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PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS: LITHUANIA HAS MADE PROGRESS IN DECOMMISSIONING IGNALINA NPP

Lithuania has made real progress in decommissioning Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (PP), ensuring process safety and organising spent nuclear fuel storage. This was stated during the meeting of the Seimas Committee on European Affairs where an independent study titled Nuclear decommissioning: Management of costs and risks ordered by the Budgetary Control Committee of the European Parliament was presented to its members.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

LITHUANIAN POLITICIANS EXPRESS THEIR POSITION CONCERNING THE EVENTS IN UKRAINE



Speaker of the Seimas calls on the Ukrainian authorities to stop violence

Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, has expressed deep condolences to the families of the perished Ukrainians and called on the Ukrainian authorities to immediately end the bloodshed.

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Statement of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Developments in Ukraine

Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, congratulates the newly elected Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, congratulated Oleksandr Turchynov on his election as Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. "May I extend my sincere congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. As I, together with the delegation of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, was visiting Kiev and making a speech on the stage of a peaceful Maidan on 26 November last year, both you and I had faith in a sincere and strong pro-European choice of the people of Ukraine. Three months later, the efforts and determination of the people brought huge changes for Ukraine and an even greater responsibility for you as Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine," Mrs Graužinienė wrote in her letter of congratulations.

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Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, wishes perseverance and determination to the new leader of the Ukrainian Government

Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, congratulated Arseny Yatsenyuk, the newly appointed Prime Minister of Ukraine. "May I congratulate you upon assuming this post at a special and particularly responsible period of time for your country. I highly value the responsibility you have undertaken for the Ukrainian nation and believe that your efforts and persistent work will help Ukraine in proceeding further along the way of democracy", said the Speaker.

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Statement on Measures to Stop Russia's Aggression Against Ukraine

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ MET WITH THE NEW LATVIAN PM



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, hosted the newly elected Latvian Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma who paid an official visit to Lithuania. Bilateral relations between Latvia and Lithuania were discussed at the meeting. “I am happy to note that the relations between Lithuania and Latvia are wonderful. A number of common strategic projects are being implemented, which contributes to strengthening both economic and cultural relations between our countries,” said the Speaker.

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LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: POLISH–LITHUANIAN RELATIONS SHOULD BE REINFORCED



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Aleksander Kwaśniewski, former President of the Republic of Poland, to discuss the bilateral relations between Lithuania and Poland. “Lithuanian–Polish relations need to be good. There is no other way. We are neighbours; we must address the issues that are currently preventing our countries from fully focusing on the strategic and mutually beneficial projects in the areas of transport, energy, and other domains,” the Speaker of the Seimas said.

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SEIMAS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS KIRKILAS BELIEVES THAT THE CRISIS PROVED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL DIMENSION IN THE EU



“The economic and financial crisis which hit Europe a few years ago showed that despite the fact that historically many EU Member States and the EU itself focused on building and strengthening a welfare state, the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union needs to be further reinforced as until now joint efforts have been insufficient,” said Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, in response to the Communication of the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Strengthening the Social Dimension of the Economic and

Monetary Union and the related European Council conclusions adopted in December 2013.

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COMMUNICATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: EASTERN PARTNERSHIP REMAINS A PRIORITY OF THE LITHUANIAN EU POLICY

Adoption of effective EU-level decisions to manage the situation in Ukraine, support Moldova and Georgia (which currently are the Eastern Partnership leaders) in their efforts to sign the EU Association and Free Trade Agreements before August remains among the priorities of the Lithuanian EU policy.

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GEDIMINAS KIRKILAS: LITHUANIA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT KOSOVO’S INTEGRATION INTO EUROPE



Lithuania continues to support Kosovo’s integration into Europe and its efforts to build a free, secure, democratic and prosperous state. On 17 February, Kosovo marked the 6th anniversary of its independence and Lithuania welcomes substantial progress towards European integration the country has made in recent years. This was reiterated by Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, at the meeting of 24 February with Ilir Dugolli, the new Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Lithuania residing in Stockholm, Sweden.

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16 February – Day of Restoration of Lithuania's Independence**WINNERS OF THE LITHUANIAN NATIONAL CULTURE AND ART PRIZE 2013 HONOURED AT THE SEIMAS ON THE DAY OF RESTORATION OF THE STATE OF LITHUANIA**

An event to honour the winners of the Lithuanian National Culture and Art Prize 2013 and present their creative achievements was held at the Seimas on 16 February 2014.



The National Culture and Art Prize 2013 has been awarded to the following artists: cameraman **Jonas Gričius**, for creating the rudiments of the Lithuanian cinema poetics, for the highest visual culture in cinematography and for professional conscience; actor **Donatas Banionis**, for continuing the legend of Juozas Miltinis' Drama Theatre in contemporary theatre and cinema; composer **Faustas Latėnas**, for giving sound to the Lithuanian theatre; for music as a fully-fledged participant in theatrical action; composer **Giedrius Antanas Kuprevičius**, for a wide scope of musical expression from a musical to an opera and ballet; writer **Vladas Braziūnas**, for poetic discoveries while plunging into the treasures of the Lithuanian language and the Baltic world-view; actor **Juozas Budraitis**, for his creative work extending broad in culture; for innovative and intellectual acting; and for opening a window to Lithuania.



Ms **Loreta Graūžinienė**, the Speaker of the Seimas, congratulated the Prize winners and noted that the Lithuanian nation is not just a particularly strong and persistent nation but also a rich nation. "Having paid a high price for our Independence, having sacrificed so much, we now live in a free state and enjoy equal rights alongside with other nations of the world. We have preserved and cherished our language and our traditions and today we are marching across the world with our tricolor flag raised high, proud of our achievements. We can also regard ourselves rich because over the course of the past decades we have nurtured a big number of prominent personalities – talents who are now promoting the name of Lithuania and who are gemstones of our nation," said the Speaker.

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DISCUSSION AT THE SEIMAS IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY BETWEEN LITHUANIA AND POLAND

The Seimas hosted a discussion titled Lithuanian-Polish Relations: **Challenges and Opportunities** which took place in Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas Hall (Building 1) on Thursday, 27 February 2014. Aleksander Kwaśniewski, former President of the Republic of Poland, also took part in the discussion. The discussion, which was initiated by Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, is one of the series of events dedicated to mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Good Neighbourly Cooperation between Poland and Lithuania. The Treaty was signed by Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and Lech Wałęsa, President of the Republic of Poland, at the Constitution Hall of the Seimas, Vilnius, on 26 April 1994.

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