



Lithuanian Diplomatic Playbook

24 February - 1 March 2015

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

- The State Defence Council reintroduces conscription as a contribution to collective defence.
 - Call for immediate and unconditional release of Ms. Savchenko.
 - Continuous violation of Minsk Agreements must have a price.
 - Western needs support Ukraine to defend itself.
 - Coordinated European and American response to propaganda is key, first and foremost – by offering alternative Russian speaking media.
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Top lines, statements

Security and Defence:

- [...] the State Defence Council has decided it is necessary to temporarily – for the next five years – to reintroduce compulsory military draft, enlisting each year 3.5 thousand Lithuanian citizens of conscript age for a period of nine months. This number accounts for only 1.7 percent of all potential conscripts. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 24 February, 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- "Conscription is [...] yet another step, next to the decisions to consistently increase defence spending, (...) we present it as our contribution to collective defence and that we take it seriously and, while expecting support from our Allies, we ourselves are doing what we can. Our security is not only a headache that only we feel, it is a concern for the Alliance, as well, and we should

seriously contribute to common efforts of ensuring security of the Alliance's territory." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 27 February 2015). [Read full article.](#)

- "We expect a solid U.S. prepositioning of equipment and forces as well as joint exercises. It is important to adapt NATO collective defence measures to the new challenges". (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 26 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- "Lithuania is a member of the European Union and NATO. Luckily, we made the right decisions more than 10 years ago by joining these organizations, so we can feel, not calm, but at least more secure." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 25 February 2015). [Read full article](#)
- [...] for Lithuania, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary of the re-established independence, the principles of the UN Charter are fundamental. The attempts of Russia, the permanent member of the Security Council, to redraw the map of Europe by force are in breach of those principles and pose threat to international peace and security. (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 24 February, 2015). [Read full news release](#)
- "Lithuania welcomes the decisions of the NATO Summit in Wales to enhance capabilities of the Alliance in response to Russia's aggression and expects support of the US in setting up a NATO Force Integration Unit in Lithuania, prepositioning of equipment and forces as well as participation in joint exercises in Lithuania." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 25 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- The key objectives of the combined U.S.-Lithuanian training are to put to test and improve interoperability of allied units in offensive, defensive, security and stabilisation operations. The rotating U.S. contingents have been deployed in the Baltic States and Poland since spring 2014 as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a reassurance to NATO allies of U.S. commitments to collective defence in the light of the aggressive Russia's actions in Ukraine. 26 February 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
- "Up to know our strategy was based on the principle that all the NATO forces have to be deployable and ready to engage in any location worldwide. The Russian aggression in Ukraine has demonstrated that the countries bordering with Russia may need forces tailored to local needs." (Defence Policy Director of the ministry of National Defence Dr Vaidotas Urbelis, 26 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)

Ukraine, Russia:

- "International community must send a clear message that it condemns Russia's actions in Ukraine and urges to abide by the Minsk agreements on truce. Russia must fulfil its international obligations and stop aggression against Ukraine. Peace is the responsibility of the whole international community." (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 28 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- Mr. Nemtsov will forever remain in our memory as a sincere friend of Lithuania, and a true patriot of Russia, who relentlessly fought for democratic Russia, for the rights and freedoms of Russian citizens. We express our deep condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Nemtsov and to all the people of Russia. 28 February 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
- "While the situation further deteriorates, there has been no response from the Western countries to the aggression in Debaltsevo. Minsk Agreements continue to be violated - this must have a price." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 24 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- "In order to ensure alternatives to Russian information sources, the USA and the EU must strongly support each other and avoid competition. It is important that the United States renew its public diplomacy programs in Europe. If we do not consider propaganda as a serious problem and do not coordinate our actions in offering alternative Russian speaking media, we shall not be successful in this struggle." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius, 24 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- "Military assistance would raise the expenses of the potential spread of aggression and would thus create the preconditions of sustainable peaceful solution of the conflict. By fearing to assist Ukrainian defence capabilities we would silently indulge the powerful aggressor" (Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrius Krivas, 26 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs urge the Russian government and law enforcement authorities to respect human rights and responsibly fulfill international commitments, we call for

immediate and unconditional release of Ms. Savchenko and other Ukrainian citizens illegally detained in Russia. 26 February 2015, [Read full news release.](#)

- Our firm and unequivocal statement is: Crimea is Ukraine. Lithuania, which has close historical ties with the Tatar community and cherishes its rights and freedoms, strongly condemns the systematic human rights violations, in particular in respect of the Crimean Tatars, in the illegally annexed the Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea. 26 February 2015, [Read full news release.](#)
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Energy security:

