



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

DECISION

**ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA ON UKRAINE AND LITHUANIA'S SUPPORT MEASURES FOR UKRAINE
(LITHUANIA'S PLAN ON UKRAINE IN 2017–2020)**

3 March 2017
Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Committees),

recalling their Decision of 14 November 2014 on the fundamental principles of the position of the Republic of Lithuania on Ukraine and Lithuania's support measures for Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the Decision), which expressed unconditional support for Ukraine's pro-European choice and set out specific measures for Lithuania to implement this support,

having assessed Ukraine's remarkable progress with reforms over the last three years following the Maidan Revolution and, at the same time, its ability to contain Russia's aggression, which still persists and claims ever new victims,

highlighting that a number of important and complicated reforms are still ahead of Ukraine, particularly when striving for a breakthrough in the fight against corruption, and that the path of reform will be long and complicated, requiring not only wise political will of the Ukrainian leadership but also their ability to maintain the unflagging commitment of the Ukrainian people to reforms,

noting that, from the early 1990s, Lithuania and the whole Central Europe were helped to maintain the motivation of their societies for necessary reforms by the perspective of membership of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the EU) and NATO, which was offered early enough informally and then formally by the Western community on the condition that the reforms necessary for the membership were carried out; the tangible goal of the EU and NATO memberships helped our

states to build a national and political consensus that was essential for implementing complicated reforms,

underlining that today the Western community is faced with a more difficult internal situation than it was at the beginning of the 1990s, as the United States tend to focus more on domestic affairs and are looking for new geopolitical instruments following the recent elections, the EU is still recovering after the severe global financial crisis and the European refugee crisis and is going through an existential challenge posed to the entire European project by Brexit, and Russia has become significantly more aggressive and prone to breaking international rules of peaceful coexistence and respect for national sovereignty in order to preserve its dominance over Ukraine and other Eastern Partnership countries,

noting that, though above-mentioned circumstances make it hard to hope for the tangible perspective of membership of the EU or NATO to be offered to Ukraine in the coming decade, Lithuania must do its utmost for this perspective to remain a key strategic objective for all — Ukraine, Lithuania and the entire Western community,

emphasising that this long-term goal makes it important to keep not only the commitment of the Ukrainian people to reform, but also maintain and strengthen the motivation of the Western community in helping Ukraine to cope with the huge challenge of securing its territory, pro-European choice, and sovereignty of the state,

noting the obvious fact that today, by making use of the ongoing military aggression in eastern Ukraine and various soft and hybrid forms of information aggression or political aggression within both Ukraine and the Western community, Vladimir Putin's policy towards Ukraine is, first and foremost, aimed at undermining the commitment of Ukrainian people to pro-European reforms and the interest of the Western community in supporting reforms in Ukraine. Russia openly aims to make the West give in to "Ukrainian fatigue" so that Ukraine is left alone to counter the Kremlin's open attempts to regain political dominance over the whole of Ukraine. Russia has already managed to achieve this in Moldova, which elected a pro-Russian President; Ukraine is the next and most important target of the hybrid aggression,

emphasizing that it is in the vital interest of Lithuania that Russia is eventually able to bring about pro-European change into its own national life because this would be the only way to guarantee peaceful and mutually beneficial coexistence between Russia and all its neighbours, including Lithuania,

noting that Ukraine's success in implementing European reforms and the support for such reforms is the only instrument for the West to stimulate positive developments in Russia, because Ukraine's

success story could inspire ordinary Russian citizens to strive for the same pro-European change in Russia,

emphasising the support for the successful reforms in Ukraine as one of the key strategic objectives of the Lithuanian geopolitical security policy, which must be implemented not only by offering Lithuania's comprehensive bilateral support for Ukraine, but also by intensively exploiting the potential of Lithuania's membership in the organisations of the Western community to mobilise bilateral and multilateral support of other Western countries, the EU and NATO;

noting that the Summit Meeting of NATO Heads of State and Government held in Warsaw on 8–9 July 2016 approved the Comprehensive Assistance Package for Ukraine with a view to consolidating and strengthening NATO's support for Ukraine;

recalling the documents on Ukraine adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and its committees and *having regard to* the European Parliament's resolutions on the matter,

submit their opinion on the fundamental principles of the position of the Republic of Lithuania on Ukraine and Lithuania's support measures for Ukraine.

The Committees support the policies carried out by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė, and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Government) in response to the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine and the threat posed by the Russian Federation to the security of all the EU and NATO member countries.

The Committees call on the Government to continue to be guided by the following key provisions, which were also approved by the Decision of 17 November 2014 of the Committees, in the formulation and implementation of the policy of the Republic of Lithuania towards Ukraine and while expressing the position of the Republic of Lithuania regarding this matter in the EU, NATO, the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe and other international organisations and fora:

- to actively pursue the policy of support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, to stand firm regarding the non-recognition of the annexation of Crimea, and to continue an active non-recognition campaign;
- to strongly support Ukraine's aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration, as well as its right and freedom to decide on its future, choose foreign policies and adopt decisions on accession to any international organisation or alliance without any external pressure;

