



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
SEIMAS

IN THE ISSUE:

- NATO PA SPRING SESSION IN VILNIUS
- RESCUERS OF JEWS GRANTED FREEDOM FIGHTER STATUS
- SEIMAS WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO INCREASE FINANCING FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE
- THE SEIMAS COMMITTEES WELCOME THE PEACE PLAN TABLED BY PETRO POROSHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Spring Session

Vilnius, 30 May - 1 June 2014

WELCOME TO THE SPECIAL WEB PAGE OF THE NATO PA SPRING SESSION IN VILNIUS:

WWW.LRS.LT/EN2014NATO-PA

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) Spring Session was held in the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius, on 30 May – 1 June 2014. The event brought together about 600 participants: parliamentarians from the 28 NATO member countries, NATO PA associate countries, regional partners, delegations of the European Parliament and representatives of various international organisations. This was the second NATO PA Spring Session held in Lithuania. The first Session was arranged in Vilnius in 2001.

The NATO PA plenary sitting was held on the first day of the Session. It was addressed by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas; Algirdas Butkevičius, Prime Minister; Hugh Bayley, NATO PA President; Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO Secretary General and Chairman of the North Atlantic Council; Andriy Parubiy, Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine; and other politicians.

Please, find the reports and speeches [here](#).

Press releases:

ANDRIY PARUBIY, SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE COUNCIL OF UKRAINE:
UKRAINE NEEDS PRACTICAL SUPPORT

NATO SECRETARY GENERAL: "WE ARE DETERMINED TO PROTECT EVERY PART OF THE ALLIANCE"

In its plenary sitting the Assembly considered and adopted the Declaration on NATO Enlargement submitted by the delegation of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania; the Declaration on Supporting Ukraine and the Declaration on Transatlantic Relations. The latter document will be presented to the upcoming NATO Summit in Wales (United Kingdom).

DECLARATION ON NATO ENLARGEMENT

DECLARATION ON SUPPORTING UKRAINE

DECLARATION ON TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

Saturday, 31 May, and Sunday, 1 June, were devoted to the meetings of the NATO PA political groups and five Committees: Political, Defence and Security, Science and Technology, Civil Dimension of Security and Economics and Security. At the meetings, the Committees presented their reports and discussed the topical issues: the situation in Afghanistan; Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration; challenges of Euro-Maidan; combatting terrorism, building security and democratic institutions; transatlantic security and economics; cyber space security, etc. The Political Committee heard the report on NATO Partnerships and the Open-Door Policy of the Alliance by Rasa Juknevičienė, Deputy Head of the Seimas delegation to the NATO PA.

Press releases:

NATO PA IS PRESENTED LITHUANIA'S ENERGY PERSPECTIVE

FORMER CHIEF ADVISER TO PUTIN: DEMOCRATIC RUSSIA IS A PATH TO PEACE

RASA JUKNEVIČIENĖ, MEMBER OF THE NATO PA POLITICAL COMMITTEE: NATO NEEDS TO HONOUR ITS
COMMITMENT AND KEEP ITS DOOR OPEN

NATO PA: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON ENERGY SECURITY,
MISSILE DEFENCE AND THREATS IN CYBER SPACE

NATO PA OVERVIEWS THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR WITOLD WASZCYKOWSKI CALLS UPON THE ALLIANCE TO REVISIT SECURITY POLICY

NATO PA DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE:

"THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION IN THE BALTIC REGION REMAINS TENSE," STATES JUOZAS OLEKAS

*Please, find more about that on a special website of the NATO PA Session:
www.lrs.lt/en2014nato-pa as well as [video and audio archive](#).*

SEIMAS DECLARED 2015 THE YEAR OF MICHAŁ KLEOPAS OGIŃSKI

With regard to the fact that next year marks 250 years since the birth of Michał Kleopas Ogiński, a great statesman and public figure, diplomat and composer, and to the fact that in November 2013 this anniversary was included by UNESCO and Member States in the list of anniversaries important for global culture, education, science and historical memory, the Seimas declared 2015 the year of Michał Kleopas Ogiński.

[MORE](#)

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION: TAKING AWAY OF CHILDREN FROM LITHUANIANS LIVING ABROAD GIVES SERIOUS CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Protection and welfare of Lithuanian children and possibilities to make decisions in the best interests of the child after competent foreign authorities take away minors from Lithuanian citizens living abroad in order to ensure the rights and legitimate interests of the child give serious cause for concern. These were the issues that Julius Sabatauskas, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs, and Rimantė Šalaševičiūtė, Chair of the Seimas Constitutional Commission, brought to the attention of the participants of the inter-institutional meeting held in the Seimas on 11 June 2014.

