



PARLAMENTINIS
DEMOKRATIJOS FORUMAS

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY MEETING

Our Solidarity for Democracy

16 September 2019

Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
Vilnius

This year's International Day of Democracy is an opportunity to recall that democracy is about people. Democracy is built on inclusion, equal treatment and participation — and it is a fundamental building block for peace, sustainable development and human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government” (article 21.3), has inspired constitution-making around the world and contributed to global acceptance of democratic values and principles. Democracy, in turn, provides the natural environment for the protection and effective realization of human rights.

True democracy is a two-way street, built on a constant dialogue between civil society and the political class. This dialogue must have real influence on political decisions. This is why political participation, civic space and social dialogue make up the very foundations of good governance. It is even more true with the impact of globalization and technological progress. And yet today, civic space is shrinking worldwide at an alarming rate. Civil society activists are finding it increasingly difficult to operate. Human rights defenders and parliamentarians are under attack. Women remain vastly under-represented. Journalists face interference, and in some cases violence.

This International Day of Democracy, is an opportunity to urge all governments to respect their citizens' right to active, substantive and meaningful participation in democracy.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses democracy in Sustainable Development Goal 16 recognizing the indivisible links between peaceful societies and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions (<https://www.un.org/en/events/democracyday/>).

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

The participants are kindly requested to use the entrance of Building 3 of the Seimas

15.30 – 16.00 Registration of participants of the international parliamentary meeting
Solidarity for Democracy and welcoming coffee
Venue: Lobby near the Constitution Hall, Building 1 of the Seimas

16.00 – 16.20

OPENING SESSION

Venue: Constitution Hall, Building 1 of the Seimas

Welcome address by H.E. Mr Viktoras PRANCKIETIS, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Welcome address by Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS, Chair of the Subcommittee on Transatlantic Relations and Democratic Development of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Parliamentary Forum for Democracy Founder

Speakers:

16.20 – 18.00

Ms Viktorija ČMILYTĖ-NIELSEN, Member of the Committee on Human Rights of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS, Chair of the Subcommittee on Transatlantic Relations and Democratic Development of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Parliamentary Forum for Democracy

Mr Borys TARASYUK, Member of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy

Ms Rūta MILIŪTĖ, Chair of the Subcommittee on High Technology, Innovation and Digital Economy of the Committee on Economics of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Mr Arnoldas PRANCKEVIČIUS, Head of the European Commission's Representation in Lithuania

Mr Giorgi KANDELAKI, Member of the Parliament of Georgia

Prof. Vytautas LANDSBERGIS, President of Supreme Council - Reconstituent Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Signatory to the Act of Independence of Lithuania, and former Member of the European Parliament

Mr Žygimantas PAVILIONIS, Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Affairs and member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Mr Anatoly LEBEDKO, Head of the Centre in Belarus *European Dialog*

18.00 – 18.30

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION *HISTORIC MEETINGS*

Venue: Stained Glass Gallery, Building 1 of the Seimas

Reception

Venue: Seimas restaurant, Building 3 of the Seimas
