



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**STATEMENT
ON THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP)**

21 September 2016
Vilnius

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

in view of the long-standing historical links between Lithuania and the United States of America (US),

having regard to the EU negotiating directives on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) adopted unanimously by the Council of the EU on 14 June 2013,

having regard to the resolutions of the European Parliament, in particular the Resolution of 8 July 2015 containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the TTIP,

having regard to the Statement of the Chairs of Committees on European Affairs of National Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland of 9 September 2016 concerning their support for the conclusion of the TTIP,

having regard to the fact that Lithuania is a highly open economy, heavily dependent on foreign trade; its export- and investment-driven growth is the key precondition for creation of jobs and economic growth, and the TTIP would create the largest free trade area in the world covering one third of the global trade,

having regard to the fact that the US is a particularly important export market for Lithuania, with Lithuania's exports to the US clearly on the rise in the recent years,

highlights that the US is Lithuania's strategic ally and partner,

highlights the importance of achieving a TTIP that would ensure genuine long-term reciprocal market opening; **stresses** the role of the TTIP in enhancing transatlantic partnership and in

facilitating the establishment of standards, norms and rules based on the principles and values of the EU and the US with a clear potential of becoming the norm on the global scale,

supports the continuation of the negotiations on the TTIP and seeks ambitious, comprehensive and balanced high quality agreement; **underlines** the strategic importance of the agreement for geopolitical transatlantic partnership,

considers that the conclusion of the TTIP will contribute to Lithuania's GDP growth and will unquestionably bring benefits to Lithuanian consumers and exporters, in particular to small and medium-sized enterprises faced with disproportionate restrictions on access to the US market; the TTIP will also create better conditions for attracting investment and will promote economic growth,

stresses the importance of inclusion into the TTIP of a separate chapter on energy, covering industrial raw materials in particular, which would ensure free trade in, transit, and distribution of energy resources,

supports full liberalisation of trade with the introduction of longer transition periods or tariff quotas only for a limited number of the most sensitive agricultural products,

stresses the importance of enhancing the compatibility of regulatory regimes, as resolution of the differences between the EU and the US as regards technical regulations, standards and certification procedures in specific sectors would help to avoid duplication of procedures and additional costs, which are currently particularly unfavourable to small and medium-sized enterprises,

in line with the principle of reciprocity, **seeks** the removal through the TTIP of the currently existing large differences in the degree of openness of the two public procurement markets and **seeks** wide opening of the US market at the federal, state and local levels so as to ensure a level playing field for EU companies,

underlines that after the conclusion of the TTIP agreement, the EU will maintain its standards in the areas of safety, health, animal health and data protection and will preserve its social and environmental standards,

calls on the European Commission to continue negotiations with the United States with a view to reaching political agreement during the current term in office of the US administration,

calls on the Parliaments of EU Member States to pay particular attention to the TTIP negotiations and promote proactive action of national governments in the negotiations on this agreement of strategic importance to the entire EU,

calls on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania to actively participate in the discussions in the Council working groups and Council meetings in this regard and **requests** to inform the Committee about the outcome of the discussions,

also **invites** the European Parliament and other EU Member States to support the negotiations of the European Commission with the United States on the conclusion of the TTIP, with a view to promptly achieving an ambitious agreement.

Benediktas Juodka

Chair of the Committee