

[www.lrs.lt](http://www.lrs.lt)

- **SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS URGED LITHUANIAN DIPLOMATS TO USE ALL INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION POSSIBILITIES IN FOSTERING CONTACTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES**
- **SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF LATVIA**
- **SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, AT NB8: “THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE UKRAINE IN EUROPE AND MORE EUROPE IN UKRAINE”**
- **SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS ATTENDED THE TENTH MEETING OF WOMEN SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT IN NEW YORK**

## PARLIAMENTARY BUSSINES

### SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS MET WITH THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE



On 1 July 2015, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Philippe Jeantaud, the new Ambassador of France to the Republic of Lithuania. The Speaker welcomed the Ambassador to Lithuania and expressed her hope that the excellent relations between Lithuania and France would be developed further. During the meeting, the new Ambassador and the Speaker of the Seimas discussed the economic, cultural, educational, and social matters.

[MORE](#)

### SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS URGED LITHUANIAN DIPLOMATS TO USE ALL INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION POSSIBILITIES IN FOSTERING CONTACTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES



On 2 July 2015, the Speaker of the Seimas, Loreta Graužinienė, held a working breakfast with heads of Lithuania's diplomatic representations. The Speaker thanked ambassadors for their efforts in representing Lithuania in other countries and wished success in searching for new forms and possibilities of cooperation.

[MORE](#)

## SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS BADE FAREWELL TO THE OUTGOING LATVIAN AMBASSADOR



On 2 July 2015, the Speaker of the Seimas, Loreta Graužinienė, received the outgoing Latvian Ambassador, Mārtiņš Virsis. In the meeting, the leader of the parliament commended the long-established friendly relations between Lithuania and Latvia, as well as active and increased cooperation between the parliaments of both countries.

[MORE](#)

## SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF LATVIA



On 13 July 2015, the Speaker of the Seimas, Loreta Graužinienė, had a meeting with a new President of the Republic of Latvia, Raimonds Vējonis, who was on his visit to Lithuania. "It is especially gratifying to know that the President of Latvia has sound knowledge of the parliamentary dimension. I have previously had many contacts with the President in the format of the Baltic Assembly. I hope that the President of Latvia, being well aware of the possibilities offered by the parliamentary activities, will continue the work already under way in his capacity as Head of State," Mrs Graužinienė said.

[MORE](#)

## SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS BADE FAREWELL TO THE OUTGOING AMBASSADOR OF UKRAINE



On 14 July 2015, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, received Valerii Zhovtenko, Ambassador of Ukraine, ending his term of office in Lithuania. The Speaker thanked the Ambassador for the cooperation in maintaining active relations with Ukraine and assured him that Lithuania would remain a committed partner of Ukraine on its road to European integration and would give full support to Ukraine in settling the conflict with Russia and overcoming the complex economic situation.

[MORE](#)

## LORETA GRAUŽINIENĖ, SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, AT NB8: "THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE UKRAINE IN EUROPE AND MORE EUROPE IN UKRAINE"



On 20 August, 2015 at the Conference of the Speakers of the Nordic and Baltic Parliaments (NB8) held in Stockholm, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, called on the European countries to form a strong and effective alliance in support of Ukraine.

The Lithuanian Speaker, who was on a visit to Ukraine last week, presented the positive developments in the fight against corruption, progress made on visa facilitation with the European Union (EU), and other ongoing relevant reforms in Ukraine. She stressed that the Western countries must maintain sanctions against Russia and provide Ukraine with comprehensive assistance.

"Despite the continuing Russian aggression that hampers viable governmental initiatives, Ukraine should be more focussed on reforms, the fight against corruption, improvement of business environment, consolidation of society, and tackling humanitarian challenges. Meanwhile, we, the Nordic and Baltic Parliaments, must continue to consistently share our practices of democracy, governance and progressive reforms with Ukraine," underscored Mrs Graužinienė.

[MORE](#)

## A MEMORIAL PLAQUE UNVEILED ON THE ISLAND OF GOTLAND (SWEDEN) TO COMMEMORATE THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGENDARY COMMUNIQUE



On 21 August 2015, a commemoration of the 26th anniversary of the historical meeting of Lithuanians from all over the world and adoption of the Gotland Communiqué, which paved the way to the Act of the 11 March, was held in the manor house of Katthamragarden located in Katthammarvik on the island of Gotland in Sweden.

[MORE](#)

## SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS MET FIBA PRESIDENT



On 24 August 2015, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Horacio Muratore, FIBA President, on his first visit in Lithuania. According to the FIBA President, during his visit he wanted to personally study the mystery of why Lithuania, a country with a population of a mere 3 million, had achieved so much in basketball and how this experience could be replicated in other federations. The Speaker of the Seimas commended the significant international acclaim of Lithuania in basketball, but said that the country still suffered from a lack of opportunities for all to engage in their favourite sports.

