



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
SEIMAS

Lithuanian
Parliamentary
Mirror

www.lrs.lt



NEWSLETTER

2016 August-September
No 8-9 (52)

- ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2016, MEMBERS OF THE SEIMAS MET FOR THE LAST SESSION OF THE CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY TERM
- SEIMAS OVERRODE THE PRESIDENT'S VETO ON THE NEW LABOUR CODE
- SEIMAS TO CONSIDER LEGAL REGULATION ON ENTRY OF 'DIRTY' ELECTRICITY TO LITHUANIA
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS FOCUSED ON THE SAFETY OF THE ASTRAVYETS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND THE COMMUNICATION OF THE PROGRESS OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE BALTIC AND NORDIC (NB8) PARLIAMENT SPEAKERS
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS NOTED THE NEED TO DEEPEN REGIONAL INTEGRATION BETWEEN THE BALTIC STATES AND CENTRAL EUROPE AT THE 26TH ECONOMIC FORUM IN KRYNICA
- COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS CALLED ON THE EU AND NATO TO ENGAGE ACTIVELY IN ADDRESSING THE RESTORATION OF UKRAINE'S SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY; ADOPTED A STATEMENT, PROMOTING AN URGENT INTRODUCTION OF A VISA-FREE REGIME FOR GEORGIAN CITIZENS TRAVELLING TO THE SCHENGEN AREA

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Work Programme of the autumn session presented to the Seimas



On 10 September 2016, members of the Seimas met for the last session of the current parliamentary term.

At the first sitting, Speaker of the Seimas Loreta Graužinienė informed the Seimas of the most important tasks facing the ninth (autumn) session, while Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius presented draft laws submitted by the Government.

[MORE](#)

Seimas overrode the President's veto on the new Labour Code

On 14 September 2016, the Seimas decided to override the veto imposed by Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, on the draft of the new Labour Code (No XIIP-3234 Gr), and passed the returned draft legislation without amendments. The new Labour Code without the amendments proposed by the President of the Republic of Lithuania was adopted by 74 votes in favour, with 39 votes against and 10 abstentions.

The Seimas adopted the new Labour Code on 21 June 2016.

[MORE](#)

Seimas approved the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens with the President's amendments included

On 14 September 2016, the Seimas approved the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens (draft No XIIP-4306Gr) returned to the Seimas for repeat consideration by a presidential decree. The Law was approved with all the amendments submitted by Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic.

[MORE](#)

Seimas approved the Law on Assisted Fertilization with the President's amendments included

On 14 September 2016, the Seimas agreed with the veto of Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, on the draft Law on Assisted Fertilization (No XIIP-2502 Gr) returned to the Seimas for repeat consideration.

The Law was adopted with all the presidential amendments. A total of 53 Members of Seimas voted in favour of adoption of the Law on Assisted Fertilization with all the proposals made by the President of the Republic, with 40 votes against and 8 abstentions.

For more details, please follow the [link](#).

Seimas to consider legal regulation on entry of 'dirty' electricity to Lithuania

On 10 September 2016, in accordance with their right of legislative initiative, citizens of the Republic of Lithuania submitted a draft Law on Protection of Electricity System and Electricity Market (No XIIP-4639) to the Seimas for consideration.

The submitted legislation proposes to establish the general principles, conditions and stages for protecting the electricity system and electricity market of the Republic of Lithuania from entry of 'dirty' electricity generated by unsafe power plants in third countries.

The draft Law provides that the power plants under construction or in operation in third countries would be treated as unsafe when, due to their geographical location or technological features, they pose a threat to the Lithuanian capital city of Vilnius or a large share of the population of the Republic of Lithuania living in a particular area of the country and, in the event of any threat, the people living in areas such as Vilnius would have to be evacuated.

[MORE](#)

Seimas to open discussion on cutting the number of MPs

On 20 September 2016, the Seimas decided to consider draft amendments to Article 55 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (Draft No XIIP-4706) submitted by Valentinas Bukauskas, Member of the Seimas Labour Party political group, who proposed reducing the number of lawmakers from 141 to 111.

[MORE](#)

Seimas adopted new version of the Law on Support in Case of Death

On 20 September 2016, the Seimas adopted a new version on the Law on Support in Case of Death (draft No XIIP-4320(3)) in compliance with the European standards. The Law established the legal framework for the provision of support for repatriation of mortal remains of Lithuanian citizens deceased abroad, the basis and conditions for granting this support, and the size of the allowance. The Law also ensured proper compatibility of the Lithuanian legislation with the requirements established in the EU law. Other amendments to the Law result from the analysis of the problems arising in the application of the Law in practice.

[MORE](#)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS

Speaker of the Seimas: Joint strategic infrastructure projects will ensure further integration between the Baltic States and Western Europe



On 8 September 2016, at the 26th Economic Forum held in Krynica Zdrój, Poland, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, noted the need to deepen regional integration between the Baltic States and Central Europe through joint strategic infrastructure projects, thereby ensuring economic and energy security of our countries.

In taking the floor in the Plenary Session titled *What Kind of Solidarity Does Europe Need?*, the Speaker of the Seimas pointed out that in order to further strengthen the integration between the Baltic and Central European regions, it was essential to continue developing strategic transport and energy infrastructure projects between Lithuania and Poland and to move towards synchronisation of the Baltic power grids with the continental European network.

[MORE](#)

Speaker of the Seimas focused on the safety of the Astravyets Nuclear Power Plant and the communication of the progress of the Eastern Partnership at the Conference of the Baltic and Nordic (NB8) Parliament Speakers



The Conference of the Baltic and Nordic (NB8) Parliament Speakers held in Riga on 22 August 2016, discussed the relevant issues of regional cooperation and further deepening of political and economic integration. Special attention was given to new challenges to the Baltic region. The discussion also touched upon energy security and resilience against hybrid and cyber threats.

