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NEWSLETTER

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- DRAFT STATE BUDGET FOR 2019 PRESENTED TO THE SEIMAS
- MANDATORY REFERENDUM ON DUAL CITIZENSHIP DUE TO BE HELD NEXT MAY
- SEIMAS REVISED THE REGULATION CONNECTED TO POLITICAL CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS, WHILE ON VISIT TO ISRAEL: "WE STRONGLY BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF OUR RELATIONS"
- 37TH SESSION OF THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY AND THE 24TH BALTIC COUNCIL WERE HELD IN VILNIUS

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Seimas adopted a law on the development of the metropolitan railway system

On 9 October 2018, with a view to improving the investment environment and speeding up the introduction of innovation in public transport, as well as in response to the encouragement by the European Commission to effectively address transport congestion and ecological problems and enhance the living conditions for people in Lithuanian cities by using environmentally-friendly transport, the Seimas adopted the law on the development of the metropolitan railway system.

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Seimas revised the regulation connected to political campaign expenditure

On 11 October 2018, with 93 votes in favour, the Seimas unanimously adopted amendments to Article 14 of the Law on Funding of, and Control Over Funding of, Political Campaigns. The amendments are aimed at ensuring transparency in the funding of political campaigns and preventing any leeway for foreign states to influence the election processes and domestic policies of the Republic of Lithuania.

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Draft state budget for 2019 presented to the Seimas

On 18 October 2018, Vilius Šapoka, Minister of Finance, presented draft Law No XIII-2715 on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets for 2019 to the Seimas, which focuses on structural reforms in the areas of health, education, social protection, innovation, and taxes and on reduction of shadow economy.

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Mandatory referendum on dual citizenship due to be held

On 18 October 2018, the Seimas adopted a Resolution on holding a mandatory referendum to amend Article 12 of the Constitution that defines the acquisition of citizenship. A total of 66 MPs voted in favour of the Seimas resolution and four abstained.

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On 29 October 2018, the Seimas decided to submit a petition to the Constitutional Court with the request to examine whether holding a mandatory referendum on retention of citizenship on two separate days with a break in between is in line with the constitutional principles of the rule of law, non-interruption of the referendum and equality of people. The decision was approved by 73 votes in favour with 1 abstention.

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Lithuanian children adopted into foreign families will preserve their citizenship

On 18 October 2018, the Seimas adopted amendments to the Law on Citizenship to ensure that the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, who are adopted into foreign families and removed from their country of origin, can preserve citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania.

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Seimas rejected constitutional amendments on the implementation of the rights of persons removed from office by impeachment

On 25 October 2018, during the first voting, the Seimas rejected the amendments to Article 74 of the Constitution, which provided for the implementation of the judgment Paksas v. Lithuania of

the European Court of Human Rights and the decision of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights.

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Seimas restricted the possibility to amend electoral laws after the announcement of election date

On 25 October 2018, the Seimas adopted amendments to the Laws on Presidential Elections, the Elections to Municipal Councils, the Elections to the Seimas and the Elections to the European Parliament. The decision was taken to adopt these amendments in order to restrict the possibility to amend electoral laws from the date of the announcement of the election date to the publication of the election results.

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Seimas approved new regulation of the work of election observers

On 25 October 2018, the Seimas approved the amendments to the laws on parliamentary elections, presidential elections, municipal elections, and European elections thus changing the regulation of the work of election observers. The legal acts lay down who may stand as election observers and who may nominate them, and how many observers can be registered in each electoral district. Furthermore, the laws provide for the procedure for registration of election observers, the terms and conditions of their work as well as observers' rights.