[MORE](#)

RESCUERS OF JEWS GRANTED FREEDOM FIGHTER STATUS

At its plenary session, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania adopted amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of the Participants of the Resistance to the 1940–1990 Occupations (Draft No. XIIP-1968(4)), whereby the rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust are granted freedom fighter status. A total of 72 Members of the Seimas voted in favour of the amendments, with no votes against and one abstention.

The Government conclusion notes that an additional annual allocation of LTL 860.000 will be needed after rescuers of Jews are granted the legal freedom fighter status, as on the basis of the Law on State Pensions of the Republic of Lithuania this status will entitle the rescuers to either first or second degree state pensions of the Republic of Lithuania. Granting the freedom fighter status to the rescuers who died will entitle their family members to a one-off benefit subject to the provisions of the Law on the State Support to the Families of the Participants of the Resistance to the 1940–1990 Occupations who Lost Their Lives. Based on the preliminary data of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, 65 persons were killed or died while rescuing Jews during the Holocaust. This means that LTL 1 million will be needed from the state budget in order to pay the one-off benefits to their family members. The amendments adopted by the Seimas will come into force as from 1 July 2014.

[MORE](#)

SEIMAS WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO INCREASE FINANCING FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE

Juozas Olekas, Minister of National Defence, presented to the Seimas amendments to the Law on the Approval of the Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets for 2014 (draft Law No XIIP-1904) with a view to increasing allocations for national defence by additional LTL 130 million already this year.

[MORE](#)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GEDIMINAS KIRKILAS, CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS: EUROPEAN UNION NEEDS GERMAN LEADERSHIP

“At the onset of the crisis, we have seen, unfortunately, too many Member States playing the game “everyone for himself.” We have not yet become a unified community of states responding to challenges collectively. This situation has to be changed in order to successfully implement the European Union project. Crises, despite all the troubles, have one good feature: they give an opportunity to start over and make decisions that have been delayed for some reason. The last crisis has demonstrated, among other things, a clear lack of leadership in Europe. We have to look for leaders. We have to look for both personalities and countries willing to take on leadership roles. I think that it is perfectly illustrated by the recent European elections,” said Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, in his speech at Berlin-based event EU10x10 – Europe’s Wider Horizon marking the 10th anniversary of the EU membership of the states that joined it on 1 May 2004.

[MORE](#)

VYDAS GEDVILAS, FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: PARLIAMENTARIAN CONGRATULATES THE PEOPLE OF POLAND



During his visit to the Senate of the Republic of Poland on 4 June 2014, Vydas Gedvilas, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, congratulated the people of Poland commemorating the 25th anniversary of the first free elections.

“This is a meaningful and memorable day for Poland that became an example of a democratic struggle and victory to the neighbouring countries and laid the solid groundwork for the collapse of the Soviet empire. For the first time in several decades, the Polish nation could elect its representatives who were full of determination to restore the statehood

and of the courage to lead the country to independence. The movement *Solidarnosc* and its leaders have dispelled the myth of the unity of the Soviet Union and began building an open and democratic Poland without censorship,” said Vydas Gedvilas.

[MORE](#)

THE SEIMAS COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS PRESENTED ITS POSITION ON THE ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NATO SUMMIT

The Committee on Foreign Affairs has discussed the preparation for the NATO Summit to be held in Wales, United Kingdom, on 4–5 September 2014. The Committee has adopted [the statement](#) where it presents its position on the most relevant issues to be considered by the Summit.

PRESS RELEASE BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE BALTIC PARLIAMENTS HAD A DEBATE IN RIGA

Benediktas Juodka, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Audronius Ažubalis, Deputy Chair of the Committee, had a meeting with members of Foreign Affairs Committees from the Latvian and Estonian Parliaments in Riga (Republic of Latvia) on 13 June 2014.

The meeting held a debate on the continuity of the EU’s Eastern Partnership, the geopolitical situation in the Baltic region, and the upcoming NATO Summit in Wales.

[MORE](#)

PETRAS AUŠTREVČIUS, DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: RUSSIA'S GAS BLACKMAIL IS AN ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE THE EU–UKRAINE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

“Russia’s gas war waged against Ukraine is an additional tool of pressure on the whole European Union, seeking, at the same time, to sabotage the final signing of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement,” says Petras Auštrevičius, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Member of the Liberals Movement Political Group.

The signing of association agreements between the EU and the Eastern Partnership trio – Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia – is expected on 27 June 2014. Ukraine has already signed the political provisions of its association agreement. What remains to be signed is only an economic agreement on free trade.