[MORE](#)

Speaker of the Seimas bid farewell to Swedish Ambassador



On 11 August 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Cecilia Barbro Ruthström-Ruin, outgoing Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of Lithuania.

[MORE](#)

Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, welcomed Valeriu Frija, new Moldovan Ambassador to Lithuania



On 11 August 2016, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, received new Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Lithuania, Valeriu Frija.

[MORE](#)

INITIATIVES OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE SEIMAS

Committee on Foreign Affairs called on the EU and NATO to engage actively in addressing the restoration of Ukraine's security and territorial integrity

On 14 September 2016, the Committee on Foreign Affairs discussed the current security situation and reforms underway in Ukraine, the process of the implementation of the Minsk Agreements and how these issues are addressed in various international formats.

The Committee unanimously adopted a Statement Regarding the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements and Strengthened Support to Ukraine.

Full text of the document, please find [here](#).

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Lithuania supports the ambitious free trade agreements with the US and Canada

On 21 September 2016, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas, with the participation of Raimundas Karoblis, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, unanimously called for the continuation of negotiations with the US on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) as well as for completion of the required procedures for the new trade agreement between the EU and Canada (CETA) and its implementation.

[MORE](#)

Committee on Foreign Affairs: *visa-free regime for Georgian citizens travelling to the Schengen area should be introduced as soon as possible*

On 28 September 2016, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, with participation of Foreign Vice-Minister Neris Germanas unanimously adopted a [statement](#), calling for an urgent introduction of a visa-free regime for Georgian citizens travelling to the Schengen area.

[MORE](#)

Priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU presented at the Seimas

Since 1 July 2016, Slovakia has taken over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, previously held by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. On 7 September 2016, Peter Hattar, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovakia to Lithuania, presented the priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU at a joint meeting of the Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas.

[MORE](#)

Meeting of Chairpersons of the Committees on EU Affairs of the Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and Polish Parliaments in Tallinn



On 8–9 September 2016, an informal meeting of Chairs of the Committees on EU Affairs of the Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and Polish Parliaments took place in Tallinn. Among other topics, the participants discussed the agenda of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) due to take place in Bratislava (Slovak Republic) on 13–15 November 2016; reinforcement of the role of national Parliaments in the EU decision-making process; and progress of the EU–US negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). During their visit, the

parliamentarians met with Taavi Rõivas, Prime Minister of Estonia, and held an exchange of views on the future of the EU after Brexit.

[MORE](#)

Committee of European Affairs organised a discussion on the European Pillar of Social Right



On 19 September 2016, the Seimas Committee on European Affairs, in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee, held a discussion on the European Pillar of Social Rights: Consultation with Civil Society.

Welcoming the participants, Gediminas Kirkilas, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, noted that Lithuania supported the initiative and stressed that “the time has come to strive for economic growth not only by concentrating on financial and innovation sectors,

but also by turning to a social dimension, including social welfare of the citizens.”

The aim of the discussion was to consider how to develop the European Pillar of Social Rights, exchange ideas and gather public views on the most pressing economic and social problems in Lithuania, and how the European Pillar of Social Rights could help to address these issues.

[MORE](#)

EVENTS



Welcome address by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, at the conference to mark the 25th anniversary of the resumption of the international relations of the Republic of Lithuania



Speech by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, at the Commemoration of the Day of Baltic Unity in Liepāja



Welcome address by Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, at the 10th international conference of the Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania *Languages across Schools, Cultures, Borders: Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Social Inclusion*

PHOTOS



Junior officers assigned to warships from the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) Training Squadron visited the Seimas and met with Emanuelis Zingeris, Member of the Seimas and Signatory to the Act of Independence of Lithuania.
9 August 2016



Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs (second on the right), together with the leaders of Parliaments of the Nordic and Baltic countries participated in the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the restoration of independence of Estonia.
20 August 2016



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, congratulated Latvia on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitutional Law on the Statehood of the Republic of Latvia.
22 August 2016



Ambassador Daniel Fried, Coordinator for Sanctions Policy at the U.S. Department of State, and his team visited the Seimas.
31 August 2016



Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, met with Tigran Mkrtchyan, new Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Lithuania.
6 September 2016



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Marek Kuchciński, Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.
8 September 2016



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with a youth delegation from Japan visiting Lithuania under the International Youth Development Exchange Program.
12 September 2016



Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania met with representatives of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania and the Constitutional Tribunal of the Republic of Poland.
23 September 2016

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

TEXT

Press Office of the Information and Communication Department

Jolanta Anskaitienė, Adviser, tel: +370 5 239 6508, e-mail: jolanta.anskaitiene@lrs.lt

LAYOUT

Neringa Motiejūnaitė-Lilienė, tel: +370 5 239 6204, e-mail: neringa.motiejunaite@lrs.lt

PHOTOGRAPH

Džoja Gunda Barysaitė, tel: +370 5 239 6215, e-mail: dzoja.barysaite@lrs.lt

Olga Posaškova, tel: +370 5 239 6205, e-mail: olga.posaskova@lrs.lt

Information and Communication Department

Loreta Raulinaitytė, Director, tel: +370 5 239 6762, e-mail: loreta.raulinaityte@lrs.lt

Public Relations Unit of the Information and Communication Department

Artūras Zeleniakas, Head, tel: +370 5 239 6201; e-mail: arturas.zeleniakas@lrs.lt

If you do not wish to receive more newsletters in the future, please inform about it by e-mail: jolanta.anskaitiene@lrs.lt