



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
SEIMAS

Lithuanian Parliamentary Mirror

NEWSLETTER
2014 OCTOBER
No 10 (30)

IN THE ISSUE:

- SEIMAS IS SUBMITTED THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2015
- SEIMAS DECIDES TO ENHANCE SCREENING OF INVESTMENT
- COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADOPTED A STATEMENT ON THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
- IN ITALY SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS DISCUSSED LITHUANIA'S OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS ON HER OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA MET WITH THE SPEAKER AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE SOUTH KOREAN PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY BUSSINES

RATIFICATION OF THE LITHUANIAN–SWEDISH AGREEMENT ON THE DELIMITATION OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE BALTIC SEA

The Seimas has ratified the *Agreement between the Lithuanian and Swedish Governments on the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf in the Baltic Sea*. The Law received 92 votes in favour, with no votes against and two abstentions.

The Agreement was signed by the Lithuanian and Swedish Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm on 10 April 2014. It delineates about 15 km of the sea border between the two neighbouring countries, Lithuania and Sweden.

MORE

THE SEIMAS IMPOSES PENALTIES FOR THE SALE OF ENERGY DRINKS TO MINORS

With 90 votes in favour and 5 abstentions, the Seimas adopted amendments to the *Code of Administrative Offences* regulating the responsibility for the sale of energy drinks to minors.

MORE

THE SEIMAS DECIDES TO ENHANCE SCREENING OF INVESTMENT

At its plenary session, the Seimas adopted the amendments tabled by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė, to the *Law on Investments* and the *Law on Enterprises and Facilities of Strategic Importance to National Security and Other Enterprises of Importance to Ensuring National Security*, whereby investment into economic sectors of strategic importance will be subject to a more rigorous screening in order to prevent threats to national security.

The amendments to the *Law on Investments* were passed by a vote of 97 in favour, no vote against and five abstentions; the amendments to the accompanying legislation received 104 votes in favour, no vote against and two abstentions.

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED BY THE SEIMAS WILL REINFORCE THE ARMED FORCES OF LITHUANIA IN CASE OF MARTIAL LAW

At its plenary session, the Seimas adopted amendments to *Martial Law*, the *Law on VIP Protection* and accompanying legislation, tabled by the country's President and Minister of Defence. The amendments were introduced to reinforce the Lithuanian armed forces upon the introduction of martial law, to revise the distribution of the functions of the relevant authorities, and to duly protect the state heads in times of war. A total of 75 MPs voted in favour of the new martial law provisions, with none against and two abstentions.

The amendments foresee the right for the Chief of Defence to order the VIP Protection Department and the Public Security Service to form part of the armed forces under martial law. Prior to this, the State Border Guard Service was the only service under the Ministry of the Interior allowed to contribute to the military capabilities of Lithuania with officers ready to defend the state under martial law.

[MORE](#)

SEIMAS IS SUBMITTED THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2015

Rimantas Šadžius, Minister of Finance, submitted to the Seimas the draft Law No XIIP-2381 on the *Approval of the Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets for 2015* that provides for nearly EUR 8 billion of budget revenues and nearly EUR 8.3 billion of appropriations for expenditure and acquisitions (appropriations exceed revenues by more than EUR 342 million).

“This has happened because the state budget will cover a large proportion of expenditure previously financed by Sodra, namely, EUR 52 million for compensation for state social insurance old-age pensions, pensions for loss of working capacity, and pensions reduced during the economic downturn; EUR 21 million for running the Labour Exchange; and payment of all interest on the funds borrowed by the State Social Insurance Fund from 2014 onwards,” said Mr Šadžius.

[MORE](#)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

IN ITALY, LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, DISCUSSED LITHUANIA'S OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



On her working visit to Rome (Italian Republic), Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, discussed during a bilateral meeting with Bronwyn Bishop, Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, the prospects of Lithuania's accession to one of the most influential organisations in the world — Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The leader of the Seimas asked Australia, which is a member of this organisation, to support the accession negotiations.

[MORE](#)

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADOPTED A STATEMENT ON THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

The Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs was briefed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Defence on actions taken by the international community to fight against the group of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Iraq and Syria. Committee members discussed with ministry officials the possibilities of Lithuania to contribute to the fight of the international community against international terrorism. In response to the spread of international terrorism and its threats to the region and the entire world, the Committee adopted [the Statement on the Fight Against International Terrorism](#).

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, MET WITH THE SPEAKER OF THE SOUTH KOREAN PARLIAMENT



On her official visit to South Korea, the Speaker of the Seimas, Loreta Graužinienė, and the delegation led by her met with the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, Chung Ui hva. It is for the first time in the history of bilateral relations that the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament visits South Korea. Interestingly, the meeting of the heads of the parliaments happened to take place on the day when diplomatic relations between the two states had been established twenty-three years ago.

[MORE](#)

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



The delegation led by the Speaker of the Seimas, Loreta Graužinienė, met with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, Chung Hongwon. The meeting focused on political and economic cooperation between the Republic of Lithuania and South Korea and possibilities of its further enhancement by running specific projects. The Prime Minister, Chung Hongwon, said that considering the geographical position of Lithuania, high level of education among the population and other competitive advantages Korea saw great prospects for bilateral cooperation with Lithuania. These would definitely be improved by establishing diplomatic missions in both countries. The Prime Minister promised to refer this matter to the relevant authorities of the country in the near

future. Mrs Graužinienė asked for South Korean support for Lithuania's efforts to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

[MORE](#)

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, AND SOUTH KOREAN BUSINESSMEN DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



In South Korea, the Speaker of the Seimas, Loreta Graužinienė, and the delegation led by her met with heads of Samsung Electronics and the Korea Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The meetings focused on possible cooperation between the two countries in trade, industry and business.

