

IN THE ISSUE

- INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AMONG INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICIES
- THE SEIMAS HOSTS THE JUBILEE 50TH COSAC MEETING
- SEIMAS EMBARKED ON DELIBERATIONS ON THE STATE BUDGET FOR 2014
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ: IT IS TIME UKRAINE MAKES A DECISION
- THE SEIMAS COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS WELCOMES LITHUANIA'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Lithuanian Presidency
of the Council of the EU
Parliamentary Dimension

LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION 1 JULY — 31 DECEMBER 2013



INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AMONG INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICIES



On 16 October, the fifth event of the parliamentary dimension of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) – Interparliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance of the European Union – began at the Seimas lasting for two days. At the opening session of the Interparliamentary Conference co-chaired by Bronius Bradauskas, Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance, and Remigijus Žemaitaitis, Chair of the Committee on Economics, the welcome address was given by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, and the welcome letter

of Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, was read out.

Speaker of the Seimas Loreta Graužinienė stated that the Conference would provide new opportunities for strengthening cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament as well as among other EU institutions responsible for implementing economic and financial policies in the EU. “As you know, sometimes European citizens and their directly elected representatives feel distanced from decision-making in Brussels and Strasbourg. We who have gathered today for the session of the newly established Interparliamentary Conference have an excellent opportunity to fill in this gap,” said Mrs Graužinienė.

[READ MORE](#)

More about the event

PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: INTERNET HAS TO BECOME AN EFFICIENT TOOL FOR INVESTIGATING CRIMES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



An international conference titled Exploring the Links between the Internet and Trafficking in Human Beings: Cyber space for Prevention, not Recruitment dedicated to the EU Anti-Trafficking Day has started in the Seimas Conference Hall on 18 October 2013.

[READ MORE](#)

More about the event

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE: EUROPE NEEDS A SOCIAL RESPONSE - WILL THE EU MEET THE CHALLENGE?



84 million Europeans live below the poverty line and 26 million are unemployed. The economic and financial crisis has turned into a social and democratic one and only 31% of Europeans trust the EU. Is the EU ready to respond to its citizens' expectations and concerns?

On 23 October, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) held a high-level conference in Vilnius to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the EU and the need for an equitable, social and accountable Europe.

Under the auspices of the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU, representatives of European civil society and the Lithuanian authorities explored new ways to protect the European social model and help it recover. Economic stimulus must be accompanied by social measures. All participants agreed that democratic and political legitimacy were at stake.

More about the event

[READ MORE](#)

THE SEIMAS HOSTS THE JUBILEE 50TH COSAC MEETING



The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania hosted 50th Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (L COSAC). Its participants have been invited to watch a video about the Hall of the Act of 11 March which witnessed the re-establishment of Lithuania's independence twenty years ago.

Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, who is presiding over the Meeting, has welcomed the participants and informed them that the Meeting is being translated from and into all 24 official languages of the European Union.



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, delivered a welcome address in the morning and acknowledged it was a big honour for Lithuania to host the jubilee, historical 50th Meeting of COSAC. It was back on 16–17 November 1989 that the first COSAC Meeting was held in the National Assembly of the French Republic. Mr Laurent Fabius, founder of COSAC, former President of the National Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, is taking part in the 50th Meeting of COSAC.

"I am utterly convinced, COSAC plays a crucial role in ensuring regular and effective inter-institutional dialogue between the national level and the EU level," Mrs Graužinienė said. "I therefore expect that COASC will further develop and strengthen its position in the EU architecture. I hope that we will succeed in employing the opportunities envisaged in Article 10 of Protocol 1 of the Treaty of Lisbon more efficiently, and in developing more enhanced cooperation among national Parliaments, the European Parliament and other EU institutions," the Speaker said.

[READ MORE](#)

COSAC WOMEN'S FORUM SET UP DURING THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY



The COSAC Women's Forum was set up during the 50th Jubilee Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (L COSAC) hosted by the Seimas. The participants of the COSAC Women's Forum adopted the declaration on the establishment of the COSAC Women's Forum which emphasises the necessity to draw the attention of the European political parties to the issues of gender equality, equal opportunities policy, gender balance within society and more active participation of women in politics.

More about the event

[READ MORE](#)

PARLIAMENTARY BUSSINES

THE SEIMAS HAS SHORTENED TERMS FOR CONSIDERATION OF RESIDENCE PERMIT REQUESTS

At its plenary meeting, the Seimas amended the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens (draft No. XIIP-4566(2), setting more favourable conditions for issuing residence permits to persons of Lithuanian origin and those entitled to restore the citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania under the Law on Citizenship.

