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NEWSLETTER

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- LITHUANIA ELECTED THE NEW SEIMAS
- MINISTER OF FINANCE PRESENTED TO THE SEIMAS DRAFT LAW ON APPROVING THE FINANCIAL INDICATORS OF THE STATE BUDGET AND MUNICIPAL BUDGETS FOR 2017
- SEIMAS BEGAN ITS DELIBERATIONS ON THE PROPOSALS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AIMED AT REFORMING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM
- SEIMAS STARTED CONSIDERATIONS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON RESTRICTING MEMBERS OF THE SEIMAS FROM BEING APPOINTED AS MINISTERS
- SEIMAS APPROVED THE CONCEPT PAPER ON LAY JUDGES IN COURTS
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS TOOK PART IN THE INFORMAL MEETING OF SPEAKERS OF THE EU PARLIAMENTS IN BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS ATTENDED THE 35TH SESSION OF THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY

LITHUANIA ELECTED THE NEW SEIMAS

On 9 and 23 October 2016, Lithuania held new elections to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Seimas consists of 141 Members of the Seimas. The representatives of the nation are elected for a term of four years in single-member constituencies and the multi-member constituency by secret ballot in direct, mixed-system elections.

Following the two rounds of election, **the Lithuanian Peasant and Greens Union**, headed by Ramūnas Karbauskis, claimed victory in the elections to the Seimas of the legislative period of 2016–2020, securing 54 seats in the parliament.

The Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats came in second, winning 31 seats.

The Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, which is leading the current Government with the majority of seats (39) in the outgoing parliament, was left in third place, claiming 17 seats.

The Liberals Movement won 14 seats.

The Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania – Christian Families Alliance and **the Party “Order and Justice”** won 8 seats each.

The Labour Party claimed 2 seats, with **the Lithuanian Green Party, the Lithuanian Centre Party** and **the Political Party “List of Lithuania”** winning 1 seat each.

4 seats went to **self-nominated candidates**.

The average age of the elected Members of the Seimas stands at 51.5. Thirty (21%) candidates elected to the Seimas are women.

For more information on the elections to the Seimas of the legislative period of 2016–2020, please visit [the website of the Central Electoral Commission](#).



On 9 November 2016, Ramūnas Karbauskis, leader of the Peasant and Greens Union, which won the elections, and Algirdas Butkevičius, Prime Minister of the current Government, signed a coalition agreement.

The opening sitting of the newly elected Seimas will be held on 14 November 2016.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Minister of Finance presented to the Seimas Draft Law on Approving the Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets for 2017

On 18 October 2016, **Rasa Budbergytė**, Minister of Finance, presented to the Seimas Draft Law on Approving the Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets for 2017, hereby proposing to endorse the state budget revenue of nearly EUR 8.476 billion and the expenditure of over EUR 9.059 billion (appropriations exceed the revenue by EUR 583.4 million).

The consolidated revenue in budgets, the EU and other international funds included, will amount to EUR 9.997 billion, with a 5.9 % increase on the planned revenue for 2016, while the appropriations will make up EUR 10.580 billion, with an increase of EUR 504 million as compared to 2016.

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Seimas started considerations of constitutional amendments on restricting Members of the Seimas from being appointed as ministers

On 11 October 2016, the Seimas agreed to start considerations of amendments to Articles 60 and 99 of the Constitution, submitted by **Valentinas Bukauskas**, Member of the Seimas, based on which Members of the Seimas would no longer be able to be appointed as ministers, i.e. to serve simultaneously as both a Member of the Seimas and a Minister.

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Seimas began deliberations on amendments to the Statute of the Seimas aimed at revising regulation on salary reduction for Members of the Seimas failing to attend parliamentary meetings

On 12 October 2016, the Seimas began deliberations on amendments to the Statute of the Seimas presented by **Julius Sabatauskas**, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the Seimas. The amendments are aimed at revising regulation on salary reduction for Members of the Seimas failing to attend parliamentary meetings.

The draft envisages a reduction of monthly salary for a given month in the amount of 5 % for each Seimas sitting missed without a valid excuse, provided that voting on adoption of legislative acts had been planned in advance and was held in due time during the said sitting.

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Seimas ratified Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and the Republic of Kazakhstan

Pursuant to the Constitution and the Law on International Treaties and having regard to the Decree of 18 July 2016 of President of the Republic of Lithuania, the Seimas, on 11 October 2016, ratified the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Kazakhstan, of the other part, adopted on 21 December 2015 in Astana.

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Seimas ratified the Work in Fishing Convention

On 11 October 2016, the Seimas ratified the Work in Fishing Convention. The Convention is applied to any fisher and fishing vessel engaged in commercial fishing operations, i.e. fishing operations on rivers, lakes or canals, with the exception of subsistence fishing and recreational fishing.

