



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS  
SEIMAS

Lithuanian  
Parliamentary  
*Mirror*

[www.lrs.lt](http://www.lrs.lt)



NEWSLETTER

2017 January  
No 1 (56)

- SEIMAS APPROVED THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY
- BOARD OF THE SEIMAS ENDORSED THE SEIMAS LONG-TERM PRIORITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
- SEIMAS DECIDED TO CONSIDER A CUT IN THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS MET WITH SPEAKER OF THE RIKSDAG OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN
- SEIMAS SOLEMNLY COMMEMORATED THE DAY OF THE DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM
- SEIMAS AWARDED THE FREEDOM PRIZES 2016

## PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

### Seimas approved the National Security Strategy

On 17 January 2017, the Seimas approved the National Security Strategy by 106 votes in favour to none against and 1 abstention. The Strategy defines the key aspects of the national security policy; national security interests of the Republic of Lithuania; threats, risks and risk factors; and the priorities and targets of the national security policy.

[MORE](#)

### Seimas decided to consider a cut in the number of Members of Parliament

On 12 January 2017, Ramūnas Karbauskis, Chair of the Lithuanian Peasant and Greens Union Political Group at the Seimas, presented draft amendments to Article 55 and 57 of the Constitution, proposing a reduction of the number of Members of the Seimas and a change of the date for general elections. The draft proposed a cut in the number of Members of the Seimas from 141 to 101.

[MORE](#)

## Board of the Seimas endorsed long-term priorities of the Seimas for international cooperation

At its meeting of 11 January 2017, the Board of the Seimas endorsed the Seimas long-term priorities for international cooperation (Decision of the Board of the Seimas No SV-S-80 of 6 February 2013 expired). The following priorities for international cooperation were endorsed:

- 1) active membership of NATO; stronger transatlantic relations and ties with the United States of America;
- 2) active membership of the European Union;
- 3) developing relations with countries of the Nordic and Baltic Sea region; better neighbourly relations;
- 4) preparing for the accession to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development;
- 5) international cooperation through engagement in activities of the parliamentary dimension of the United Nations, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Council of Europe and other international organisations;
- 6) support for reforms and Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations of European Union's Eastern Partnership countries;
- 7) developing ties with Lithuanian diaspora communities and organisations abroad.

## Seimas amended the Law on Assisted Reproduction by adopting amendments on embryo

On 17 January 2017, the Seimas amended the Law on Assisted Reproduction to improve regulation on embryo protection. The Seimas authorised the creation of as many embryos as can be created at any one given time on condition that the final decision on their number would be made by both spouses (or life partners) in consultation with a doctor. In addition, the amendments prohibited destroying the unimplanted embryos created for assisted reproduction. Embryos for assisted reproduction should only be used for the purpose of assisted reproduction of the woman.

[MORE](#)

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Speaker of the Seimas: *Lithuania will strengthen its engagement in the cooperation formats of the Nordic and Baltic states*



On 26 January 2016, Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Urban Ahlin, Speaker of the Riksdag of the Kingdom of Sweden, and members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on European Union Affairs, and the Committee on Industry and Trade.

The meeting focused on regional security, Lithuania's membership of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the need for close Nordic-Baltic cooperation in the NB8 format. Mr Prancietis stated that the latter had become particularly important in the context of Brexit.

[MORE](#)

## Speaker of the Seimas voiced his concerns over the nuclear power plant in Astravyets, situation in Ukraine and the 13th of January attempted coup case



On 9 January 2017, Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, had a meeting with Alexander Udal'tsov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation. The meeting covered issues related to the Lithuanian–Russian relations, namely, the role of Russia in the investigation of the 13th of January case, nuclear safety and situation in Ukraine.

In the context of the forthcoming 13th of January, the Speaker of the Seimas reminded to the Russian ambassador that half a million of Russia's population supported Lithuania in Moscow during the events of 13 January 1991. He expressed his concern over Russia's unwillingness to cooperate in investigating the 13th January and Medininkai massacre cases.

[MORE](#)

## Speaker of the Seimas: *South Korea takes interest in Lithuania's track record of innovation*



On 16 January 2017, Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Choi Sung-joo, Ambassador of South Korea. The meeting focused on bilateral relations and, in particular, opportunities for strengthening cooperation in the areas of education, science and innovation in order to attract Korean investment to Lithuania.

“Cooperation with South Korea offers a significant market for Lithuanian business and holds a promise of new high-tech jobs,” the Speaker of the Seimas said following the meeting with the Ambassador. In Prancietis' view, creating an innovation-based economy on the basis of high value-added activities ranked among Lithuania's chief strategic objectives.