“We are witnessing Russia’s desperate efforts to knock Ukraine out of the trio of countries which are going to sign association agreements. Blackmail concerning gas supply to Ukraine and conscious disruption of negotiations are becoming elements of increasing pressure on the whole European Union. In other words, besides military actions, Russia has also switched to applying economic measures, and we are likely to see the culmination of these events in the coming weeks,” the Deputy Speaker says.

[MORE](#)

COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS REPORTS: COSAC PUT UKRAINE HIGH ON THE AGENDA

The delegation of the Seimas Committee on European Affairs led by Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee, took part in the 51st Plenary Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (LI COSAC), held in Athens on 15–17 June 2014. The meeting agenda included the issues of Ukraine, promotion of youth employment, European elections, democratic legitimacy, etc.

Gediminas Kirkilas welcomed the successful Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union and expressed gratitude to Greece for putting the vital issue of Ukraine on the agenda of the COSAC meeting.

[MORE](#)

ARTŪRAS PAULAUSKAS, CHAIR OF THE SEIMAS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE: EXERCISE SABRE STRIKE IS A NATO GUARANTEE TO LITHUANIA

On 17 June 2014, the Chair of the Seimas Committee on National Security and Defence observed Sabre Strike 2014, the largest international military exercise in Lithuania, where Lithuanian troops were improving their operational capacity together with the allies from Denmark, the United States of America, and Poland. The demonstrational operation served as an example of interoperability among diverse military equipment, such as helicopters, heavy armoured vehicles and battle tanks Leopard 2 – the best tanks in the world, and as a test of various skills soldiers need in implementing joint tasks.

“It is by far the largest exercise held in Lithuania. It serves as a guarantee to Lithuania that we are members of NATO, the strongest alliance in the world, and that this organisation is ready to fulfil its commitments to Allies. After threats have emerged, NATO came immediately bringing its military equipment here and organised military trainings and engaged in joint drills with Lithuanian soldiers. This demonstrates that NATO takes the emerging threats seriously and is ready to act if need may be,” the Chair of the Committee on National Security and Defence said.

[MORE](#)

THE SEIMAS COMMITTEES WELCOME PEACE PLAN TABLED BY PETRO POROSHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

The Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, welcome the peace plan tabled by Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, which is aimed at restoring security and stability in the country, stabilising the security situation in eastern Ukraine and facilitating de-escalation of the situation.

[MORE](#)

EVENTS

EUROPEAN WEEK AT THE SEIMAS

The Seimas committees and the European Information Office of the Seimas have been holding the traditional discussions European Week for the eleventh consecutive year. In 2014, discussions are dedicated to the 10th anniversary of Lithuania's membership in the European Union (EU). Discussions organised by the Seimas committees are a great opportunity for the public to learn more about Lithuania's membership in the EU, activities of parliamentary committees, and the Seimas work related to EU affairs. The discussions bring together Seimas members and staff of the Office of the Seimas, members of the European Parliament from Lithuania, ministerial and other public officials, university professors, students, non-governmental organisations, communities, interest groups, and media. All events are broadcast live on the TV channel Seimas Live, websites www.lrs.lt and www.eib.lrs.lt that also provide access to videos and reports.

DISCUSSIONS IN 2014:

- 16 April**, "What kind of the Lithuanian and European Historical Memory Is to Be Shaped in the Current Geopolitical Context" by the Committee on Education, Science and Culture
- 23 April**, "Ensuring the Rights of Asylum Seekers: Practical Problems" by the Committee on Human Rights
- 30 April**, "Cyberspace Security: Present and Future" by the Committee on the Development of Information Society
- 30 April**, "Is the Will of the Nation Bound by EU Membership Commitments?" by the Committee on Legal Affairs
- 7 May**, "Present Status and Prospects of Organic Farming" by the Committee on Rural Affairs
- 14 May**, "Environmental Issues at the Heart of EU Policies" by the Committee on Environment Protection
- 14 May**, "10th Anniversary of Lithuania's Membership of the EU: Present and Prospects" by the Committee on European Affairs
- 16 May**, "Innovation and New Opportunities for Regional Development during the 2014–2020 EU Funding Programming Period" by the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities
- 21 May**, "Law on the Euro Adoption in the Republic of Lithuania and its Current Implementation" by the Committee on Budget and Finance
- 23 May**, "EU Relations with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine after Conclusion of the Association Agreements: from Partnership towards Membership?" by the Committee on Foreign Affairs
- 28 May**, "EU Social Guarantees: Lithuania's Case" by the Committee on Social Affairs and Labour
- 4 June**, "Energy Security and Sustainable Development" by the Committee on Economics
- 6 June**, "Evolution of EU Defence Policy during Ten Years of Membership" by the Committee on Audit
- 11 June**, "EU Regional Investment: Decade's Achievements and Goals for 2020" by the Committee on Audit