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Seimas approved the Concept Paper on Lay Judges in Courts

On 11 October 2016, by a vote of 73 in favour to none against, with 1 abstention, the Seimas adopted a Resolution on the Concept Paper on the Public Representatives, Lay Judges', Institution in Courts. Pursuant to the Concept Paper, the legal basis for the lay judge system in courts should be embedded in the Constitution by amending Chapter 9 "Courts" and establishing that justice shall be administered by judges assisted by lay judges.

The Concept Paper contains provisions on the main aspects of lay judges' activities including but not limited to requirements for lay judges, their selection procedure, compilation of lay judges' list, the role of lay judges in court proceedings, their procedural rights and obligations, guarantees and liability.

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Seimas approved the President's proposal to establish the framework for fighting against violence in all general education schools

On 18 October 2016, the Seimas approved the amendments to the Law on Education, submitted by Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic. The amendments are intended for establishing the framework to fight against violence in all general education and vocational schools of Lithuania and regulate the procedure for notifying about instances of cyber-bullying.

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AT THE SEIMAS COMMITTEES

Seimas began its deliberations on the proposals of the European Commission aimed at reforming the Common European Asylum System

The Seimas began its deliberations on the proposals of the European Commission aimed at reforming the Common European Asylum System.

On 14 October 2016, the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas, on the basis of conclusions of the Committees on Legal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, and National Security and Defence, examined one of the documents of the legislative package, namely, the Proposal COM(2016) 468 for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union Resettlement Framework and amending Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council. Having examined compliance of the Proposal with the principle of subsidiarity, Members of the Committee decided that the Proposal did not conflict with the principle of subsidiarity. Even so, they made a decision to draw up an opinion and consistently present the position of the Seimas on the Proposal.

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Committee on European Affairs consistently represented Lithuanian position in the European Parliament

On 12 October 2016, an inter-parliamentary meeting on “A targeted revision of the rules on the Posting of Workers” organised by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament (EMPL) was held at the European Parliament in Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium. Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, presented the arguments of the European Commission explaining why the Commission had not revised or amended the Proposal COM/2016/128 for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services (hereinafter referred to as the “Proposal”) submitted on 9 March 2016, which triggered the “yellow card” procedure, when the parliaments of eleven EU Member States, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania included, stated that the EU’s Proposal to adopt this legal act was not in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, met with the Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, took part in the Informal Meeting of Speakers of the EU Parliaments in Bratislava, Slovakia. At the event, organised on 6–7 October 2016, among other issues, heads of national Parliaments discussed threats to European unity, ways of bridging the gap between the core EU institutions and the citizens, internal cohesion of the EU, and the role of national Parliaments.

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Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, attended the 35th Session of the Baltic Assembly



On 28 October 2016, at the 35th Session of the Baltic Assembly, held in Riga, Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, addressed regional and energy security and invited the Baltic States to seek deeper integration through joint strategic infrastructure projects.

According to the Speaker of the Seimas, as Russia is continuing its aggressive policy and Belarus is constructing a potentially unsafe nuclear power plant in Astravyets, security situation in the region is a major cause of concern.

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EVENTS

Commemoration of deportations of October 1951



On 3 October 2016, Vytautas Saulis, Chair of the Seimas Commission for the Rights and Affairs of Participants of Resistance to Occupation Regimes and Victims of Occupation, participated in the commemoration of the deportations of 2–3 October 1951. The ceremony took place at the Monument to the Victims of the Soviet Occupation. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the deportations of 2–3 October 1951 when more than 16,000 people, with nearly 5,000 of them being children, were deported, in fully loaded cattle wagons, from Lithuania to various locations, mainly in the Region of Krasnoyarsk (Russian Federation).

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PHOTOS



Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, met with Jeremy Browne, Special Representative for the London City to the EU. The guest is accompanied by Claire Lawrence, British Ambassador to Lithuania.
6 October 2016



Benediktas Juodka, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs, met with Jürgen Ligi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia.
6 October 2016



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, attended an Informal Meeting of Speakers of the EU Parliaments in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Photo from the website of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.
7 October 2016



Meeting of the members of the Seimas Committees on Legal Affairs and on Human Rights with the delegation of representatives of the Ministries of Justice and of Finance of Turkey and the Turkish Bar Association.
26 October 2016



On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Baltic Assembly, the Speakers of the Lithuanian Seimas, Latvian Saeima, and Estonian Riigikogu signed a letter of appreciation honouring the founders, supporters and promoters of the parliamentary cooperation of the three Baltic States.
27 October 2016



Loreta Graužinienė, Speaker of the Seimas, attended the 35th Session of the Baltic Assembly in Riga, Latvia.
27 October 2016

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

TEXT

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