a real chance 2 slip out of Ru grip, [@EESC_LT](#) analyst [@Linaskojala](#) argues <http://bit.ly/1ekcmPi>
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Security and defence:

- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian MoD Jun 19](#) LTU JTAC soldiers with [@USArmyEurope](#) 12th Combat Aviation brigade UH-64 Black Hawk & AH-64 Apache at [#SaberStrike](#)
 - [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian MoD Jun 18](#) EX [#SaberStrike](#) has been closed in [#Lithuania](#) w/ US [#B52](#) debut over the [#Gaižiūnai](#) training field
 - [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian MoD Jun 17](#) [#LTU](#)-US agreement to embed [#USforce](#) presence and security measures in LTU as part of [#ERI](#) <http://bit.ly/1H20c8p>
 - [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian MoD Jun 17](#) [#LTU](#), [#EST](#), [#LVA](#) military of the [#BALTBAT](#) drill combat tactics in a preparation 4 the [#NRF](#)'16
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO Jun 16](#) Building threats from [#Russia](#) are not regional in scope, these are global threats, said [@PMBreedlove](#) in [#Lithuania](#)
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO Jun 16](#) DefMin [#Olekas](#) sees for himself that [#Lithuania](#) has done all the homework to set up its [#NFIU](#) <http://goo.gl/E2YyFJ>
 - [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian MoD Jun 16](#) Russia has been long concentrating its modern military equipment near the borders of the [#BalticStates](#). Nothing new is in the RU claims
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas Jun 15](#) [#Lithuania](#) in special operation forces lower the flag in [#Afghanistan](#). Read more --> [#NATO](#) [#USA](#) <http://bit.ly/1GeM7kc>
 - [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian MoD Jun 15](#) [#LTU](#) Def Minister: LTU will work to maximise the favourable conditions 4 the deployment of allied forces. <http://bit.ly/1IFLAE2>
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Energy Security:

- [Darius @DariusSemaska June 21](#) Lithuania is prepared to supply the natural gas to Ukraine from its recently built LNG terminal but Russia is trying to prevent this
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 18](#) [#LT](#)-great partner in taking NATO [#energy](#) security agenda forward, NATO ASG [@sducaru](#) at [#CapableLogistician](#) EX presser
 - [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE Jun 17](#) [#Lithuanian](#) gas formed 21% of all natural gas import to [#Estonia](#) in May, 2015 <http://bit.ly/1SB3raS>
 - [Egidijus Meilūnas @MeilunasE Jun 17](#) [#Lithuania](#) may exceed its 2020 renewable energy target - EN.DELFI <http://bit.ly/1TG91Kq>
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 21](#) The largest manufacturer of minibuses & specialised vehicles in [#Baltis](#) to expand near Vilnius <http://bit.ly/1fpJYLX>
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 20](#) Investing in the future: [#Lithuania](#)'s R&D spending grows 5 percent in 2014 <http://bit.ly/1fnsD6f>
 - [Zygmantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis Jun 17](#) Lithuanian Biotech leaders at [#PHL @BIOConvention](#) - proud 2share their success & leadership in the region [@LTUworld](#)
 - [Eitvydas Bajarunas @EitvydasB Jun 16](#) StormGeo CEO: "Lithuania could become IT hub of Europe" | Invest Lithuania <http://bit.ly/1H6K877>
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Linus Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 20](#) True Baltic-Visegrad friendship- mtng [@MiroslavLajcak](#) . Discussed [#Migration](#), [#Greece](#), [#Ukraine](#), [#NATO](#), [#Russia](#)

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 18](#) Highlight of the visit to [#Georgia](#)- opening the Honorary Consulate In [#Batumi](#), thanks to Hon Consul Temur Ustiashvili
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 18](#) 'We support you, we see you being members of [#EU](#) & Alliance. We are the same team' - my message to [#Georgia](#) at European Way Conf. [@MFAgovge](#)
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT Jun 18](#) Celebrating [#MidSummer](#) in [#LT](#) together with [#Nordic](#)&[#Baltic](#) countries. Common traditions strengthen our friendship
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 17](#) Congrats to [#Iceland](#) on National Day! Always grateful for being 1st to recognise our Independence! [@Illugi1](#) [@MFAIceland](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 16](#) Leaving to [#Georgia](#)- Kutaisi&Batumi. Support our colleagues&friends on their path to closer integration with [#EU](#)& NATO.
- [Algirdas Butkevičius @AButkevicius Jun 15](#) [#Baltic](#) sea strategy forum in [#Jurmala](#) - ways to strengthen regional integration and [#economic](#) [#growth](#).
- [LTembassyUA @LTembassyUA Jun 16](#) Before leaving to [#Lithuania](#) 24 students from Kharkiv met with the Ambassador of Lithuania to [#Ukraine](#) Marius... <http://fb.me/36VVQSW0a>

Other:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jun 21](#) Solidarity in action:[#LT](#) Gov.confirms readiness 2accept up to 250 refugees 2help resolve Mediterranean refugee crisis <http://bit.ly/1SAItKk>
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jun 20](#) On [#WorldRefugeeDay](#) each government must recommit to peace, international law and human rights- key of stopping people flee from their homes
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jun 19](#) [#UNGA](#) adopted by consensus resolution on International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, [#Lithuania](#) cosponsored
- [Invest Lithuania @Invest LT Jun 18](#) Lithuanian-Korean [#IT](#) degree program training next generation of [#gamedevelopers](#) <http://bit.ly/1Cl4vWK> [#gamedev](#)
- [RaMurmokaite @PRLTUN Jun 18](#) [#Lithuania](#) among 71 states (thnx [#Benelux](#) initiative) calling 2prevent use of barrel bombs in [#Syria](#)
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jun 18](#) [#Lithuania](#) welcomes adoption of R2225 which draws attention 2abductions as prevalent armed conflict feature,includes it as trigger 4listings
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jun 18](#) Accountability for violence ag children remains far too rare. Need 2tackle impunity & ensure that perpetrators are held to account [@PRLTUN](#)
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jun 18](#) We must remember to treat [#children](#) as victims first, not as perpetrators - [@PRLTUN](#) at [#UNSC](#) [@childreninwar](#) open debate
- [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas Jun 18](#) W/ ambassador of [#Sweden](#) at the [#Nordic-#Baltic](#) [#midsummer](#) celebration in [#Vilnius](#), [#Lithuania](#). Great tradition!
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jun 17](#) Lithuania strongly supports 1mandate, 1mission, 1force approach. Static [#peacekeeping](#) isn't enough; peacekeepers must be pro-active. [@PRLTUN](#)
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jun 17](#) [#ProtectionOfCivilians](#) must remain key [#peacekeeping](#) priority. Nat Govs often lack capacity, political will or willingness 2protect. [@PRLTUN](#)
- [Invest Lithuania @Invest LT Jun 16](#) Specialist electronics manufacturer Kitron significantly expands [#Kaunas](#) operations <http://bit.ly/1ScymM> [#techz](#)

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