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Seimas adjusted the number of members to be elected to municipal councils

On 25 October 2018, the Seimas adopted amendments to the Law on Elections to Municipal Councils, thereby adjusting the number of members to be elected to municipal councils. According to the adopted amendments, the municipalities with a population of between 250 and 500 thousand inhabitants will elect 41 council members, and the municipalities with a population of between 100 to 250 thousand inhabitants will elect 31 members to the municipal council.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: MEETINGS, EVENTS

Speaker of the Seimas, while on visit to Israel: “We strongly believe in the future of our relations



On 16 October 2018, Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, while on his official visit to Israel, met with Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, Speaker of the Knesset. In addition to the close inter-parliamentary relations, they discussed the efforts to consolidate the intergovernmental cooperation in the “Government-to-Government” format.

[MORE](#)

[Speech by Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, delivered at Yad Vashem during the commemoration ceremony of the 75th anniversary of the liquidation of the Vilnius Ghetto.](#)



37th Session of the Baltic Assembly and the 24th Baltic Council were held in Vilnius

Prizes and medals of the Baltic Assembly awarded

On 25 October 2018, the Church of Sts. Johns in Vilnius hosted the traditional award ceremony of the Prizes and Medals of the Baltic Assembly, which opened with a welcome speech from Valerijus Simulik, President of the Baltic Assembly and Member of the Seimas.

The Baltic Assembly Prize 2018 for Literature was awarded to **Gundega Repše** from Latvia, the Baltic Assembly Prize 2018 for the Arts was presented to **Jurgita Dronina** from Lithuania and the Baltic Assembly Prize 2018 for Science was given to **Els Heinsalu** from Estonia.

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37th Session of the Baltic Assembly opened at the Seimas

On 26 October 2018, the 37th Session of the Baltic Assembly was opened at the Seimas. “The main aim of the Session is to strike a balance between the Baltic parliamentary and governmental cooperation in 2018,” said Valerijus Simulik, President of the Baltic Assembly, when opening the event.

“Today, the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers work hand in hand for the construction of railways and roads, joint procurement of medicine, joint protection of our borders, coordination of our countries’ positions on the European Union’s agenda, building of a common innovation and industrial system, joint promotion of our shared interests in distant markets, and synchronisation of our electricity networks with the European continental networks,” said Mr Simulik when listing the common activities.

While [speaking at the opening of the Session](#), Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, stressed that this format of cross-border cooperation ensured mediation among the institutions of the three countries, which facilitated communication and useful solutions. Last year, 80 % of the recommendations adopted by the Baltic Assembly were implemented. The Speaker of the Seimas highlighted that the current political realities were forcing us to think about new ambitious goals.

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Press releases:

[*The Session of the Baltic Assembly focused on security strategy in the region*](#)

[*37th Session of the Baltic Assembly hosted by the Seimas discussed achievements in developing a regional gas and electricity market*](#)

[*Close regional cooperation between the Baltic States was highlighted in the documents adopted by the Baltic Assembly*](#)

Albums

[Session of the Baltic Assembly. 26 October 2018. 118 photos](#)

[Meeting of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Speakers of the parliaments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. 26 October 2018. 21 photos](#)

[Baltic Assembly Prizes and Medals Award Ceremony. 25 October 2018. 72 photos](#)

PHOTOS



Press conference by Rasa Juknevičienė, President of the NATO PA delegation that monitored the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Photo of the NATO PA Bureau. 9 October 2018



Dainius Gaižauskas, member of the Seimas Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, took part in the meeting of the Assembly's Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security in Hungary and Czech Republic. Photo by Hana Jurcova. 11 October 2018



Meeting between Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Ladislav Babčan, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic. 12 October 2018



Rasa Juknevičienė, President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, met with Andriy Parubiy, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Photo of the Verkhovna Rada. 16 October 2018



Rasa Juknevičienė, President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, met with Andrian Candu, President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. Photo of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. 18 October 2018



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with David Zalkaliani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. 23 October 2018



Meeting of the Chairs of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of Nordic and Baltic Countries. 29 October 2018



For more photos of the October 2018 events and meetings, see [here](#) or please visit the Seimas [Flickr](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

TEXT

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