



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

**COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS  
AND  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**DECISION  
ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
LITHUANIA ON UKRAINE AND LITHUANIA'S SUPPORT MEASURES FOR UKRAINE**

14 November 2014  
Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Committees), recalling the documents on Ukraine adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and its committees, and taking account of the Resolutions of the European Parliament on that subject, deliver their opinion on the fundamental principles of the position of the Republic of Lithuania on Ukraine and Lithuania's support measures for Ukraine.

The Committees support the policy of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Government) pursued in response to the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and to the threat posed to the security of all European Union (EU) and NATO member states. The Committees call on the Government to continue to be guided by the following key considerations in the formulation and implementation of the policy of the Republic of Lithuania towards Ukraine, and while expressing the position of the Republic of Lithuania regarding this matter in the EU, NATO, the United Nations Organisation, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and other international organisations and fora:

- to actively pursue the policy of support for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine; to stand firm regarding the non-recognition of the annexation of Crimea and to continue an active non-recognition campaign;

- to strongly condemn illegitimate elections in the territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine organised by illegal armed groups on 2 November 2014, as such elections represent a gross violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and are inconsistent with the international law and the Minsk agreement on ceasefire of 5 September 2014; consequently, the election results are null and void;

- to strongly support Ukraine's aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration, as well as its right and freedom to decide on its future, to choose foreign policies and to adopt decisions on accession to any international organisation or alliance without any external pressure;

- to support the granting of the EU membership perspective to Ukraine under Article 49 of the Treaty on the European Union and the implementation of necessary reforms so as to strengthen the cooperation between NATO and Ukraine and bring Ukraine closer to the Alliance;

- to strongly condemn the Russian Federation for waging an undeclared war against Ukraine with the use of Russian armed forces; to consider the targeted actions of the Russian Federation that violate bilateral and multilateral agreements on ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine as posing a threat not only to the security of Ukraine and the neighbouring countries, but also to the security of EU and NATO member countries and stability across Europe;

- to adhere to the position that the EU must substantially revise its relations with the Russian Federation that may no longer be considered a strategic partner because of its actions that pose a threat to the security of EU Member States;

- to call on EU institutions and Member States to establish clear criteria for addressing further application or lifting of sanctions against the Russian Federation, and to take the view that these criteria should include: 1) complete withdrawal of the Russian armed forces from the occupied territories of Ukraine and from the Ukrainian border region; 2) non-recognition of puppet separatist groups functioning on the territory of Ukraine; 3) non-use of force and other forms of violence; 4) safe return of refugees and internally displaced people to their homes; 5) restoration of the Ukrainian jurisdiction in Crimea; 6) respect for the right of Ukraine to solve the matters concerning its bilateral relations with the EU independently and without any external pressure;

- to propose the European Union to initiate establishment of a multilateral mechanism for registration and calculation of damage incurred as a result of the occupation and annexation of Crimea, so as to have an objective assessment of the losses resulting from the unlawful actions of the Russian Federation;

- to call on the European Union to recognise energy independence from the Russian Federation as one of the key strategic objectives of the common EU energy security policy; to support the necessary reforms of Ukraine's energy sector and integration of Ukraine's energy market into the energy system of the EU Member States;

- to pursue the swiftest possible ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, by Parliaments of all the EU Member States and to promote coherent implementation of the Association Agreement in Ukraine;

- to urge Ukraine to initiate international investigation into the tragedies with immense resonance and immediately make their findings public;

- to support the swiftest possible implementation of the visa-free regime between the EU and Ukraine.

The Committees consider that the Western democratic community must immediately begin implementing a wide-ranging programme of bilateral and multilateral support measures for Ukraine, encompassing direct military, humanitarian and economic assistance, and support for Ukraine's democratic reform and for implementation of Ukraine's long-term foreign policy objectives in realising its European choice.