Under the amended law, these persons will no longer be required to have adequate means of subsistence, own residential premises in the Republic of Lithuania or use residential premises under a lease agreement, have a valid document evidencing health insurance coverage for the period of their residence in the Republic of Lithuania, and submit a list of visits and stays in foreign countries.

[READ MORE](#)

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON 11 MAY 2014 AND MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL BE ELECTED ON 25 MAY 2014

The Seimas was unanimous in adopting its Resolution On the Date of the Presidential Election in Lithuania (Draft No XIIP-1046) and Resolution on the Date of the European Parliament Election (Draft No XIIP-1047) where, in line with Paragraph 4 of Article 67 and Article 80 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and Article 7 of the Law on Elections to the European Parliament, the Seimas set 11 May 2014 as the date of the presidential election in Lithuania and announced that 25 May 2014 would be the date of the European Parliament elections in the Republic of Lithuania.

[READ MORE](#)

SEIMAS EMBARKED ON DELIBERATIONS ON THE STATE BUDGET FOR 2014



Rimantas Šadžius, Minister of Finance, presented to the Seimas the draft Law on the Approval of the Financial Indicators of the 2014 State Budget and the Municipal Budgets (No. XIIP-1097), proposing to endorse the state budget revenue of nearly LTL 26 billion, representing a 0.9 % increase on 2013, and to approve over LTL 26.8 billion in expenditure.

[READ MORE](#)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GEORGIA IS ON THE RIGHT PATH TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

On her first official visit to Tbilisi, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with David Usupashvili, Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia. She welcomes the wish of Georgia to approximate to the European Union to the largest extent and as soon as possible. The Speaker of the Seimas said that Georgia had done substantial work in the course of EU integration, therefore it naturally had high expectations of the Eastern Partnership Summit to be held in Vilnius in November. In the opinion of the Speaker of the Seimas, we – Lithuania and the EU – also have high expectations. It is so because we have always considered Georgia and its people as real and true friends and allies of Lithuania.

[READ MORE](#)

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, URGES THE PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA TO SEEK COMPROMISE BETWEEN VARIOUS POLITICAL FORCES



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Georgia, in Tbilisi. The Speaker urged the President to seek compromise between various political forces. Otherwise, it will be much more difficult to speed up the progress towards European integration. The Speaker of the Seimas assured the President that Lithuania will support progressive aspirations of Georgia.

[READ MORE](#)

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ: IT IS TIME UKRAINE MAKES A DECISION



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, has met with Pat Cox, Special Envoy of the European Parliament Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. “Having listened to Mr Cox, it is clear that time for talks is over, Ukraine must now start acting in order to fulfil all the conditions before Vilnius Summit. It is obvious that Ukraine has made its choice to move towards Europe, however we see that not everything had been done yet, including the case of Yulia Tymoshenko,” Mrs Graužinienė said.

[READ MORE](#)

THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS WELCOMES LITHUANIA’S MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

During its sitting on 23 October 2013, the Committee on Foreign Affairs was briefed by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Lithuanian membership of the Security Council of the United Nations for 2014–2015. The Committee also adopted a statement whereby the Committee on Foreign Affairs, commending the achievement of the Lithuanian diplomacy, “welcomes Lithuania’s election as non-permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations for 2014–2015.

[READ MORE](#)

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ MET WITH US AMBASSADOR DEBORAH ANN MCCARTHY



The affairs discussed at the meeting between Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, and Deborah Ann McCarthy, US Ambassador, were the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, energy security, Eastern Partnership, Lithuanian defence budget and Lithuania’s role as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

[READ MORE](#)

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: RELATIONS BETWEEN ITALY AND LITHUANIA ARE IMPROVING



The Speaker of the Seimas, Loreta Graužinienė, met with the Italian Ambassador to Lithuania, Stefano Taliani de Marchio. The Speaker noted that after the case of Villa Lituania had been resolved, it was easier for the Lithuanian diplomatic corps to work in Italy. She said, “Cooperation between Italy and Lithuania can be successful in many fields, therefore I support the idea of closer cooperation between the Italian and Lithuanian Parliaments.”

The Ambassador of Italy passed a letter from the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Laura Boldrini, to the Speaker of the Seimas. The letter contains the assurance of the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies of her readiness to strengthen mutual relations between the two countries and hope of meeting the Speaker of the Seimas in the near future.

[READ MORE](#)

Text

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

Design

Neringa Motiejūnaitė, tel: +370 5 239 6204, e-mail: neringa.motiejunaite@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