



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

20 - 26 July 2015

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

Photo of the Week

On 23 July, a public event "Together We Believe in Freedom" was held in Vilnius' Washington Square to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Welles Declaration.

In the Welles Declaration the United States stated that it did not recognize the annexation of the Baltic States, launching a five decade non-recognition policy of the occupation of the Baltic States.

[Read more.](#)



Key messages:

- Non-recognition policy of the occupation of the Baltic States, launched by US (Sumner Welles declaration), helped Lithuania to retain faith, endure occupation.
 - Sumner Welles Declaration is significant to present day Ukraine and Georgia - as 75 years ago, we must stand united in rejecting the occupation of Georgian territory, denouncing the annexation of Crimea, and categorically deploring Russian military aggression against Ukraine.
 - Establishment of the LITPOLUKRBRIG (a joint military unit of Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine) – a step in developing regional security cooperation.
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Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- "In the past decade we have seen the Russian Federation leaning on its Soviet past and

drawing lessons from the methods of the brutal Stalinist regime. Invasions in Georgia and Ukraine speak for themselves. Today, as 75 years ago, we must stand united: We reject the occupation of Georgian territory, denounce the annexation of Crimea, and categorically deplore Russian military aggression against Ukraine.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*, 22 July 2015) [Read full article.](#)

- “In midst of deals on Iran and Greece, [we] shouldn’t take spiraling aggression against Ukraine and violations in Georgia as normal.” (Linus Linkevičius in the EU Foreign Affairs Council, 20 July 2015) [Watch doorstep video \(LT\).](#)
 - Minister J.Olekas maintained that training the country’s armed forces was a crucial support for Ukraine’s military reform and invited Latvia to go in with the joint international efforts by sending military instructors to Ukraine. (22 July 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Security and Defence:

- “With the threats not subsiding, defence cooperation between Latvia and Lithuania is important like never before. We must combine our efforts of strengthening national defence of our countries and common defence of the Alliance in our region through development of regional cooperation and also by rendering assistance to Ukraine.” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 22 July 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
 - “The National Cyber Security Council which includes representatives from different authorities is vital for improving cyber security situation in Lithuania. It enables us to strengthen the cooperation between private and public sectors and among representatives of scientific institutions and thus to efficiently prepare ourselves for potential cyber threats.” (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 21 July 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- “The highly principled position of the United States not to recognize the forced annexation of the Baltic States sent a message to the whole world that no right can be obtained by force. Regrettably, today we see again that the same neighbor is using force to attain the right to the territory of other nations. Therefore, Lithuania is proud of those countries who have held freedom as a value for 75 years and who continue defending it.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 23 July 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
 - “Lithuania and Belgium are close allies and value-based partners in the European Union and NATO. Our strategic partnership serves as a platform to address key political, economic and security challenges. We highly value the increasing military cooperation between Lithuania and Belgium as well as your country’s continuous support to ensuring the security of Lithuania and the whole of the region.” (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 21 July 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
 - Soldiers of the Lithuanian Navy were deployed to the EU-led counter-piracy operation off the coast of Somalia. An Autonomous Vessel Protection Detachment formed by the Lithuanian Navy will for four months (August-December) protect a World Food Programme-chartered vessel carrying humanitarian aid to Somalia via the Indian Ocean. (20 July 2015) [Read full news release.](#)
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Media links

- The defence ministers of Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine signed an agreement on the establishment of a joint brigade in Lvov on Friday. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 24 July 2015. [Read full article.](#)
- Lithuania to accept 325 refugees over 2 years. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 21 July 2015. [Read full article.](#)