While presenting the investment environment in Lithuania, Mrs Graužinienė stressed that the main asset of our country is young, talented, educated and creative people as well as their achievements. "Both our countries are in the lead of nations with the highest number of well and highly educated people. Lithuania sees a rapid introduction of new technologies and biotechnologies, and our talented young people have already become leaders in the global laser market. It is in these fields, as well as in food industry, transport, logistics, information and communication technologies, that Lithuania and Korea could search for common ground with each other by setting up joint ventures in Lithuania that could supply their products to the markets of the European Union and Eastern Europe", said the Speaker of the Seimas.

[MORE](#)



CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NORDIC AND BALTIC PARLIAMENTS DISCUSSED THE CHALLENGES TO REGIONAL SECURITY



A traditional meeting of Chairpersons of the Committees on Foreign Affairs of the Nordic and Baltic Parliaments took place in Trakai on 19–20 October 2014. It brought together parliamentarians from Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Norway, Finland, and Sweden. The meeting was chaired by Prof Benediktas Juodka, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs.

[MORE](#)

THE LNG TERMINAL WILL BRING BENEFITS TO BOTH LITHUANIA AND THE ENTIRE REGION,” SAYS SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ



Speaker of the Seimas Loreta Graužinienė participated in the 33rd session of the Baltic Assembly in Tallinn, Estonia. She joined Eiki Nestor, President of the Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia, and Solvita Āboltiņa, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, in congratulating the participants and guests of the event. In her address, Mrs Graužinienė highlighted the importance of cooperation of all the Baltic States in a range of areas, and placed a particular emphasis on regional security.

[MORE](#)



Welcome address by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, at the 33rd Session of the Baltic Assembly



THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEES AND THE SWISS PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FOCUSED ON THE OSCE'S ROLE IN SETTLING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE AND ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION



A delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Federal Assembly (Council of States) of the Swiss Confederation, headed by the President of the Committee, Felix Gutzwiller, made a visit to the Seimas on 29 October 2014. The delegation met with Prof Benediktas Juodka, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs; Gediminas Kirkilas, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs; and members of both committees.

Prof Benediktas Juodka, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, expressed appreciation of good bilateral relations, intensifying economic relations and strengthened consular cooperation between Lithuania and Switzerland. The Chair of the Committee underlined that the Swiss parliamentary delegation was paying a visit to Lithuania at a special time for the country. "Lithuania is experiencing significant historical events: we will join the euro area on 1 January 2015 and a few days ago we welcomed the floating liquefied natural gas terminal Independence which is a firm guarantee for our energy independence and, at the same time, for our security," said the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs and former Prime Minister, highlighted that Switzerland and Lithuania had not yet exploited the full potential of mutual economic cooperation. "The trading volumes between the two states are too small; they are smaller than those between Lithuania and its neighbours Latvia and Estonia that are much smaller economically. Therefore, politicians should encourage this cooperation, particularly on new technologies. Lithuania is very rapidly progressing in this area: we have five successful science and business valleys, biotechnology plants, and we are a world leader in the field of lasers. Thus we invite the Swiss business to invest more actively in Lithuania because this will open up a lot of bilateral opportunities," said Mr Kirkilas.

[MORE](#)

EVENTS

YOUNG LEADERS DISCUSSED PECULIARITIES OF PARLIAMENTARY WORK IN THE SEIMAS



The Seimas hosted the International Young Leaders Academy *Youth Participation in Politics: Challenges and Opportunities* on 13–15 October. This traditional annual event held for the third time already brought together more than 60 young leaders from Lithuania and the Eastern Partnership countries.

The conference received a lot of attention from both parliamentarians and staff of the Office of the Seimas.

During the conference, the participants not only shared political experience, but also discussed peculiarities of parliamentary work and the qualities required for a professional politician. "Values, respect for people, courage, leadership, responsibility, judgment, intuition, quick orientation, and mobilisation of people are those values that were unanimously mentioned in the presentations of parliamentarians from different parties. However, the discussion, whether one is to be born or to become a politician, produced different opinions. Probably the truth is somewhere in the middle, because it all depends on the inner attitude, determination and success of man," summed up Viktorija Bražiūnaitė, organiser of the event and Chair of the Young Leaders Forum.

[MORE](#)

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ: IT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH ARE UPHELD



Speaker of the Seimas, Loreta Graužinienė, welcomed participants and guests of an international conference Television and Radio: *Challenges of Today*. The Speaker noted in her welcome address that the topic of this conference insightfully points to the relevance of the challenges faced by the media in the context of the development of information technologies and current geopolitical changes.

[MORE](#)

TEXT

Jolanta Anskaitienė, Head of the Public Information and Media Division,
tel: +370 5 239 6508, e-mail: jolanta.anskaitiene@lrs.lt

LAYOUT

Miglė Baltrūnaitė, tel: +370 5 239 6204, e-mail: migle.baltrunaite@lrs.lt

PHOTOGRAPH

Olga Posaškova, tel: +370 5 239 6205, e-mail: olga.posaskova@lrs.lt

Communications Department

Loreta Raulinaitytė, Director, tel: +370 5 239 6762, e-mail: loreta.raulinaityte@lrs.lt

Public Relations Unit of the Communications Department

Artūras Zeleniakas, Head, tel: +370 5 239 6201; e-mail: arturas.zeleniakas@lrs.lt

*If you do not wish to receive more newsletters in the future,
please inform about it by e-mail: jolanta.anskaitiene@lrs.lt*