- Lithuania said Saturday it had signed a trade agreement to buy liquified natural gas from the United States in a move aimed at reducing the EU Baltic state's heavy dependence on Russian gas deliveries. France 24, 1 March 2015. [Read full article](#)
 - At a meeting with the US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz in Washington, Lithuanian Minister of Energy Rokas Masiulis confirmed Lithuania's readiness to purchase liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the USA as soon as US companies start exporting it. 24 February 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
 - The natural gas supply and trading company LITGAS, part of the Lithuanian state controlled Lietuvos Energija energy company signed a master trade agreement to enable purchases of LNG from Cheniere Marketing, a subsidiary of Cheniere Energy.[...] first LNG expected to arrive in Lithuania as early as 2016. 27 February 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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Lithuanian economy, Euro:

- Vilnius has been ranked 4th in Europe as a city for fast-growth businesses. [...] Vilnius outperformed the likes of Stockholm, London, Rome and Oslo thanks to its status as a financial centre and its focus on entrepreneurialism. 26 February 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
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Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- After 10 years of operation Lithuania closed its special mission in Afghanistan, counting 229 [development cooperation](#) projects in education, health, good governance, rural development, infrastructure and other sectors. Lithuania will continue development cooperation with Afghanistan and keep its international commitments. 1 March 2015.
- President Dalia Grybauskaitė during her working visit to Chile met with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet. The meeting focused on economic and cultural cooperation between Lithuania and Chile, bilateral relations, and collaboration in international organizations. (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 27 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- "Participation of women in politics is not a matter of fashion, ambitions or quotas. It is the necessity dictated by global economic and security challenges. Concerted efforts by all – men and women – are needed to overcome these challenges. As leaders, we can be role models for other women." (President Dalia Grybauskaitė, 27 February 2015). [Read full news release.](#)
- Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius addressed the honorable guests at the event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence at the US Congress Library and expressed gratitude to the United States of America for the continual support for Lithuania's independence and membership in NATO and EU. 25 February 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
- L.Linkevičius meets with Foreign Ministers of the UAE, New Zealand and Malaysia. 27 February 2015. [Read full news release.](#)
- Lithuanian and Chinese Foreign Ministers discuss bilateral trade and implementation of Minsk

Media links

- In response to informational pressure of the Kremlin-supported media, the Lithuanian national broadcaster LRT plans new programs for Russian-speakers in Lithuania and hopes to launch a program focused on explaining sources of propaganda and its methods of working. The Lithuanian Tribune, 26 February 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuania is to reintroduce conscription over concerns about "the current geopolitical environment" in the Baltic states, President Dalia Grybauskaitė says. BBC, 24 February 2015. [Read full article.](#)
 - Foreign Minister, Linas Linkevičius spoke to Al Jazeera as the deadline for heavy weapons to be withdrawn from Eastern Ukraine was approaching. Al Jazeera, 23 February 2015, [Watch video.](#)
 - "What else should happen in order to cross the line? These lines were crossed by tanks many times - all our red lines, just crossed." (Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius. *West making little headway in Ukraine crisis*, AFP, 24 February 2015). [Read full article.](#)
 - Lithuania's Defence Minister [Juozas Olekas](#) on Monday endorsed an agreement of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) and Allied Command Transformation (ACT) laying down the legal status of [NATO](#) elements of control and command in Lithuania. [The](#) Lithuanian Tribune, 23 February 2015. [Read full article.](#)
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Security and defence:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Feb 27](#) Peace & security – on the agenda in the meeting with [@UN](#) SecGen Ban Ki – moon
- [Linas Linkevičius @LinkevičiusL](#) · [Feb 26](#) Standing firm for democracy & peace , in times when both are seriously challenged - good meeting w [@SpeakerBoehner](#) , ending my visit to US.
- [Linas Linkevičius @LinkevičiusL](#) · [Feb 25](#) Reinstating of conscription in Lithuania is our contribution to collective defence. [#NATO](#) [#security](#)
- [Linas Linkevičius @LinkevičiusL](#) · [Feb 25](#) Reassuring mtng w [@SenJohnMcCain](#) the Chair of Senate Armed forces comm. Full support to [#NATO](#) reassurance measures.
- [Linas Linkevičius @LinkevičiusL](#) · [Feb 23](#) Urged [#UNSC](#) to stay vigilant when commemorating UN Charter, UNSC perm member Russia violates it aggressively redrawing borders in Europe
- [Raimonda Murmokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Feb 23](#) In March [#Lithuania](#) will mark the 25th anniversary of the restoration of independence. The longest we have been free in modern times. In context of RUS attempts to rewrite history and reverse the transitions of the 1990s, our 25th anniversary is even more precious.
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY](#) · [Feb 23](#) To small countries respect 4 intl law, principles&norms enshrined in UN Charter is paramount. It's our 1st line of defense - [@LinkevičiusL](#)
- [Petras Austrevicius @petras_petras](#) · [Feb 4](#) EP Ukraine's Group is asking the Russian Ambo

Chizov to respect international standard and release N.Savchenko. Today I am on hunger strike!

