



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

16-22 February 2015

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

Key messages:

- The package of measures which was agreed on 12 February in Minsk, is not and cannot be interpreted as a replacement of September 2014 accords, but only as a set of measures aimed at their implementation.
- Western assistance is of vital importance to Ukraine, and it should include economic, financial, humanitarian, advisory and military assistance.
- Europe has to revise its security and defence priorities. The ongoing debate over the European Security Strategy that was endorsed eleven years ago and fails to reflect the current developments in the security situation is essential.

Top lines, statements

Ukraine, Russia:

- While Ukraine was fighting against Russia's aggression and trying to implement reforms the need of systematic assistance of Western countries and institutions was of vital importance, and it should include economic, financial, humanitarian, advisory and military assistance to Ukraine. (Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrius Krivas, 17 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

- Poland and Lithuania express strong support to Ukraine in country's pursuit to implement reforms in face of Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine while the violations of the Minsk ceasefire agreement by pro-Russian separatists raise concern to both parties. 18 February, 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
 - Russia does not act as a neutral intermediary and guarantor of the Minsk agreements. Without Russia's direct support, the so-called separatists would have fizzled out, dwindled into nonexistence many months ago. Russia is a direct party to this conflict, and bears the primary responsibility for the conflict that is tearing into Ukraine's flesh. (Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN, 18 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - "The ideals of the Maidan are still alive in the hearts of Ukrainian people who continue defending their homeland and right to determine their own destiny. Lithuania supports the people of Ukraine and their choice." (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 22 February, 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
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Security and Defence:

- "Cyber threats have no boundaries, and we all have to reinforce our capabilities to resist the repeated attacks on the cyber space of Lithuania and other EU member states." (Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mantvydas Bekešius, 17 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - "We are making every effort to equip Lithuanian maneuver units with efficient artillery support as soon as possible. [...] Currently, in the light of the changed security situation in Europe Germany's military leadership is taking stock of the country's military capabilities and the possibilities to sell redundant weaponry to its allies on advantageous terms." (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 18 February, 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - "Today we are seeing off the already thirteenth rotation of the National Support Element deployed to the faraway Afghanistan. I know that you are well-prepared as you leave. It is never otherwise with the Lithuanian Armed Forces. That is testified not only by the success of our missions but also by our foreign partners and their confidence in us. Some missions conclude, some are beginning. Geography of missions is expanding, but wherever Lithuanian military are deployed their skills and commitment for their duty earns top evaluations." (Vice Minister of National Defence Marijus Velička, 19 February, 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
 - "The ongoing debate over the European Security Strategy that was endorsed eleven years ago and fails to reflect the current developments in the security situation is essential. We are looking forward to a clear-cut decision on the revision of the strategy to be made at the European Council in June." (Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas, 19 February, 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
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Energy security:

- The European Commission reiterated its commitment to ending the energy isolation of the Baltic States and to increasing energy security in the electricity sector and stressed the importance of the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) process as an example for a comprehensive regional approach to addressing energy infrastructure challenges in the region. 19 February 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- The Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius has met the first in-coming Ambassador of Israel to Lithuania Amir Maimon, discussed prospects for cooperation, and touched on other topical matters. 17 February 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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Media links

- "Russia is behaving aggressively now as we speak," Linkevicius told BBC radio. "I really do see threats to all countries ... I shouldn't say just to the Baltic states but also with regard to others and NATO has to respond and be ready for these new threats." Reuters, 19 February, 2015, [Read full article](#).
 - As the head of [Latvia](#)'s foreign policy committee says Latvia, Lithuania and [Estonia](#) could be [Russia](#)'s next target, after the annexation of Ukraine's Crimea, the Baltics' [defence](#) ministries tell Radio [Sweden](#) what defence help they want from Sweden. 19 February, 2015, [Read full article](#).
 - Lithuanian [Energy](#) Minister [Rokas Masiulis](#) on Sunday is leaving for a week-long visit to the [United States](#) aimed, among other things, at discussing possibilities for importing liquefied natural gas (LNG). The minister expects to secure political support for gas purchases from the US and to sign preliminary agreements. The Lithuania Tribune, 22 February 2015, [Read full article](#).
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On Twitter