The Committees call on the Government and other Lithuanian public institutions to implement the following measures of long-term support of the Republic of Lithuania to Ukraine:

### **1. Political support through Lithuania's membership of international organisations**

1.1. Formation of the Group of Friends of Ukraine. Lithuania, in cooperation with its partners in the EU and NATO, is forming the Group of Friends of Ukraine, actively informing partners about the on-going processes, and initiating decisions by international organisations on the situation in Ukraine.

1.2. Support for the EU membership perspective for Ukraine. Lithuania seeks that the Eastern Partnership Summit, due to take place in Riga during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU, would voice a clear commitment to officially offer the EU membership perspective for the associated Eastern Partnership countries (Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine).

1.3. Support for Ukraine's rapprochement with NATO. Lithuania actively supports stronger cooperation between NATO and Ukraine and therefore actively exploits the potential of the Lithuanian Embassy to Ukraine as that of the NATO Contact Point Embassy in 2015–2016 to provide the Ukrainian public with more detailed information on NATO and to implement NATO initiatives supporting Ukraine.

1.4. Compensation for occupation damages. Lithuania supports the Government of Ukraine in raising, at international organisations and courts, the issue of compensation for damages incurred during the military conflict and annexation of the part of its territory.

1.5 Initiation of discussion at the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and other institutions on putting the military-administrative units established illegally in the occupied territories of Ukraine — the People's Republic of Donetsk and the People's Republic of Luhansk — on the list of terrorist organisations.

### **2. Financial support.**

Marshall Plan for Ukraine. Lithuania initiates EU-level political discussions with the European Parliament, European political parties, the EU Member States, the European Commission, and other EU institutions on the review of the EU budget for 2014–2020 with the aim to allocate up to 3 per cent

from the currently approved EU budget of EUR 1 000 billion for implementing the new Marshall Plan for Ukraine and thus creating a financial instrument of up to EUR 30 billion for assisting Ukraine.

### **3. Support for strengthening the Ukrainian army**

3.1. Military cooperation between Lithuania and Ukraine is being strengthened. The aim is to assist Ukraine in reforming the armed forces in line with NATO standards, to maintain the experience acquired and interoperability formed in operations, and to become more involved in regional and Euro-Atlantic co-operation.

3.2. Training of Ukrainian soldiers. The large-scale training programme for Ukrainian soldiers is carried out; they are invited to constantly participate in joint exercises in Lithuania; military exercises are organised in Ukraine. The Lithuanian, Polish and Ukrainian brigade LITPOLUKRBRIG is being trained in line with NATO standards for acting across the full spectrum of operations.

3.3. Training of military officers for the Ukrainian army. Ukrainian representatives are offered an increased number of places at Lithuania's military training institutions and the Baltic Defence College; additional courses are organised on demand; support for military training is coordinated with other countries.

3.4. Military assistance to Ukraine. Insofar as the available capacity permits, Lithuania directly provides the Ukrainian army with outfits, gear and supplies, and offers, in cooperation with NATO partners and in view of its capabilities, ammunition and weaponry to Ukraine.

### **4. Support for democratic, economic and governance reforms in Ukraine and implementation of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement**

4.1. Offering the Support for Reforms package in Ukraine. Lithuania offers the “Support for Reforms” package to Ukraine that includes a clear list of reforms, a system of expert services and their financing, and a system of reform measures. Financial and expert assistance is offered in the areas where Lithuania has the experience and knowledge needed, including but not limited to: restructuring of state-owned enterprises, privatisation, regulation of monopolies, public procurement reform, legal reform, energy reform, reform of party funding and financing of electoral campaigns, assurance of transparent business environment, fight against corruption.

4.2. Specialised advice by Lithuanian experts to Ukrainian authorities. The key directions of reform include the implementation of the Reform Twinning programme which provides that Lithuanian institutions working in the area of reform take care of the respective authorities in Ukraine: Lithuania sends its experts to Ukraine and provides long-term placements for Ukrainian officials at Lithuanian institutions. For this purpose, Lithuania is developing the necessary institutional framework to ensure smooth transfer of skills and experience to Ukraine and implementation of the whole Support for Reforms package.

