

IN THE ISSUE

- THE SEIMAS HOSTED A TWO-DAY CLOSING EVENT FOR THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF CITIZENS. ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO VOICE THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE EU FUTURE
- THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS HELD A PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION EVENT OF THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, ENTITLED THE EU INTERNAL ENERGY MARKET FOR THE 21ST CENTURY, WAS CO-ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA AND THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY (ITRE) OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
- SEIMAS WILL CONSIDER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS SUPPLEMENTING THE CONCEPT OF A FAMILY
- SEIMAS HELD A SOLEMN MEETING ON THE EVE OF THE YEAR OF KRISTIJONAS DONELAITIS



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



SEIMAS IS PREPARING FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE SPEAKERS OF THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE EU IN VILNIUS IN APRIL 2014

The Seimas is making vigorous preparations for the Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the European Union (EU) to be held in the Seimas on 6–8 April 2014. The event is organised under the Presidency Trio, composed of Cyprus, Lithuania and Italy. The preliminary agenda for the Conference is intended to focus on the role of parliaments in overcoming the consequences of the economic and financial crisis, inter-parliamentary cooperation with Eastern Partnership countries, and inter-parliamentary cooperation in the area of freedom, security and justice.

[Read more](#)

INTERNATIONAL SESSION OF THE MODEL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The International Session of the Model European Parliament was hosted at the Seimas on 2–6 December 2013. The additional event related to the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU was attended by more than 150 young people from 23 European countries. In her welcome address, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, wished the participants active involvement and encouraged them to take the opportunity to hold a debate on matters relevant to all young people in Europe. “You have a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate your skills, share your views with peers from other EU Member States and to encourage young people to get more actively involved in the search for solutions and in the debate on their future and the future of Europe”, said the Speaker.

[Read more](#)

[More about the event](#)

ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO VOICE THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE EU FUTURE



The Seimas hosted a two-day closing event for the European Year of Citizens ***How to make every year a year for citizens!*** At the official opening of the conference, welcome speeches were made by Vydas Gedvilas, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas; Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius; Prof Vytautas Landsbergis, first Chairman of the Supreme Council – Reconstituent Seimas of the restored Lithuania, Member of the European Parliament; Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, and Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman.

Welcoming the participants, Mr Gedvilas noted that it was very symbolic that the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU ends with the European Year of Citizens Closing Conference. He said that the need to encourage the civic spirit as the main element in EU democracy was of particular significance and relevance today. “This objective should be promoted in all areas of life, including but not limited to education, human rights, youth, gender equality, and health. It is also obvious that efforts on both EU and national levels are needed for more effective results,” said the First Deputy Speaker.

[Read more](#)

[More about the event](#)

THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY IS IN FOCUS AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The European Parliament has held a parliamentary dimension event of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Joint Committee Meeting, entitled *The EU Internal Energy Market for the 21st Century*, was co-organised by the [Committee on Economics of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania](#) and the [Committee on Industry, Research and Energy \(ITRE\) of the European Parliament](#). Participants included representatives of national Parliaments of EU Member States and candidate countries, members of the European Parliament and the European Commission.

[Read more](#)

[**More about the event**](#)

COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS: THE COMMITTEE IS TO HAVE A PARTICULARLY INTENSE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU



From early January, upon the conclusion of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Seimas Committee on European Affairs will have a very intensive inter-session period in January and February. The increased workload of the Committee is related to the assessment of the parliamentary dimension results of the Lithuanian Presidency and the preparation for the parliamentary dimension events of the Presidency Trio (Ireland, Lithuania and Greece), which will be held in Vilnius in the coming semester, namely the Meeting of the Secretaries General of EU Parliaments on 26–27 January 2014 and the EU Speakers' Conference on 6–8 April.

Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, said that “after the New Year, the Committee will return to its normal routines, regaining the negotiating mandate of the Seimas, which is generally given to members of the Lithuanian ministers' cabinet going to every Council of Ministers of the EU. At the end of June 2013, the Committee on European Affairs extended the negotiating mandate to the Government in advance for the entire Presidency period with a view to more efficient Lithuanian Presidency.”

[Read more](#)

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

IMPLEMENTATION OF RAIL BALTICA PROJECT DISCUSSED AT THE SEIMAS

On 6 December 2013, the Seimas hosted a discussion on the implementation of Rail Baltica project, which was organised by the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on European Affairs.

Miiko Peris, European Commission representative, spoke on Connecting Europe Facility financial management; participants of the discussion were also acquainted with Rail Baltica feasibility study carried out by AECOM. Benediktas Juodka, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs, expressed his satisfaction over the agreement signed by the Ministers of Transport of all the states participating in the project on 16 September 2013 upon linking Vilnius with Rail Baltica. The railway line will connect all the five capital cities while, thanks to the European Parliament, adequate EU funding has been earmarked in the 2014–2020 financial framework for the development of this project.

[Read more](#)

SEIMAS ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION PREPARED BY MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EDITE ESTRELA

The Seimas adopted a Resolution on the Draft Resolution Proposed by Member of the European Parliament Edite Estrela that was tabled by Petras Gražulis, Chair of the Order and Justice Political Group. The decision was adopted by 66 votes in favour, 14 against, and 8 abstentions. By this Resolution, the Seimas, expressing deep concern over the threat posed by the provisions of the draft European Parliament Resolution proposed by Portuguese Member of the European Parliament Edite Estrela to the constitutional concept of a family and the constitutional right and duty of parents to raise their children as honest persons and loyal citizens, and over the conflict between these provisions and European Union law.

