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PARLIAMENTARY BUSSINES

DALIA GRYBAUSKAITĖ, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA DELIVERED THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN THE SEIMAS



At the Seimas sitting on 4 June 2015, Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, delivered the sixth State of the Nation Address. As enshrined in Article 84 of the Constitution, the President makes annual reports on the situation in Lithuania and the domestic and foreign policies of the Republic of Lithuania.

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THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS CONSIDERED THE EUROPEAN AGENDA ON MIGRATION PROPOSED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On 10 June 2015, the Seimas Committee on European Affairs considered the European Agenda on Migration, proposed by the European Commission, and the issue of asylum seekers and displaced persons from third countries in Lithuania.

When adopting its decision, the Committee took into consideration the conclusions submitted by five committees of the Seimas, namely, the Committee on National Security and Defence, the Committee on Legal Affairs, the Committee on Social Affairs and Labour, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Human Rights.

The Committee on European Affairs considers the illegal migration across the borders of the EU to be a major challenge to the policies of the Union and EU Member States. The situation in the South of the EU due to illegal mass migration from conflict zones is difficult and requires an immediate response.

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SEIMAS ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON CIVIL PROTECTION CONCERNING PUBLIC WARNING

To ensure adequate implementation of the project titled Development of the public warning and informing system using the infrastructure of the public mobile operators' network, the Seimas on 18 June 2015, adopted European amendments to the Law on Civil Protection. Now, public mobile network operators in Lithuania will be obliged to maintain, at their own expense, the infrastructure/technological service for the warning devices installed by the Fire and Rescue Department to alert the population within Lithuania's borders in case of any imminent or actual emergency.

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RELEVANT SECURITY AND DEFENCE ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE SITTING OF THE SEIMAS

On June 18, 2015 a discussion was held at the Seimas plenary sitting focussing on the implementation of the provisions of the Accord between the political parties represented in the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on strategic guidelines for the foreign, security and defence policy of the Republic of Lithuania for 2014–2020 as well as on topical foreign policy, security and defence policy issues.

While presenting an overview of the implementation of strategic guidelines for the foreign, security and defence policy, the Chair of the Seimas Committee on National Security and Defence, Artūras Paulauskas, suggested considering whether the call-up for obligatory military service should run longer than for five years; making a decision to introduce military patriotic education at school, and reducing exclusion among social groups and the ethnic minorities residing in Lithuania. "We have received information that Russia is not currently capable of initiating a military conflict against NATO, however <...> Western countries do not fully perceive that we live in a hybrid war zone. This implies that in the future we should explicitly agree within NATO that an information, cyber or any other attack equals to an armed attack and this would mean activation of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty," Mr Paulauskas said.

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INFORMATION ON SECRET COLLABORATION WITH THE SOVIET SPECIAL SERVICES TO BE KEPT SECRET FOR 75 YEARS

On 30 2015 June, the Seimas adopted the amendment to the Law on Registering, Confession, Entry into Records and Protection of Persons Who Have Admitted to Secret Collaboration with Special Services of the Former USSR (draft No XIIP-3061(2)). It aims at protecting the interests of the persons who voluntarily admitted to secret collaboration with the secret services. The amendment received 80 votes in favour, with 12 votes against and 17 abstentions. The Law stipulates that information on the persons who have admitted to collaboration and been entered into registry is kept secret for 75 years.

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SEIMAS EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR ITS DETERMINED POLICY OF NON-RECOGNITION OF THE OCCUPATION OF THE BALTIC STATES

On 30 June, at its plenary sitting, the Seimas unanimously adopted the Resolution regarding the marking of the 75th anniversary of the Statement by the United States Department of State concerning the non-recognition of the occupation of the Baltic States.

In this document, the Seimas stresses the significance of the 23 July 1940 Statement of the United States Department of State regarding the non-recognition of the occupation of the Baltic States and expresses gratitude to the United States of America for its continued and determined policy of non-recognition of the occupation of the Baltic States.

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THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS SPOKE OUT FOR MORE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON REFUGEE MATTERS

At its meeting on 30 June 2015, the Seimas Committee on Human Rights considered the Communication from the Commission, the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2015–2020) (hereinafter referred to as the Action Plan). The Committee welcomed the measures under the Action Plan aimed to combat the smuggling of migrants. The Committee noted that every effort must be made to dismantle organised criminal networks and protect people from risk, inhuman conditions and exploitation during travel. The Committee also welcomed the proposal to enhance the cooperation with third countries in both detecting criminal networks and disseminating information on the risks associated with smuggling. The Committee stressed the need to enhance the effectiveness of the EU's system for returning illegal immigrants, which would help to reduce the incentives for migrants to enter the EU illegally. The Committee approved the position of the Republic of Lithuania drafted by the Ministry of the Interior as regards the Action Plan.

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SEIMAS CLOSED ITS SPRING SESSION

On 30 June, the Seimas closed its 6th regular (spring) session that started on 10 March 2015. During the session, the parliamentarians convened for 50 plenary sittings where they adopted about 400 legal acts.

