

- **SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS WENT ON A WORKING VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
- **SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF CROATIA**
- **SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS MET WITH NADIYA SAVCHENKO**
- **LITHUANIA MARKED THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN MEDININKAI**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: MEETINGS & VISITS

MEETINGS

Speaker of the Seimas met with the President of Croatia



On 21 July 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, received Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia, who was on her visit to Lithuania. The Speaker of the Seimas extended her congratulations to Croatia, which is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its independence this year and will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations next year.

The President of Croatia recalled the historic aspects linking our countries: Lithuania was the second country to recognise Croatia's independence. The President of

Croatia underlined that despite the geographical distance our countries shared a similar mindset, values, historic memory and an attitude towards future. The President was convinced that what both Lithuania and Croatia needed was a vision, a strategy and leadership. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović stressed that we had to act big in terms of ideas and commitments.

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Japanese suggested to the Speaker of the Seimas organising the Japan–Lithuania basketball match



On 20 July 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, received Tatsuo Kawabata, Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, and his delegation. During the meeting, the emphasis was given to the successful inter-parliamentary cooperation between Lithuania and Japan and to the scope for strengthening the bilateral cooperation, particularly in the field of science and education.

The Speaker of the Seimas underlined the importance of inter-parliamentary co-operation and warmly recalled her recent visit to Japan in the framework of commemoration of the 25th anniversary of resumption of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Japan.

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Speaker of the Seimas to Lithuanian diplomats: *Our task is to preserve what has already been achieved*



On 21 July 2016, at the working breakfast with the heads of the Lithuanian diplomatic missions, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, discussed foreign policy developments, achievements, and challenges of recent years. The diplomats shared their accomplishments, pending problems, and planned activities with the Speaker of the Seimas. The Speaker of the Seimas underlined once again that we all worked for the common goal, which was Lithuania.

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Speaker of the Seimas met with Nadiya Savchenko



On 11 July 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Nadiya Savchenko, People's Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and her sister Vira Savchenko. During the meeting, the Speaker of the Seimas reiterated Lithuania's support to Ukraine and noted that Ukraine, on its path towards European integration, needed further strengthening of cooperation between the Seimas and the Verkhovna Rada.

The Speaker of the Seimas expressed her admiration of the Savchenko sisters' courage and determination in bringing changes to Ukraine. "I trust in Ukraine. As long as there are men and women, as strong as you, Ukraine will remain on the track towards democracy," Mrs Graužinienė said. She also underlined that it was crucial to cherish historical memory of the nation, foster awareness of the young generation and teach young people to be ready to defend themselves, their families, and their country.

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On 15 March 2016, the Seimas adopted [the Resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania Regarding Ukrainian Air Force Pilot Nadiya Savchenko](#)

VISITS



Working visit of the Speaker of the Seimas Loreta Graužinienė to the United States of America

On June 30–5 July 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, was on a working visit to the cities of Washington and Baltimore, USA.

During the visit, Speaker of the Seimas met with Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford of Maryland, Honorary Consuls of Lithuania in the USA, and the leadership of the Lithuanian–American Community, and took part in the round-table discussion with the American–Lithuanian Business Council.

The Speaker of the Seimas also participated in the opening of the exhibition *On the Road of Democracy: 150th Birth Anniversary of Kazys Grinius*, which was arranged by the Office of the Seimas and brought to the USA to honour the memory of President Kazys Grinius. In addition, she visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and the Lithuanian House and attended the XV Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival.

For more, see in press releases:

Speaker of the Seimas attended the opening of an exhibition in the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva in Washington, D.C.



On 1 July 2016, during her working visit to the United States of America, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, made a welcome address at the exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva.

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Speaker of the Seimas and members of the American-Lithuanian Business Council discussed opportunities for attracting innovation to Lithuania in Washington D.C.



On 2 July 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with members of the American-Lithuanian Business Council in Washington D.C., to discuss bilateral economic relations and the prospects of attracting investment to Lithuania. Active participants of the round-table discussion were companies already investing in Lithuania. The Speaker of the Seimas noted that the success stories of these US companies served as additional pull factors for other Western companies to invest in Lithuania.

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Speaker of the Seimas welcomed the participants of the XV Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in Baltimore



On 3 July 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, greeted the participants and guests of the XV Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in Baltimore.

“I am particularly pleased to be with you in this festival of dance and the Lithuanian spirit. It is your enthusiasm and love for Lithuania that have made it possible to enjoy the sounds of the Lithuanian language, folk music and dances here for several decades now,” the Speaker said and stressed that dances and songs had

always been a source of strength and inspiration for Lithuanians, helping them to survive even the most difficult of times.

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Speaker of the Seimas met with Lithuanian honorary consuls and leadership of the Lithuanian communities in the US



On 3 July 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, had consecutive meetings with Lithuanian honorary consuls and leadership of the Lithuanian communities in the US, who came to the XV Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival. The importance of the Lithuanian diaspora in creating a strong, advanced and prosperous Lithuania was the focus of the meetings.

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Speaker of the Seimas: “The example of President Kazys Grinius inspires us to protect and foster the Lithuanian identity in any circumstances”



On 5 July 2016, concluding her working visit in the United States of America, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, opened the exhibition of photographs and documents titled *On the Road of Democracy: 150th Birth Anniversary of Kazys Grinius*, which was hosted in the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington. The exhibition was dedicated to the 150th birth anniversary of Kazys Grinius, President, Prime Minister, Member of the Constituent Assembly and the First, Second and Third Seimas, doctor and publicist.

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EVENTS

25 years since the Medininkai massacre



On 31 July 2016, Lithuania marked the 25th anniversary of the tragic events in Medininkai when seven Lithuanian officers were shot dead at the Lithuania–Belarus border. A moment of silence was held and flowers were laid at the Medininkai Memorial to honour their memory that day. While addressing participants of the commemoration, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, noted that the officers, who were killed at the Medininkai border checkpoint, did not fear the imminent danger and frequent attacks by the Soviet militia special-purpose detachments and joined the

public service of our young state not only because of their professional career but also “because of their patriotic disposition, love for the Homeland and the consciously perceived responsibility to serve it.”

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PHOTOS



Press conference on *the Expedition to Kazbek* on the occasion of the 521st anniversary of the establishment of the cross-border relations between Lithuania and Georgia. From left to right: Khatuna Salukvadze, Georgian Ambassador in Lithuania, Vydas Gedvilas, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, Irena Andrukaitienė, Signatory to the Act of Independence and member of the expedition, and Algimantas Jucevičius, President of the Lithuanian Traveller Union and head of the expedition.

12 July 2016



Meeting of Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, and Artūras Paulauskas, Chair of the Committee on National Security and Defence, with Seyran Ohanyan, Defence Minister of Armenia.

13 July 2016



Meeting of Bronius Pauža, Head of the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with Ukraine, and Volodymyr Jacenkivski, Ukrainian Ambassador in Lithuania.
19 July 2016



Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, and Aydan Yamanca, Turkish Ambassador in Lithuania, meet in the Seimas. The meeting focused on the political situation in Turkey after the attempted military coup.
27 July 2016

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

TEXT

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