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- SEIMAS CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO STOP THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNSAFE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN BELARUS
- SEIMAS DETERMINED CONDITIONS FOR CONCESSION OF VILNIUS, KAUNAS AND PALANGA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS MET WITH THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENT
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS MET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF THE EU PARLIAMENTS IN LUXEMBOURG
- DELEGATION HEADED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS VISITED UKRAINE

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Seimas called on the Government to take all possible measures to stop the construction of the unsafe nuclear power plant in Belarus



At its sitting of 12 May 2016, the Seimas adopted a Resolution calling on the Government to take all the necessary diplomatic, legal and technical measures to stop the construction of the unsafe nuclear power plant in Belarus, in Astravyets district, in the immediate vicinity of the Lithuanian border. The Resolution was adopted by 59 votes in favour, two against and 28 abstentions.

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Committee on Foreign Affairs advocated the soonest possible introduction of a visa-free regime for Georgia and Ukraine

At its meeting of 4 May 2016, the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs deliberated amendments to Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 proposed by the European Commission, which, once adopted, would allow citizens of Georgia and Ukraine to travel freely to European Union Member States.

Andrius Krivas, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, who presented these documents and the position of the Republic of Lithuania to Committee members, said that Lithuania fully supported the Commission's proposals, which, once approved by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament, would lead to the introduction of a visa-free regime to Georgia and Ukraine.

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Seimas approved the conclusion on possible non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity of the proposal of the European Commission

On 3 May 2016, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a Resolution, which approved the conclusion of the Committee on European Affairs on potential non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity of the proposal of the European Commission. The proposal is aimed at providing uniform constituent elements of pay for posted and local workers, i.e., it seeks to establish the principle of equal pay for equal work in the same place.

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Seimas determined conditions for concession of Vilnius, Kaunas and Palanga international airports

On 2 June 2016, the Seimas adopted the Law on Concession of Airports Controlled by the State Enterprise *Lithuanian Airports* and amendments to accompanying legislation, establishing the legal and organisational conditions for the concession of Vilnius, Kaunas, and Palanga international airports controlled by the state enterprise *Lithuanian Airports*. The purpose of the concession is to increase the competitiveness of the transport systems of Lithuanian airports, enhance the effectiveness of management of Lithuanian airports, and ensure the development of airport infrastructure by attracting private investments.

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Seimas tightened restrictions on alcoholic beverages by prohibiting advertising of price reductions for alcoholic beverages

On 17 May 2016, the Seimas adopted amendments to the Law on Alcohol Control specifying alcohol-related restrictions. The amended Law will prohibit, as of 1 November 2016, advertising of price reductions for alcoholic beverages, organisation of not only competitions but also games, discount campaigns, or lotteries that could encourage purchase and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

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Seimas agreed to deliberate constitutional amendments on public representatives in courts



On 5 May 2016, the Seimas commenced deliberations on the constitutional amendments, put forward by Artūras Paulauskas, Member of the Seimas, providing for the introduction of public representatives, lay judges, in courts.

The amendments to the fundamental national document propose that courts should consist of not only judges but also of lay judges in accordance with the procedure established by law. Lay judges, just like traditional judges and courts, would be independent in the administration of justice.

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Year 2017 declared as the Year of the Reformation

On 12 May 2016, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania at its meeting decided to declare the year 2017 to be the Year of the Reformation. The Parliament's decision was adopted with regard to the fact that next year many Christian countries would celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and commemorate the year 1517, when Martin Luther announced his theses.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: MEETINGS&VISITS

MEETINGS

Speaker of the Seimas met with the Romanian President



On 18 May 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Klaus Werner Iohannis, President of Romania, on his state visit to Lithuania. The meeting focused on the Eastern Partnership, preparations for the NATO Summit in Warsaw on 8–9 July 2016, as well as the development of economic, scientific and cultural relations between Lithuania and Romania.

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Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State: *I am paving the way for the Pope to Lithuania*



On 9 April 2016, Loretta Grauziniene, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of His Holiness Pope Francis, and expressed her hopes for His Holiness Pope Francis' visit to Lithuania in the near future. The honourable guest responded to this by saying, "Just as John the Baptist paved the way for Jesus, so will I pave the way for the Pope to Lithuania."

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Trilateral meeting of parliamentary committees of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania focused on municipal and regional issues



On 6 May 2016, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania hosted a trilateral joint meeting of the Constitutional Committee of the Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia, the Public Administration and Local Government Committee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, and the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. Valentinas Bukauskas, Chair of the Seimas Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities, expressed his satisfaction in that the trilateral meeting

in this format was organised for the first time in 26 years and that it was held in Lithuania.