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Ukraine, Russia:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT Feb 22](#) 1st anniversary of [#Maidan](#): ideals of [#Maidan](#) cannot be destroyed by any weapon
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Feb 22](#) Condemn the cowardly terrorist attack in Kharkiv on the day Ukraine commemorates those fallen for freedom&dignity.
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Feb 21](#) Madness is a disease, massive madness is a tragedy: 'Rally is under way in Moscow 2condemn "coup" in Ukraine' <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-31561769...>
- [Marijus Gudynas @GudynasM Feb 21](#) President Landsbergis: This was about [#Lithuania](#) 25 yrs ago but looks like its about [#Ukraine](#) today. We only observe
- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT MFA Stratcom Feb 18](#) Does [#Russia](#) know that it's forces must withdraw Eastwards, not attack Westwards? [#UnitedForUkraine](#) [#Ukraine](#)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Feb 18](#) Hard decision of Pres Poroshenko 2withdraw from Debaltseve. Shows true dedication to peace – sentiment missing on t side of Ru-backed forces
- [Žygimantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis Feb 18](#) America, wake up! Russia marches on uninhibited in eastern Ukraine [@vp @senjohnmccain](http://wapo.st/1DrSgME)
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Feb 17](#) Pro-Ru terrorists continue creeping occupation&'ceasefiring' [#Debaltseve](#) - Minsk II is violated. Resolute response must follow w/out delay.
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL Feb 16](#) Unfortnly,predictns were right.[#RU](#) has no will& intention2 hold truce.Last day> t 100 attacks,15 killed.Time2 add pressure,sanctns,isolation
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Feb 17](#) All hostages & unlawfully detained persons must be released, incl Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko, illegally held in [#Russia](#) [#FreeSavchenko](#)
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY Feb 18](#) Read full [#Lithuania](#)'s statement delivered today after adoption of [#UNSC](#) resolution 2202 (2015) on [#Ukraine](#) <http://un.mfa.lt/missionny/en/news/lithuanias-explanation-of-vote-after-adoption-of-un-security-council-resolution-2202-2015...>

Security and defence:

- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian MoD](#) Feb 19 Enhancement of [#partnerships](#) has to be among the key priorities of [#EU](#), [#LTU](#) Defence Minister said at the [#EUDefenceMinisters](#)' MTNG
 - [Lithuania in NATO @LitdelNATO](#) Feb 18 Ambassador [@Leskevicius](#) assumed duties at [@NATO](#) HQ today, met with SG [@jensstoltenberg](#) and attended Council meeting
 - [US Mission to NATO @USNATO](#) Feb 18 Lithuania -- Great photos of [@2dCavalryRegt](#) in this week's celebration of Independence Day
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Energy Security:

- [NeilasTankevicius @NTvyteris](#) · Feb 22 Gas from US suppliers is about to come to [#Lithuania](#), [#Latvia](#), [#Estonia](#) or even [#Ukraine](#) through [#Klaipėda](#) [#LNG](#) <http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/energy/lithuanian-energy-minister-leaves-for-us-to-discuss-lng-import-possibilities.d?id=67242530> ...
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- [Edward Lucas @edwardlucas](#) · Feb 22 Lithuania saved €millions by running state assets properly -- [@dagdetter](#) will explain how others can do it too, tomorrow [@LegatumInst](#) 1745
 - [Simonas Satunas @SimonasSatunas](#) · Feb 16 Lithuanian exports 2 [#US](#) increased by 33% in 2014 compared to 2013. It is 10th our [#export](#) market. Hope [#TTIP](#) will do more! [@ZygisPavilionis](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) Feb 18 Congrats to [#Moldova](#) 's new government! Continuation of Eurointegration reforms is key.
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Other:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · Feb 17 Congratulations to [#Kosovo](#) on the day of Independence! Best wishes from [#Lithuania!](#) [@HashimThaciRKS](#), [@bcollaku1](#)
 - [Invest Lithuania @Invest_LT](#) Feb 18 Let's talk [#lasers](#)! We have put up a new factsheet about [#Lithuania](#)'s laser industry <http://goo.gl/nngbGW>
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