Given the geopolitical situation, the Seimas mainly focused on national security and defence matters in its spring session. Considerable attention was also paid to law enforcement, municipal, financial, economic, health care, social security, and other relevant issues. This session saw the delivery of the annual State of the Nation Address by Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and the Annual Performance Report of the Government.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SEIMAS SPEAKER BADE FAREWELL TO THE OUTGOING UK AMBASSADOR



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, received David Hunt, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, ending his term of office in Lithuania this month. The meeting focused on cooperation of the two countries in various fields. The Seimas Speaker said that Lithuania extremely welcomed the good bilateral relations and was interested in further strengthening cooperation with the United Kingdom. According to the head of parliament, both countries shared positions on many economic, international and security issues.

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SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: “LUXEMBOURG MUST UNDERTAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ACCELERATE RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS WITH THE EASTERN PARTNERS BY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES”



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, visited Luxembourg taking over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from July.

On 11 June 2015, at the plenary sitting of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, the Seimas delegation headed by the Lithuanian Speaker was first to hear the priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency.

At the meeting with Mars di Bartolomeo, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Ms Graužinienė discussed security policy, bilateral relations and key items on the EU agenda of the second half of the year. →



“Lithuania is interested in ensuring a proper dialogue with Luxembourg as the Presidency of the Council of the EU in order to maintain continuity. For furthering the Eastern Partnership, Luxembourg must responsibly take the initiative to encourage the European countries that have not yet ratified the association agreements with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova to do so before the end of this year,” said the Speaker of the Seimas.

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LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, MET WITH JOHN BOEHNER, SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



On his visit to Lithuania, John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, on 27 June 2015, attended the official reception hosted by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania.

In her welcome speech to the high officials, the Speaker of the Seimas spoke of the importance of the visit, notably at the time when Lithuania marks the 25th anniversary of the restoration of its independence. Mrs Graužinienė expressed sincere gratitude to the United States of America for its position during the Soviet occupation and the current difficult period: “The United States of America never recognised the

occupation of Lithuania, which ruthlessly deleted Lithuania from the map of the world and used all possible means to break the spirit of our nation. We continuously felt that the United States was our unflinching partner. We feel this today as well, in the light of a difficult geopolitical situation.”

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LEADERS OF THE SEIMAS DISCUSSED SECURITY POLICY ISSUES WITH JOHN BOEHNER, SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the delegation under his leadership on 29 June 2015, met with the leaders of the Seimas and members of the Seimas committees during his visit to Lithuania at the invitation of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. The meeting, which lasted over an hour, focused on bilateral cooperation, security policy and energy security.

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EVENTS

SEIMAS MARKED THE DAY OF MOURNING AND HOPE AND THE DAY OF OCCUPATION AND GENOCIDE



On 15 June 2015, the Seimas held a solemn sitting to pay tribute to the victims of the Soviet occupation and genocide and to mark the Day of Mourning and Hope.

Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, emphasised that the cruel occupation of 1940 and the cynical and planned genocide of the Lithuanian nation irreversibly and substantially changed our nation's life. The life of the nation which once, for more than two decades, lived an independent life, built its own state, introduced modern innovations, and brought to the world a talented generation of scientists, literary creators, and artists.



“With the help of the intelligentsia, the first independent Lithuania built a civil society which had a strong sense of ownership of their language and culture; they were learning about the majestic history of the Lithuanian nation and had a strong sense of their national identity and respect for freedom as an essential value of humanity. That society gave birth to and raised the generation which would have rather chosen an honourable death than blind slavery,” Mrs Graužinienė noted.

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[Speech by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, at the solemn commemoration to mark the Days of Mourning and Hope and of Occupation and Genocide](#)

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, WISHED THAT HOPE OF ALL THE PEOPLE EXPOSED TO VICISSITUDES OF THE OCCUPATION SOUNDED LIKE A PRAYER TODAY AND ALWAYS



When commemorating the Day of Mourning and Hope and the Day of Occupation and Genocide on 15 June 2015, a solemn flag hoisting ceremony was held in Independence Square next to the buildings of the Seimas. Shortly before noon, a minute of silence was observed in honour of the victims of the occupation and all those who gave their lives for Lithuania's freedom and independence. The Speaker of the Seimas, Loreta Graužinienė, noted that this was the day when we recalled one of the most painful periods of the Lithuanian history — a 50 year-long occupation and massive genocide of the Lithuanian people. “The Soviet occupation ruthlessly erased the State of Lithuania from the world map and tried to break the spirit of our nation in every way possible. People were mutilated and tortured to death in KGB prisons, deported and murdered in forced labour camps. Peaceful families were torn apart; close ones were snatched away from native home...,” Mrs Graužinienė said.

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PHOTO MOMENTS



Members of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs and of the Committee on European Affairs met with Branko Radulović, Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro. 10 June 2015.
Photo by Džoja Gunda Barysaitė, Office of the Seimas.



Meeting between the representatives of the NATO Defense College and Artūras Paulauskas, Chair of the Seimas Committee on National Security and Defence. 17 June 2015.



Members of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs and of the Committee on National Security and Defence met with the delegation of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania led by Laszlo Borbely, Chairperson of the Committee. 22 June 2015.



For more photos of the June 2015 events and meetings, see [here](#).

TEXT

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