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VISITS



LUXEMBOURG

CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF THE EU PARLIAMENTS



Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments in Luxembourg discussed strengthening of the European Union

The Speaker of the Seimas, Loretta Grauziniene, together with the Speakers of the EU Parliaments and leadership of the European Parliament, attended a Conference in Luxembourg (22–24 May 2016), which focussed on the future of the European Union. Management of migration

flows and strengthening of the EU were the main topics of discussion during the first day of the event.

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Speaker of the Seimas: *The role of national Parliaments has to grow and inter-parliamentary cooperation has to intensify*



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, pointed out, at the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments in Luxembourg on 24 May 2016, that it was necessary to deepen inter-parliamentary cooperation and enhance the role of national Parliaments.

The Speaker of the Seimas noted that according to Article 12 of the Treaty on European Union, national Parliaments contribute actively to the good functioning of the Union; however, this provision could only be effectively implemented with the full engagement of national Parliaments in this process. To illustrate this, Mrs Graužinienė referred to the initiative to establish a Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group to monitor Europol's activities.

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VISITS



GEORGIA

Speaker of the Seimas: *We hope that Georgians, who are celebrating the 25th anniversary of independence, can soon travel to the EU visa-free*



On her official visit to Tbilisi (25–27 May 2016) Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, congratulated Georgia on its 25th anniversary of independence and stressed that Lithuania had always supported and would continue to support Georgia on its path of European integration.

At her meeting with David Usupashvili, Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, the Speaker of the Seimas appreciated friendly bilateral relations between Lithuania and Georgia.

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VISITS



UKRAINE

DELEGATION HEADED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS VISITED UKRAINE

The delegation headed by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, participated in the 7th 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, which was held in Kyiv on 30–31 May 2016.

On 28–30 May, prior to the Session of the Trilateral Assembly, the Speaker of the Seimas visited Dnipro (Dnipropetrovsk) where she took part in the events of the Days of Lithuania.

The interparliamentary Assembly was established in Lutsk, Ukraine, in May 2005. It is a consultative interparliamentary body intended to discuss issues and projects of common interest. The Assembly comprises parliamentary delegations from the Lithuanian Seimas, the Polish Sejm and Senate, and the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada, ten members each. In 2015, the session of the Trilateral Assembly was held in Lithuania.

Speaker of the Seimas opened the *Days of Lithuania* in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro



On 28 May 2016, during her working visit to Ukraine, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, officially opened the *Days of Lithuania* in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro. While welcoming the participants of the celebration, she highlighted her belief that “the first encounter with Lithuania will open up new horizons for Ukrainians and encourage them to take a closer interest in this country bordering the Baltic Sea, the country famous for its majestic history, unique language, extraordinary beauty of nature, delicious cuisine, and creative and friendly people.”

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Speaker of the Seimas: *Common historical past also guides current relations between Lithuania and Ukraine*



As Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, continued her official visit in Ukraine, she handed over a book titled *Kunigaikščiai Ostrogiškiai* (Eng. *The Ostrogskis*) by Lithuanian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian historians to the Library of the National Mining University in Dnipro. The book won Ukraine’s Book of the Year award in 2015 and was dedicated to Ukrainian dukes belonging to the House of Ostrogski, who left an indelible imprint in the history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania as well.

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Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas: *Ukraine should be patiently focused on the path of reforms*



At 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, which commenced on 30 May 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, noted that Lithuania made use of every opportunity to promote European integration processes of Ukraine on the international scene but at the same time underlined the importance of the initiative on Ukraine’s behalf.

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Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas received an honourable award from Ukraine



On 30 May 2016, the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine awarded the 1st Class Badge of Honour to Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, for her outstanding merits in developing strategic cooperation between Lithuania and Ukraine and contribution to security policy. The award was presented by Oleksandr Turchynov, Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine.

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Speaker of the Seimas met with the Prime Minister of Ukraine



On 31 May 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Volodymyr Groysman, Prime Minister of Ukraine, to discuss the work 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, that was held in Kiev, and to share the impressions from her weekend's visit to Dnipro.

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PHOTOS



Discussion between Members of the NATO PA delegation and Members of the Seimas on security issues, 9 May 2016



Exam on Europe, 9 May 2016



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, welcomed participants of the Sitting of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Lithuanian World Community, 17 May 2016



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Kamran Nabizade, Chairman of the Working Group on Interparliamentary Relations between Azerbaijan and Lithuania and the delegation headed by him, 17 May 2016



Andrius Kubilius, Leader of the Opposition of the Seimas, met with the delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 17 May 2016



International Conference *Nordic and Baltic Digital Single Market*, 18 May 2016



Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, met with Emilio Fernandez-Castano Y Diaz-Caneja, Ambassador of the Royal Kingdom of Spain, 25 May 2016



Delegation of the U.S. Congress advisers visited the Seimas, 1 June 2016

For more photos of the May 2016 events and meetings, see [here](#).

TEXT

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