[MORE](#)

## CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS: LITHUANIA STRONGLY WELCOMES CONSISTENT BRITISH STANCE ON EU POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA



On 26 August 2015, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs, Gediminas Kirkilas, at his meeting with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) to Lithuania, Claire Lawrence, discussed bilateral relations, especially trade, security and international policy.

Mr Kirkilas underlined that Lithuania strongly welcomed the United Kingdom's contribution to the NATO air policing mission in Lithuania and supported the UK position on a comprehensive EU policy on Russia, to be continued until the latter retreats from Ukraine and radically changes its policy with regard to the Eastern partners. He also welcomed close cooperation between the parliaments of Lithuania and the UK.

[MORE](#)

## SEIMAS SPEAKER INVITED THE TENTH MEETING OF WOMEN SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT IN NEW YORK TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT ILLEGALLY IMPRISONED NADIIA SAVCHENKO



On 30 August, 2015 at the Tenth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament in New York, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, focussed on Russia's aggression against women in Ukraine. She invited the meeting to express solidarity with the Ukrainian woman military pilot and member of the parliament Nadiia Savchenko who was illegally captured and imprisoned in Russia.

[MORE](#)

## IN NEW YORK, THE SEIMAS SPEAKER STRESSED THE ROLE OF WORLD PARLIAMENTS FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY



Addressing the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, underlined the importance of national parliaments in dealing with peace and democracy issues worldwide seeking to contribute to positive changes.

[MORE](#)



[Speech by the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament at the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament General debate: Placing Democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable Development: Building the World the People Want](#)

## EVENTS

### WINNERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHESS TOURNAMENT LITHUANIA AND UKRAINE AWARDED



On 4 July 2015, a closing ceremony of the first children's chess tournament Lithuania and Ukraine to mark the State Day of Lithuania and the 25th anniversary of signature of the Declaration of Independence of Ukraine was held in the Seimas. The three-day international tournament was aimed at boosting the cooperation between Lithuania and Ukraine and promoting relations among young people of the two countries.

[MORE](#)

## PHOTO MOMENTS



*Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Andrew Baker, Director of International Jewish Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, and Faina Kukliansky, Chair of the Jewish Community of Lithuania. 1 July 2015*



*Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas met with Mykola Movchan, Vice Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine. 3 July 2015. Photo by Andrius Petrulevičius*



*Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas, Andrius Kubilius, Leader of the Opposition of the Seimas, and Povilas Gylys, Member of the Seimas, met with the delegation of the American–Lithuanian Business Council at the Seimas. 8 July 2015. Photo by Rimantas Stankevičius*



*Vydas Gedvilas, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, met with Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Brahim Khliil, Ambassador of Mauritania to Lithuania. 9 July 2015. Photo by Andrius Petrulevičius*



*Georges Faber, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Lithuania, presented the priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the EU from July to December 2015 to a joint meeting of the Committees on European Affairs and Foreign Affairs of the Seimas. Mārtiņš Virsis, Ambassador of Latvia to Lithuania, recalled the achievements of the outgoing Latvian Presidency from January to June 2015. 15 July 2015*



*Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, attended a public event “Together We Believe in Freedom” held to commemorate the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Sumner Welles Declaration in Washington Square, Vilnius. 23 July 2015. Photo by Andrius Petrulevičius*



*During her visit to Ukraine, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Mikheil Saakashvili, Governor of Odessa Oblast. 12 August 2015*



*During her visit to Ukraine, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Pavlo Klimkin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. 13 August 2015*



*Ronen Plot, Director General of the Knesset of the State of Israel, met with Daiva Raudonienė, Secretary General of the Seimas, and other staff of the Seimas Office. In the photo: Ronen Plot, Director General of the Knesset of the State of Israel, Daiva Raudonienė, Secretary General of the Seimas, and Amir Maimon, Ambassador of Israel. 19 August 2015*



*During the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in New York, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, was one out of ten leaders of world parliaments to receive an official invitation to working lunch by Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General. The ten invitees out of almost 180 conference participants represented different world continents. 31 August 2015*

*For more photos of the July-August 2015 events and meetings, see [here](#).*

---

## TEXT

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

## LAYOUT

Miglė Baltrūnaitė, tel: +370 5 239 6204, e-mail: [migle.baltrunaite@lrs.lt](mailto:migle.baltrunaite@lrs.lt)

## PHOTOGRAPH

Olga Posaškova, tel: +370 5 239 6205, e-mail: [olga.posaskova@lrs.lt](mailto:olga.posaskova@lrs.lt)

## Communications Department

Loreta Raulinaitytė, Director, tel: +370 5 239 6762, e-mail: [loreta.raulinityte@lrs.lt](mailto:loreta.raulinityte@lrs.lt)

## Public Relations Unit of the Communications Department

Artūras Zeleniakas, Head, tel: +370 5 239 6201; e-mail: [arturas.zeleniakas@lrs.lt](mailto: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](mailto:jolanta.anskaitiene@lrs.lt)*