SEIMAS COMMEMORATES THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY IN PIRČIUPIAI VILLAGE



On 3 June 2014, the Seimas has commemorated the 70th anniversary of the tragedy in Pirčiupiai Village. Seimas Speaker Loreta Graužinienė recalled that during World War II, on 3 June 1944, the Nazi invaders burned alive 119 residents of Pirčiupiai Village. “Decades have passed, but the pain caused by the brutal murder of innocent people has never worn off. Women, men, and half a hundred children were burned alive. This unfathomable cruelty reminds us of the great price that our nation has paid fighting without surrender and going through massacres, deportations, and physical and spiritual genocide. By remembering the names of the people tortured and killed not only in Pirčiupiai Village, but

also throughout Lithuania, let us treasure independence and peace and a chance to create a safe and secure future for our country,” said the Speaker of the Seimas inviting parliamentarians to observe a minute of silence in honour of those who died.

[MORE](#)

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, DALIA GRYBAUSKAITĖ, HAS RECEIVED PRESIDENT’S CERTIFICATE EVIDENCING HER RE-ELECTION AS HEAD OF STATE

5 June 2014



Dalia Grybauskaitė was re-elected as President for a second term in a runoff vote held on 25 May 2014. The incumbent head of state was supported by 57.9 per cent of voters.

CERTIFICATES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA AND MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PRESENTED AT THE SEIMAS



Certificates of Members of the European Parliament were presented in the Exhibition Gallery of the Seimas on 6 June 2014.

The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) announced the election of eleven persons to the European Parliament: Petras Auštrevičius, Zigmantas Balčytis, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Antanas Guoga, Ramūnas Karbauskis, Gabrielius Landsbergis, Valentinas Mazuronis, Rolandas Paksas, Algirdas Saudargas, Valdemaras Tomaševskis, and Viktoras Uspaskich. CEC has responded to the request of Ramūnas Karbauskis and terminated his mandate as MEP. His mandate has been given over to Bronius Ropė, member of the Lithuanian Peasant and Greens Union.

SEIMAS DEPUTY SPEAKER, GEDIMINAS KIRKILAS, WELCOMED THE PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS OF THE FORUM ON TERMINOLOGY OF INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES OF THE EU AND THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



On 6 June 2014, Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, welcomed the participants and guests of the Forum on Terminology of Institutions and Agencies of the EU and the Republic of Lithuania held in the Seimas.

The Deputy Speaker stressed that a decade ago the Lithuanian language entered a significant, albeit sometimes scarcely noticeable and appreciated, stage of development, which offered new directions and opportunities to the language and terminology in particular.

MORE

SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF MOURNING AND HOPE AND THE DAY OF OCCUPATION AND GENOCIDE AT THE HALL OF THE ACT OF 11 MARCH



Commemorating the Day of Mourning and Hope and the Day of Occupation and Genocide on 14 June 2014, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania held a solemn commemoration at the Hall of the Act of 11 March to mark the first Soviet occupation and mass deportations. The participants of the event observed a minute of silence in honour of the dead and tortured to death in deportation and all those who died for the cause of Lithuania's Freedom.

The event was addressed by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, Rev. Gintaras Vitkus, Jesuit Provincial for Latvia and Lithuania, Members of the Seimas and former deportees Vida Marija Čigriejienė, Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis, Vincė Vaidevutė Margevičienė and Juozas Olekas; Ramunė Driaučiūnaitė, member of the organisation Lemtis that organised first expeditions to places of imprisonment and deportation of political prisoners, and Matas Kasperavičius, member of expedition Mission Siberia in 2013.



In her speech, Loreta Graužinienė noted that during the past 73 years, a number of new generations grew up in Lithuania, but the tragic events of June 1941 kept our hearts in distress. She said deportations were “a meticulously drafted plan of moral defeat and massacre of the nation at work. Labour camps and prisons were packed with people in pain and despair from torture and starvation. The survivors can still hear the rumble of the cattle cars; their hearts are still in horror and despair over the loss of their loved ones and over the crippled destinies”. The Speaker stressed that memories of the deportees were part and parcel of our nation's history we had no right to forget. “Lithuania's people managed to resist repression, deportation, massacre and imprisonment. The love for their homeland, faith, hope, and resistance to the current situation inspired them to resist and fight. It is now up to us to pass on the experience of our parents and grandparents to future generations, so that young people stand on their dignity in support for the cause of Lithuania's Freedom and Independence”.

Speech by Speaker of the Seimas

TEXT

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

DESIGN

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*