## **5. Humanitarian aid**

5.1. Aid to the injured Ukrainian soldiers and anti-terrorist operation (ATO) participants. Lithuania continues to offer treatment and rehabilitation services to the Ukrainian soldiers and participants of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

5.2. Humanitarian aid to widows and orphans. Lithuania provides support to affected women and children, widows and orphans. Lithuania accepts up to 30 children orphaned as a result of military operations.

5.3. Cooperation between Lithuanian and Ukrainian NGOs is promoted for the purpose of provision of humanitarian aid.

## **6. Economic cooperation and support to Ukrainian youth education**

6.1. Capital and investment is attracted from Ukraine. By creating favourable conditions for Ukrainian investors, Lithuania works towards developing mutually beneficial economic cooperation with Ukraine through the use of the image of Lithuania as a close and friendly country to Ukraine.

6.2. Opportunities for skilled Ukrainian professionals and researchers to work, realize their potential, and gain work experience in Lithuania.

6.3. Grants for Ukrainian students. Lithuania envisages awarding up to 200 scholarships of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) to gifted students from Ukraine so they can pursue BA, MA and PhD studies in Lithuanian universities.

6.4. Transfer of experience to young professionals. Lithuania runs the dedicated Young Leaders Training Programme, offering traineeships in high-tech or other innovative companies in Lithuania to young Ukrainian professionals.

## **7. Parliamentary cooperation and party diplomacy**

7.1. Reinforcement of the parliamentary cooperation between Lithuania and Ukraine. Lithuania continues to provide political support to Ukraine through various initiatives at bilateral and multilateral levels. In order to achieve closer political association and economic integration with the European Union and reinforce Ukraine's cooperation with NATO, Lithuania shares its parliamentary experience of democratic reform, implementation of the rule of law, as well as transposition and consolidation of the EU law.

7.2. More efficient use of the existing cooperation formats. It is essential to ensure that the meetings of the Assembly of Members of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland, and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, as well as the meetings of the Assembly of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine are organised at least biannually and that their decisions contribute to the promotion and implementation of democratic reform in Ukraine. To this end, it is proposed to consider establishing a committee for monitoring the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement at the level of the aforementioned

Assemblies. The activities of the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with Ukraine should be developed. Cooperation between Lithuanian and Ukrainian delegations to international parliamentary organisations should be reinforced. This is particularly relevant as regards the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The cooperation between parliamentary committees in charge of separate areas should be strengthened.

7.3. Development of party diplomacy. With the participation and mediation of the major Lithuanian (traditional) political parties, Lithuania creates and develops a long-term party diplomacy initiative, which is a state-funded platform for cooperation between Western political parties and Ukrainian political forces, with a view to consolidating the political parties in Ukraine and promoting their reform along the Western lines.

7.4. Co-operation with the European Parliament is enhanced in order to mobilise support for Ukraine and to initiate the necessary actions of the EU institutions to that end.

## **8. Other support measures**

8.1. Support to civil society. Joint Lithuanian–Ukrainian NGO projects are encouraged and supported. Partners from other EU Member States, NATO, and the Eastern Partnership countries are engaged in them. The projects should contribute to the spread of democratic ideas and reinforcement of civil society and the non-governmental sector in Ukraine.

8.2. The fight against Russian propaganda. Further opportunities are provided to offset the Russian propaganda in the public domain through public diplomacy and civic awareness initiatives.

The Committees call on the Government and other Lithuanian public institutions to make provisions for the necessary funds for the implementation of the said support measures for Ukraine and to take active steps to implement the proposals contained in this Decision.

The Committees invite the Government to submit information on the implementation of the measures under this Decision to the joint committee meeting at least once per Seimas session.

In the light of the results achieved and the changes in the situation in Ukraine, the list of the measures under the Decision may be revised and re-approved at a joint meeting of the Committee on European Affairs and Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs

Gediminas Kirkilas

Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Benediktas Juodka