Ukraine, Russia:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Mar 1](#) "Heroes never die", neither the truth: dozens of thousands of [#Russians](#) pay tribute to Boris [#Nemtsov](#) in Moscow march
- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Feb 27](#) Murder of Boris Nemtsov shows that Russia slides down to darkness of terror against its own people
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Ma Mar 1](#) [#Lithuanian](#) & other EU MS ambassadors paying tribute to R.I.P. [#Nemtsov](#), a voice of democracy & true [#Russian](#) patriot.
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Feb 27](#) Deeply sad when voices of democracy get killed in Russia. RIP Boris Nemtsov, heartfelt condolences to family. Your battle will continue.
- [Embassy of Lithuania @LTembassyUS](#) · [Feb 27](#) 23 Lithuania's Honorary Consuls in US stand in a minute of silence to honor the memory of Boris Nemtsov! [#RIPNemtsov](#)
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY](#) · [Feb 27](#) At UNSC [@LithuaniaUNNY](#) asks OSCE CiO to facilitate release of abducted pilot Nadia Savchenko [#FreeSavchenko](#)
- [Raimonda Murrumokaite @PRLTUN](#) · [Feb 27](#) Being in opposition a truly dangerous business in Russia as opposition figures persecuted, imprisoned, shot dead.
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Feb 27](#) We really need U.S. leadership - FM [@LinkeviciusL](#) visit to the [#US](#) overview. [#FreeSavchenko](#) [https://storify.com/LithuaniaMFA/fm-linkevicius-visit-in-the-us#publicize ...](https://storify.com/LithuaniaMFA/fm-linkevicius-visit-in-the-us#publicize...)
- [Seimas LT @LRSeimas](#) · [Feb 27](#) Leaders of [@LRSeimas](#) stand united demanding [#Russia](#) to [#FreeSavchenko](#) [#United4Ukraine](#)
- [LT MFA STRATCOM @LT MFA Stratcom](#) · [Feb 26](#) Under [#Lithuania](#)'s initiative in Geneva [#EU](#) Ambass. call RU authorities to release [#Ukraine](#) pilot, [#FreeSavchenko](#) !
- [Žygmantas Pavilionis @ZygisPavilionis](#) · [Feb 26](#) FM [@LinkeviciusL](#) brings [#FreeSavchenko](#) leaflet 2 the Hill w/Congressman [@RepShimkus](#) & Pres. Landsbergis [@Ukrobblogger](#)
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Feb 25](#) [@LinkeviciusL](#) at [@bbcworld](#): none of Minsk agreements implemented. There should be price for attacking Debaltseve
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Feb 25](#) [@LinkeviciusL](#) addressing [@BertelsmannFdn](#): The West should assume responsibility 4 inability 2 stop aggression against UA
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Feb 25](#) Met the [@BBGgov](#) head A. Lack to discuss western broadcasting efforts in response to spread of Russian propaganda.
- [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Feb 24](#) [@LinkeviciusL](#) addressing NED: it became business as usual 4 Russia 2 talk about values while blatantly breaching them
- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Feb 23](#) Caught-up w [@PavloKlimkin](#) :Minsk agreements violated, Russia boosts forces around Mariupol. Further pressure on Ru & border control -key.
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY](#) · [Feb 23](#) As [#Russia](#) attempts 2 rewrite history, the 25th anniversary of restoration of [#Lithuania](#)'s independence on March 11 is even more precious.
- [Lithuania in UN NY @LithuaniaUNNY](#) · [Feb 23](#) E [#Ukraine](#) regions, [#Moldova](#)'s [#Transnistria](#), [#Georgia](#)'s [#Abkhazia](#) [#SouthOssetia](#) - patterns of Russia's interference in sovereign affairs

Energy Security:

- [Linas Linkevicius @LinkeviciusL](#) · [Feb 25](#) Welcome a much needed launch of EU [#Energy](#) Union- "the most ambitious European energy project since the CSC" <http://bit.ly/1aiKTuZ>

Bilateral relations, Regional cooperation:

- [Vidmantas Purlys @v_purlys](#) · [Feb 26](#) Ukraine, EU, regional & energy security among key

- topics of [#Lithuanian](#)-Turkish consultations in [#Vilnius](#)
- [Lithuanian MoD @Lithuanian MoD](#) · [Feb 24](#) We express our deepest condolences on the tragic death of Turkish warplanes' pilots
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Other:

- [Dalia Grybauskaitė @Grybauskaite LT](#) · [Feb 27](#) Women in power&decision-making isn't a matter of ambition.It is necessity dictated by our global reality [#Beijing20](#)
 - [Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA](#) · [Feb 23](#) Strictly condemn, there is no justification for such inhuman atrocities of [#BokoHaram](#) in [#Nigeria](#) involving children. [http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/africa/article4362786.ece?CMP=Spklr-149919411-Editorial-TWITTER-thetimes-20150223-News&linkId=12507851 ...](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/africa/article4362786.ece?CMP=Spklr-149919411-Editorial-TWITTER-thetimes-20150223-News&linkId=12507851)
 - [UN Geneva @UNGeneva](#) · [Feb 26](#) [#Lithuania](#)'s League of Nations history - 35,000 pages - digitized [@UNOGLibrary!](#) Details: <http://ow.ly/JDsya> [#TBT](#)
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