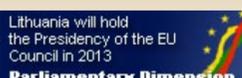


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PREPARATION OF THE SEIMAS FOR THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU COUNCIL



EP COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS TO COME TO LITHUANIA TO DISCUSS THE PRIORITIES OF THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL

On 4 February 2013, the Bureau of the European Parliament confirmed the plan for EP Committee visits in 2013, including visits to Lithuania. Seven EP Committees have decided to visit Vilnius and discuss in greater detail the priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

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MEMBERS OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE EU MEMBER STATES AND CANDIDATE COUNTRIES AND MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ARE INVITED TO THE EVENTS TO BE HELD IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION OF THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Speaker of the Seimas, **Vydas Gedvilas**, has sent a letter inviting Members of national Parliaments of the EU Member States and Candidate Countries and Members of the European Parliament to attend the events to be held in the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which Lithuania takes over from Ireland on 1 July 2013. During the Presidency, the Seimas will host 10 meetings. The Lithuanian Presidency of the Council ends on 31 December 2013.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



VILNIUS SUMMIT TO START THE NEW STAGE OF EU-UKRAINE RELATIONS, STRESSED THE SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS TO THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

The Speaker of the Seimas **Vydas Gedvilas** discussed the topical issues of Ukrainian integration into the European Union at the meeting with **Viktor Yanukovich**, President of the Republic of Ukraine, during his official visit to Lithuania.

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MOLDOVA'S STRENGTH LIES IN ITS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

On 8 February 2013, **Vytautas Gapšys**, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, met with **Iurie Leancă**, Moldova's Vice-Prime Minister and the accompanying Delegation. During the meeting, Gapšys stressed the evident progress of Moldova in implementation of both political and economic reforms and pledged Lithuania's multifaceted support to Moldova's integration into the European Union and development in other strategic areas.



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MOST IMPORTANT POINTS OF BALTIC STATES' COOPERATION DISCUSSED DURING THE SPEAKER'S VISIT IN ESTONIA

During his official visit in Tallinn, Speaker of the Seimas, **Vydas Gedvilas**, met with President of the Riigikogu, **Ene Ergma**, President of the Republic of Estonia, **Toomas Hendrik Ilves** and Prime Minister **Andrus Ansip**. The issues of the approaching Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Multiannual Financial Framework, energy infrastructure projects relevant to the region and security problems were discussed during the meeting.



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SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS VYDAS GEDVILAS: RAIL BALTICA IS 'THE PROJECT OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE'

During his visit on 13 February 2013, Vydas Gedvilas, Speaker of the Seimas and the head of the Seimas delegation to Tallinn, had meetings with the President of the Riigikogu Ene Ergma, President of the Republic of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves and Prime Minister Andrus Ansip. The Prime Minister of Estonia commended splendid cooperation among the Baltic States at the European Council and successful conclusion of the negotiations on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014–2020. He invited the three Baltic states to urgent implementation of Rail Baltica project, the infrastructure project of high significance to the whole region. Speaker Gedvilas assured the Estonian Prime Minister that the Seimas and its Committees fully supported the strategically important project and would make every effort to improve European-gauge rail connections between the Baltic States and West European countries by making use of EU structural funds. Vydas Gedvilas believes the project will undoubtedly contribute to economic prosperity of and attraction of investment to the region. A positive impact of the introduction of the euro on Estonia and the whole region was noted at every meeting during the visit. The major regional energy projects, defence funding, Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU and trilateral cooperation among the Baltic states were also discussed.



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JOINT PRESS RELEASE BY THE COMMITTEES ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOUR: LITHUANIAN AND SWEDISH PARLIAMENTARIANS DISCUSSED EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

On 18 February, the Seimas Committees on European Affairs and on Social Affairs and Labour and the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with North European Countries met with the Committee on the Labour Market of the Riksdag of the Kingdom of Sweden. During the meeting at the Seimas, the parliamentarians discussed labour market, employment and other socio-economic issues, with particular attention to youth unemployment and migration from Lithuania. The Seimas members have answered numerous questions of Swedish parliamentarians about the social situation in Lithuania.

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VYDAS GEDVILAS, SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: THE FIRST HISTORICAL VISIT OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UK AND LITHUANIA

Vydas Gedvilas, Speaker of the Seimas, having met with Rt. Hon **John Bercow** MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament, expressed hope that the first historical visit of the Speaker of the House of Commons to Lithuania will contribute to the development of bilateral relations and strengthening of cooperation between the two legislatures.



The speech delivered by Vydas Gedvilas, Speaker of the Seimas, at the meeting of Seimas leadership and representatives of the Seimas Committee on European Affairs and Committee on Foreign Affairs with Right Honourable John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament, on 20 February 2013

The speech delivered by Right Honourable John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament, at the meeting with the leaders of the Seimas and representatives of the Seimas Committee on European Affairs and Committee on Foreign Affairs on 20 February 2013

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SEIMAS SPEAKER CONGRATULATED THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE ON ADOPTING THE JOINT STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE'S EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

In his [letter](#) to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Vydas Gedvilas, Speaker of the Seimas, congratulated it on Seimas leadership and representatives of the Seimas Committee on European Affairs and Committee on Foreign Affairs with Right Honourable John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament, on 20 February 2013. Mr Gedvilas said that it was a strong signal that Ukraine continued on the European path. "The year 2013 is a time of ground-breaking determination and historical opportunity for your country. I firmly believe that more rapid reforms and unity of all political parties for the sake of a common goal will bring Ukraine closer to an especially significant achievement – an Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, with the European Union," the Speaker of the Seimas said.

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Text

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