[Read more](#)

SEIMAS WILL CONSIDER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS SUPPLEMENTING THE CONCEPT OF A FAMILY

After its submission, the Draft Law Supplementing and Amending Article 38 of the Constitution No XIIP-1217 supported by 108 signatures of Members of the Seimas was approved by the Seimas. The Draft Law suggests supplementing the Constitution with provisions that a family is created by marriage. The family also arises from motherhood and fatherhood. The state protects and supports family, motherhood, fatherhood, and childhood.

[Read more](#)

REGISTER OF LEGAL ACTS FOR OFFICIALLY PUBLISHING LEGAL ACTS HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

Under the Law on the Legislative Framework of the Republic of Lithuania, the Register has been designed for registering and publishing legal acts envisaged in the Law. A registration and publication of a legal act in the Register will be considered as an official announcement of the legal act, except for the cases provided for in Article 20(12) of the Law. A regulatory act will come into force on the day of its official publication in the Register of Legal Acts, if the same act does not provide for a later date.

Entities involved in the legislative process and subject to submission of data to the Register of Legal Acts have to sign contracts on data submission to the Register with the manager and administrator of the Register of Legal Acts, i.e. with the Office of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. Information necessary for concluding the contract and the contract form are available on the website of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania at <http://www.lrs.lt/TAR>.

The website of the Register of Legal Acts is accessed from 1 January 2014 at <http://www.e-tar.lt>.

For more information: tel. +370 5 239 6999 or e-mail: info@e-tar.lt.

EVENTS

SEIMAS HELD A SOLEMN MEETING ON THE EVE OF THE YEAR OF KRISTIJONAS DONELAITIS



Kristijonas Donelaitis
1714 - 2014

On 10 December 2013, a solemn meeting to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Kristijonas Donelaitis was hosted at the Hall of the Act of 11 March of the Seimas. The meeting was held in preparation for the year 2014, declared the Year of Donelaitis: the most renowned writer in Lithuanian literature.

In his introductory address, Vydas Gedvilas, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, compared the role of The Seasons by Donelaitis in Lithuanian literature to that of roots providing the trunk and branches of a tree with life-sustaining materials. "For over 200 years since Prof Liudvikas Rėza from the Kaliningrad University prepared The Seasons for publication in 1818, every new generation has continued to reflect on the meaning and significance of the poem," Mr Gedvilas said.

According to Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, the works of Donelaitis encourage people to cherish the Lithuanian language and customs, help reinforcing self-respect, and prompt reflections on questions of roots, identity, and respect to ancestors. "The contribution of Donelaitis to Lithuanian culture and development of the national consciousness is so far underestimated. I therefore believe that we should continue promoting his oeuvre in Lithuania and worldwide, especially by engaging the young generation, not only in the coming Year of Donelaitis, but also beyond 2014. Scholars organise annual conferences to commemorate the Lithuanian linguist Jonas Jablonskis. We could think of a similar tradition to mark the life of Kristijonas Donelaitis, too," the Speaker of the Seimas said. She hoped that the coming year, devoted to Kristijonas Donelaitis, would encourage more insightful debate on his valuable oeuvre, its impact on the Lithuanian identity, and lessons to be learnt. Speech by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, at the solemn meeting of the Seimas to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Kristijonas Donelaitis

[Read more](#)

[Speech by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, at the solemn meeting of the Seimas to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Kristijonas Donelaitis](#)

PETRAS AUŠTREVČIUS, DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BELARUS IS NOT IMPROVING



On the initiative of Petras Auštrevičius, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, an exhibition titled Human Rights Violations and Political Repressions in Belarus, dedicated to mark the international Human Rights Day, has been opened in the Seimas today. Anna Gerasimova, a journalist and Director of the Belarusian Human Rights House, and Vytis Jurkonis, head of Freedom House in Vilnius, also took part in the opening of the exhibition. The Deputy Speaker said that the exhibition, which had consecutively been opened in the Seimas for the past few years, aimed to put focus on the intolerable situation in the neighbouring country where fundamental human rights had been violated and methods of coercion had been employed.

Mr Auštrevičius underlines that the human rights situation in Belarus is definitely not improving. “There are currently nine political prisoners imprisoned in Belarus. Judicial rulings delivered in this country are politically motivated. We oppose them hoping that soon a day will come when political prisoners in Belarus will be freed. There are also four persons missing, presumably because they opposed the regime,” said Mr Auštrevičius at the opening of the exhibition. **[Read more](#)**

SEIMAS COMMEMORATED THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LITHUANIAN NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

On 11 December 2013, the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee (LNOC) was solemnly marked in the Hall of the Act of 11 March of the Seimas. The event was held on the initiative of Vydas Gedvilas, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas.

The Speaker of the Seimas thanked everyone who had contributed to the re-establishment of the LNOC and highlighted that sport in Lithuania would not be as it is today without their enormous efforts. According to Loreta Graužinienė, Lithuanian athletes brought medals from all summer Olympics. “Athletes pursue a complex and difficult path towards victory; one needs to work hard to achieve a goal. Therefore, the support of us all is very important for them. The Lithuanian National Olympic Committee brings together all the Olympians into a family, cares for it, protects it, and contributes to arranging sports contests and preparing for them. So let’s keep encouraging our athletes to strive for the best results, by taking care of them and doing our best to provide them with the best possible conditions to achieve their goals and ambitions,” said the Speaker of the Seimas.

[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

Miglė Baltrūnaitė, tel: +370 5 239 6204, e-mail: migle.baltrunaite@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