



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS  
SEIMAS

Lithuanian  
Parliamentary  
*Mirror*

Restored  
Lithuania



NEWSLETTER

2018 November  
No 11 (77)

- SEIMAS ACKNOWLEDGED ADOLFAS RAMANAUSKAS-VANAGAS, PARTISAN COMMANDER, AS HEAD OF STATE OF LITHUANIA
- SEIMAS DISCUSSED THE FUTURE OF THE EU
- 9TH SESSION 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 WAS HELD IN VILNIUS
- SEIMAS DECLARED THE SO CALLED ELECTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED UKRAINIAN TERRITORIES ILLEGITIMATE

## PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

### Seimas declared the so called elections in the occupied Ukrainian territories illegitimate

On 13 November 2018, the Seimas declared that the so called elections held by the occupying authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk on 11 November 2018 were illegitimate and undemocratic, and that they will not be recognised. The Seimas also urged the Russian Federation to respect international norms and commitments, put an end to military and hybrid aggression against Ukraine and its territorial integrity, and implement the Minsk arrangements.

In welcoming the strong reaction by the EU and the US towards the so called elections and non-recognition thereof, the Seimas called on the EU not only to prolong the sanctions but also to further enhance and expand them to include the organisations and individuals who contributed the organisation and funding of the so called elections, who stood as candidates in the elections and who aim at consolidating the occupying authorities.

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### Seimas acknowledged Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas, partisan commander, as Head of State of Lithuania

On 20 November 2018, on the occasion of the Centenary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas, the Seimas acknowledged



Photo of the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights

Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Council of the Movement of the Struggle for Freedom of Lithuania (LLKS), as the Head of the Lithuanian State, which was fighting the occupation.

This Seimas Declaration was supported by 91 Members of the Seimas, while 7 parliamentarians abstained.

In the Declaration, the Seimas stressed that Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas, Deputy Chairman of the Presidium, was the highest living Lithuanian public official from 26 November 1954, the death of Jonas Žemaitis-Vytautas, Chairman of the Presidium, in the occupiers' captivity, to the day of Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas' execution in the KGB prison in Vilnius on 29 November 1957.

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## Seimas fully depoliticised the councils of higher education institutions

On 20 November 2018, the Seimas adopted amendments to the Law on Higher Education and Research, thereby adding further individuals to the list of those who may not be members of the councils of higher education institutions, thus fully depoliticising them.

Under the newly adopted provisions, members of the European Parliament, municipal mayors and members of municipal councils will not be allowed to sit in the councils of higher education institutions.

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## Seimas discussed the future of the EU



On 22 November 2018, at its sitting, the Seimas held a discussion on the future of the European Union (EU), including the current situation in the EU, recent developments in the EU, EU policy aspects and challenges with the greatest potential effect on Lithuania.

In her speech, European Commissioner Věra Jourová stressed that today 500 million European citizens could enjoy the sense of unity, but at the same time stability and security were at risk. 'Today we also face

new threats to our stability and security from the inside and outside of the European Union. We have been confronted with a huge financial crisis, unemployment, untamed globalization, digital revolution, brain drain, finally, terrorism and migration crisis, and, of course, the hot topic of these

days, Brexit,' said the European Commissioner. She also highlighted the importance of countering disinformation and referred to Lithuania as an example in this connection, urging it to share its experience with other countries.

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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: MEETINGS, EVENTS

### Seimas Committees on European Affairs and on Foreign Affairs endorsed the initiative Ukraine 2027 by MPs Gediminas Kirkilas and Andrius Kubilius

On 9 November 2018, with a view to agreeing on new key geopolitical initiatives for the coming decade, which would help to keep both Ukraine and the EU Member States motivated to assist reforms in Ukraine and support Ukraine's efforts of becoming a successful European country, the Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas endorsed the initiative Ukraine 2027 tabled by Gediminas Kirkilas, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, and Andrius Kubilius, Deputy Chair of the Committee.

The new initiative highlights in particular an exceptional geopolitical situation in Europe after 2025, which Lithuania needs to make best use of in order for the European Union to adopt specific decisions in 2027, during Lithuania's second Presidency of the Council of the European Union, on the prospects of Ukraine's (and also Georgia's and Moldova's) accession to the European Union.

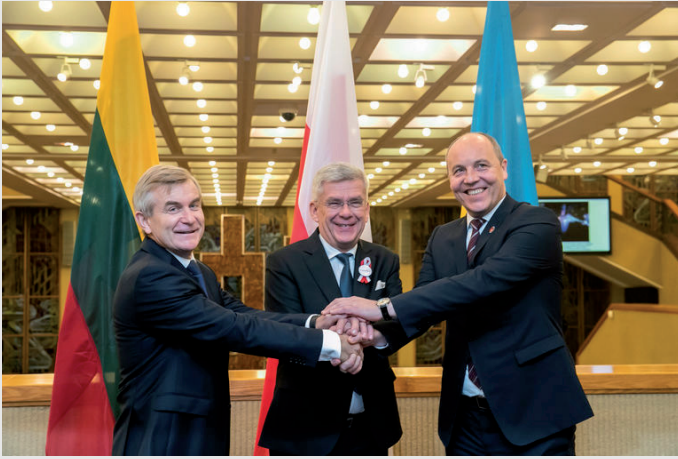
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## THE 9TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, THE SEJM AND SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND, AND THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

### Seimas opened the 9th Session 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

On 12 November 2018, following the playing of the Lithuanian, Polish and Ukrainian national anthems, the Seimas opened the 9th Session 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.