[MORE](#)

## Members of the Committees on Economics and on Foreign Affairs: Lithuania supports the ambitious EU free trade agenda

On 26 January 2017, Virginijus Sinkevičius, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Economics, Dainius Kreivys, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Economics, Aušrinė Armonaitė, Rita Miliūtė and Žygimantas Pavilionis, Members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, met with Peter Sandler, Director for Resources, Information and Policy Coordination at the Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE) of the European Commission. The meeting in Vilnius focused on the most relevant matters of EU trade policy. The Members of the Committees unanimously supported the aims of EU trade policy, establishment of a multilateral trading system, and enforcement of trade defence instruments against unfair competition. They pointed out that EU trade policy significantly contributed to delivering economic growth and jobs in Lithuania. As an open economy, Lithuania is strongly dependent on foreign trade. Thirty per cent of jobs in Lithuania are export-dependent.

[MORE](#)

## Speaker of the Seimas: *ways will be sought to retain the Lithuanian citizenship*



On 23 January 2017, at the meeting with the leadership of the Lithuanian World Community, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, stated that the ways to retain the Lithuanian citizenship of Lithuanians residing abroad would be searched for.

“The key goal is that Lithuanians hold and retain the Lithuanian citizenship. We will start talking about it with experts in the near future,” said the Speaker of the Seimas. He also said that all interested bodies and the

general public would be consulted for the future decisions to reflect not only the moral wish of the people, who decided to leave Lithuania, to retain citizenship, but also their duties to Lithuania.

[MORE](#)

## EVENTS

### Seimas solemnly commemorated the Day of the Defenders of Freedom



On 13 January 2017, the Seimas held a solemn commemoration of the Day of the Defenders of Freedom and award ceremony of the Freedom Prizes. The commemoration, which was held in the historical Hall of the Act of 11 March, began with the speech by Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, who invited everyone to observe a minute's silence in memory of the victims who died for freedom. “Marked by blood, the events of the 13th of

January will forever stay in our memories. I bow my head to all those who died on 13 January 1991. I place my hand on my heart, for I believe that their memory makes us stronger, unites us, and gives us courage to stay faithful to Lithuania's path of freedom,” Mr Pranckietis said.

[MORE](#)



## Seimas awarded the Freedom Prizes 2016



On 13 January 2017, the Seimas Hall of the Act of 11 March hosted the ceremony where President Valdas Adamkus and Vytautas Landsbergis, Chairman of the Supreme Council – Reconstituent Seimas, First Head of State of the Republic of Lithuania and Signatory to the Act of Independence, were awarded the Freedom Prizes 2016.

At the award ceremony, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, presented the winners with the Statuette of Liberty, whereas Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė, Member of the Seimas and Chair of the Freedom Prize Commission, presented each winner with a Diploma of the Freedom Prize.

[MORE](#)

## PHOTOS



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Bohumil Mazánek, Ambassador of the Czech Republic.  
*3 January 2017*



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Rimantas Šadžius, Member of the European Court of Auditors.  
*4 January 2017*



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Jutta Schmitz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany.  
*9 January 2017*



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Aleksandr Korol, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus.  
*10 January 2017*



Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, received Romas Jonas Misiūnas, Alfonsas Eidintas and Darius Degutis, former Ambassadors of the Republic of Lithuania to the State of Israel, and extended his congratulations on the 25th anniversary of establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the State of Israel.

*11 January 2017*



Members of the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the Republic of Estonia met with Sven Mikser, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia.

*12 January 2017*



Juozas Bernatoniš, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs, met with Sven Mikser, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia.

*12 January 2017*



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, received Mikheil Janelidze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

*17 January 2017*



Juozas Bernatoniš, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs, received Zoltán Jancsi, Ambassador of Hungary.

*16 January 2017*



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, received Dan Adrian Balanescu, Ambassador of Romania.

*16 January 2017*





Juozas Bernatonis, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs, received Hasan Mammadzada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan.  
17 January 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, received Bert van der Lingen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.  
18 January 2017



Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, received the newly appointed Indonesian Ambassador Muhammad Ibnu Said residing in Denmark.  
18 January 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Jake Jones, IRI's Resident Country Director for Lithuania.  
18 January 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, received Dan Eddie Frederiksen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of Lithuania.  
19 January 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, received Stefano Taliani de Marchio, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Lithuania.  
20 January 2017



Gediminas Vasiliauskas, Head of the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with Canada, met with Alain Hausser, Ambassador of Canada.  
20 January 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, received David Noonan, Ambassador of Ireland.  
31 January 2017

***For more photos of the January 2017 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](mailto:jolanta.anskaitiene@lrs.lt)

## LAYOUT

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

## PHOTOGRAPH

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

Olga Posaškova, tel: +370 5 239 6205, e-mail: [olga.posaskova@lrs.lt](mailto:olga.posaskova@lrs.lt)

Information and Communication Department

Loreta Raulinaitytė, Director, tel: +370 5 239 6762, e-mail: [loreta.raulinaityte@lrs.lt](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jolanta.anskaitiene@lrs.lt)*