- Saulius Skvernelis, Minister of Interior of Lithuania, instructed his staff to draft a new procedure which will significantly ease and speed up the process for non-EU companies planning to invest in Lithuania. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 22 July 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - 30 Lithuanian troops taking part in international training in Ukraine. *The Lithuania Tribune*, 20 July 2015. [Read full article.](#)
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On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Jul 24 #MH17](#) tribunal UNSC resolution goes in blue 4vote on July 29. Accountability cannot be paper concept. First step towards the truth.
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jul 24](#) Indeed, "justice delayed is justice denied" - need for [#mh17tribunal](#) to secure justice. [#MH17](#) 5 minister's Op-ed [@FT](#) <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/0b1a6dae-309d-11e5-8873-775ba7c2ea3d.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3gn4Hn8cd> ...
 - [LT OSCE @LT_OSCE Jul 23](#) Downing SMM UAV; attacks against SMM offices; shelling UA positions with GRADs; sign how RU respects [#minskagreements](#) <http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/174226> ...
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA Jul 23](#) .[@LinkeviciusL](#): [#SumnerWelles](#) decl is not simple history, now it calls to stand for [#Ukraine](#),[#Georgia](#) & [#Moldova](#)
 - [Rolandas Kacinskas @RKacinskas Jul 22 #Freedom](#) cannot be taken for granted. Welles Declaration significant to present day [#Ukraine](#) & [#Georgia](#)
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO Jul 22](#) Embargo on flower imports - [#Russian](#) reaction 2 the [#Dutch](#) [#MH17](#) investigation? Tulips dangerous 2 [#Russian](#) citizens? <http://goo.gl/DTJdAE>
 - [RaMur @PRLTUN Protected Tweets Jul 21](#) Déjà vu. First object, then offer alternative text, then...veto like the recent Srebrenica commemoration draft? https://twitter.com/Interpreter_Mag/status/623212979123843077 ...
 - [Marius Janukonis @MJanukonis Jul 21](#) Meeting w/ Archbishop Pavel of Kyiv Pecherska Lavra to discuss society consolidation and cultural heritage projects.
 - [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Jul 20](#) Summer [#FAC](#): in midst of deals on [#Iran](#) & [#Greece](#) ,shouldn't take spiraling aggression against [#Ukraine](#) &violations in [#Georgia](#) as normal.
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Security and defence:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jul 25](#) DefMins of [#Lithuania](#), [#Poland](#) and [#Ukraine](#) signed an agreement on establishment of a joint brigade [#LITPOLUKRBRIG](#)
 - [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian_MoD Jul 25](#) A [#LTU](#) platoon is taking part in the EX [#RapidTrident](#) in [#Ukraine](#) along w/ 17 allies & partner nations' forces
 - [Vytautas Leškevičius @Leskevicius Jul 24 #TridentJuncture15: #NATO](#) is strong, capable & ready to respond instantly to any threat coming from any direction https://youtu.be/9f_w3MWbm-U
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO Jul 22](#) Odierno: heavy equipment must b deployed in Germany 2 supplement repositioning in NATO's East <http://goo.gl/9HM2I2>
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas Jul 20 #Economicdiplomacy: @LithuaniaMFA](#)

facilitate Lithuanian [#food](#) meat exporters w/new ambassador of [#Iraq](#)

Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Giedrius Puodziunas](#) @Puodziunas G Jul 24 Officially assumed my duties in [#Georgia](#) by presenting letters of credence to President [@MargvelashviliG](#)
 - [Linus Linkevicius](#) @LinkeviciusL Jul 24 Don't leave the EU, Obama tells UK. Indeed, not much to add [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33647154 ...](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33647154)
 - [Lithuania in NATO](#) @LitdelNATO Jul 22 @NATO commended [#Georgia](#)'s reforms, contribution to [#RSM](#) & supported its territorial integrity contested by [#Russia](#) <http://goo.gl/D0p84A>
 - [Linus Linkevicius](#) @LinkeviciusL Jul 22 Linas Linkevicius retweeted Department of State Thanks [@JohnKerry](#) ! We stand thankful & committed to the cause of [#freedom](#)&[#democracy](#)! @StateDept
 - [Lithuania in NATO](#) @LitdelNATO Jul 21 Steadfast, elegant and gracious is [#Belgium](#). An Ally we have learned to trust. Congratulations on your [#National](#) day!
 - [Žygimantas Pavilionis](#) @ZygisPavilionis Jul 20 Great farewell meet w/ Secretary [@madeleine](#) Albright -voice of Europe whole&free in DC [@NDI](#) [@kwollack](#) [@EURPressOffice](#)
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Other:

- [Vytautas Leškevičius](#) @Leskevicius Jul 24 As befits a country w fastest broadband connection, [#LT](#) introduced Find Internet portal w info abt broadband services in any location in [#LT](#)
 - [Lithuania in UN NY](#) @LithuaniaUNNY Jul 20 [#Lithuania](#) voted in favor & co-sponsored resolution endorsing [#IranDeal](#) that offers durable & verifiable path to resolve decade-long dispute
 - [Dalia Grybauskaitė](#) @Grybauskaite LT Jul 20 Deep condolences to families of victims of brutal terrorist attack in [#Suruc](#). Our thoughts are with people of [#Turkey](#)
 - [Linus Linkevicius](#) @LinkeviciusL Jul 20 My condolences to Turkey & families of Suruc victims. Reaffirm our strong solidarity w/Turkey in the fight against terrorism. [@MevlutCavusoglu](#)
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