In his [opening speech](#), Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, took note that this year was special for the three countries, as they all – Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine – were marking the centenaries of their restored independence. The Speaker expressed his belief that the meeting format provided the countries with an opportunity to collectively develop relations with the European Union and



the United States of America and join their efforts in addressing the emerging threats.

The Speaker of the Seimas also emphasised that “we are willing to assist the Ukrainian people in their endeavour to implement key reforms, such as fighting corruption, enhancing openness and transparency, and improving business climate. We must ensure uninterrupted progress, bearing in mind the expectations of donors and that of the Ukrainian people”.

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## Seimas hosted the committee meetings of the trilateral Assembly of the Lithuanian, Polish and Ukrainian Parliaments

On 13 November 2018, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania hosted the meetings of the Committee on Non-governmental and Cultural Cooperation, the Committee on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, and the Committee on Commercial and Economic Development, Regional and Local Cooperation, which were organised in the framework of the Session 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.

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For the gallery of photos from the meetings of the Committees of the Assembly, [please click here](#).

## Leaders of the Polish and Ukrainian parliaments spoke about the joint fight for independence



On 13 November 2018, in the framework of the 9th Session 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, Andrii Parubii, Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and Stanisław Karczewski, Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, gave their speeches at the sitting of the Seimas.

In his speech, the Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine stressed Lithuania’s role in Ukraine’s fight for freedom: “On behalf of the



whole Ukraine and all Ukrainians, I want to thank you all for your support that we have felt for a hundred years and, in particular, for the last five years of our struggle. Thank you.”



Speaking about Lithuania’s and Poland’s joint fight for independence, Mr Karczewski said the following: “We both lost our independence after 20 years and regained it 50 years later. Poland was first to break free from the outer ring of the Soviet empire, while Lithuania was first to escape the inner ring. I express my deepest respect for the founding fathers of the re-established independence of Lithuania. Though being separate states, Poland and Lithuania share their independence because independence comes to and leaves our states at the same time.”

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## Commemoration of the historic EU summit: “The Maidan began in Vilnius”



On 13 November 2018, in the context of the 9th Session 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, an event was held in the Seimas to mark the five-year anniversary of the Vilnius EU Summit.

During the meeting, the politicians largely focused on the EU summit in Vilnius, during which the signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement was planned. The complex road that led to the crucial moment, the refusal by the then Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich

to sign the document that was significant for Ukraine and Europe as a whole, and the reasons and outcomes of this decision that one can still feel today, were among the key themes discussed.

At the end of the commemoration, Andriy Parubiy, Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, awarded an honorary diploma of the Verkhovna Rada to Emanuelis Zingeris for his personal contribution to strengthening of the relations between the people of Lithuania and Ukraine and the active support of Ukraine.

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The session’s work was finalised by the adoption of the [final document](#) (in Lithuanian).

Photo albums: [12 November 2018](#) (87 photos); [13 November 2018](#) (22 photos).

## Success of the Seimas delegation at the 64th Annual Session of the NATO PA



On 21 November 2018, Rasa Juknevičienė, Aušrinė Armonaitė, Dainius Gaižauskas and Juozas Olekas, Members of the Seimas Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, returned from Halifax, Canada, where they took part in the 64th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA).

This was a very successful session for the Lithuanian representatives.

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## PHOTOS



Participants of the Forum *Sustainable Francophonie: Teacher's Role*. 9 November 2018



Meeting between Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and János Áder, President of Hungary. 13 November 2018





Press conference delivered by Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania; Stanisław Karzewski, Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland; and Andriy Parubiy, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. 13 November 2018



Meeting between Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Vít Korskelt, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Lithuania. 14 November 2018



Guoda Burokienė, Member of the Seimas, participated in a seminar of the IPU Assembly in Jerusalem (State of Israel). During the seminar, the Member of the Seimas presented Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, Speaker of the Knesset of the State of Israel, with a certificate of acknowledgement from Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas. 20 November 2018



Meeting between Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Viktor Temirbayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Lithuania. 21 November 2018



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Chingiz Aidarbekov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. 21 November 2018.



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Kevin Rex, Ambassador of Canada to Lithuania. 22 November 2018



Meeting between Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Yvonne Tonic-Sorinj, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Lithuania. 22 November 2018



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, observed a solemn line and parade of the Lithuanian Armed Forces. [Photo album](#) (28 photos). 24 November 2018



Meeting between Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Zoltán Jancsi, Ambassador of Hungary to Lithuania. 28 November 2018



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

## TEXT

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