- to support the granting of the EU membership perspective to Ukraine under Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and the implementation of necessary reforms so as to strengthen the cooperation between NATO and Ukraine and bring Ukraine closer to the Alliance;
- to strongly condemn the Russian Federation for waging an undeclared war against Ukraine with the use of Russian armed forces; to consider the targeted actions of the Russian Federation that violate bilateral and multilateral agreements on ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine as posing a threat to not only the security of Ukraine and the neighbouring countries, but also the security of the EU and NATO member countries and stability across Europe;
- to adhere to the position that the relations between the EU and the Russian Federation cannot return to normal until Russia continues its aggression in Ukraine and illegal occupation of the Ukrainian territory;
- to consider, as particularly important, the international investigations conducted by the International Criminal Court on the aggression and occupation carried out by Russia and the findings of the preliminary examination, announced on 14 November 2016, which point to Russia's direct responsibility;
- to call on the Western community to build its relations with Russia on the results of this examination and Russia's ability to prove its commitment to implementing the decisions of the International Criminal Court concerning the aggression and occupation by Russia;
- to propose that the EU initiates establishment of a multilateral mechanism for registration and calculation of damage incurred as a result of the occupation and annexation of Crimea, so as to have an objective assessment of Ukraine's losses resulting from the unlawful actions by the Russian Federation;
- to pursue the swiftest possible ratification of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, by Parliaments of all the EU Member States and promote coherent implementation of the Association Agreement in Ukraine;
- to support the swiftest possible implementation of the visa-free regime between the EU and Ukraine.

The Committees consider that the Western democratic community must be even more efficient and systematic in implementing a wide-ranging and long-term programme of bilateral and multilateral support measures for Ukraine, which would encompass direct military, humanitarian, and economic

assistance and support for Ukraine's democratic reform and for the implementation of Ukraine's long-term foreign policy objectives in realising its pro-European choice.

The Committees call on the Government and other Lithuanian public institutions to implement the following measures of support of the Republic of Lithuania for Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as Lithuania's Plan on Ukraine in 2017–2020):

1. Political support through Lithuania's membership in international organisations and bilateral contacts in the Western capitals

1.1. Lithuania takes the initiative to mobilise the international group of friends of A New European Plan for Ukraine (see the initiative of the Committees of 3 March 2017 on A New European Plan for Ukraine) in order to accelerate as much as possible the consideration of the Plan by major international institutions in the West (EU, International Monetary Fund, donor countries) and search for ways to implement the Plan. For this purpose, efforts, first and foremost, are pooled among the efficient regional fora such as the Baltic Assembly, the Nordic–Baltic (NB8) parliamentary fora, the Assembly of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland, and the Assembly of Members of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland, and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; intensive use is made of Lithuania's scope for action at the European Parliament, COSAC, and joint conferences of the committees of EU national Parliaments.

1.2. Support for the perspective of EU membership for Ukraine. Lithuania seeks to ensure that the Eastern Partnership Summit, due to take place in Brussels during the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU, thoroughly discusses A New European Plan for Ukraine and looks for ways to implement it, and that respective plans are drafted and approved in respect of other associated Eastern Partnership countries (Georgia and Moldova).

1.3. Support for Ukraine's rapprochement with NATO. Lithuania actively supports stronger cooperation between NATO and Ukraine and therefore actively exploits the potential of the Lithuanian Embassy to Ukraine to provide the Ukrainian public with more detailed information on NATO and implement NATO initiatives supporting Ukraine.

1.4. Making use of contacts in the West. Lithuania makes use of its contacts in the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany to gain more intensive Western support for Ukraine, including for the implementation of A New European Plan for Ukraine. The traditional partnership among the Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Polish, and Ukrainian migrant communities in the abovementioned countries is effectively used to achieve the set political objectives and more intensive support for

Ukraine. For the purpose of implementing A New European Plan for Ukraine, Lithuania will focus in particular on involvement of Canada, where the Ukrainian community is particularly strong, and of the new US administration, which should be a key pillar of Western policy in Ukraine over the next eight years. This period will probably be of utmost importance for the consolidation of Ukraine's position in the transatlantic community. Therefore, Lithuania has to make maximum use of all available instruments of influence (diplomacy, community and parliamentary activities, business, the media) in the USA to form a broad coalition in support of Ukraine in Washington and other major US cities and states. Events and donor conferences in the framework of A New European Plan for Ukraine have to take place regularly on the other side of the Atlantic, and the USA and Canada should become, alongside Brussels and other European capitals, the key supporters of the Plan.

1.5. Decision of the International Criminal Court on compensation for damages caused by the aggression and occupation carried out by Russia. Lithuania supports the Government of Ukraine in raising the issue of assessment, by the International Criminal Court, of the military conflict and annexation of a part of its territory and the issue of compensation, at international organisations and courts, for damages caused by these international crimes.

1.6. Strengthening of the Intermarium partnership. Lithuania actively participates in and launches Intermarium initiatives to encourage, in particular, Lithuanian, Polish, Ukrainian, and Romanian partnership in this region.

2. Parliamentary cooperation and party diplomacy

2.1. Reinforcement of the parliamentary cooperation between Lithuania and Ukraine. Through various initiatives at bilateral and multilateral levels, Lithuania continues to provide political support for Ukraine and share parliamentary experience of democratic reform, implementation of the rule of law, and transposition and consolidation of the EU law in order to achieve Ukraine's closer political association and economic integration with the EU and reinforced cooperation with NATO.

2.2. More effective use of the existing cooperation forms. It is essential to ensure that the meetings of the Assembly of Members of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland, and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as well as the meetings of the Assembly of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine are organised at least biannually and that their decisions contribute to the promotion and implementation of democratic reforms in Ukraine. These parliamentary institutions are encouraged to cooperate with the Baltic Assembly and the Nordic-Baltic (NB8) parliamentary fora. Visits to key Western capitals such as Washington, Berlin, Brussels, and London are organised for joint delegations of various parliamentary assemblies by including representatives of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

The aim is to develop the activities of the Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania with Ukraine and the cooperation between Lithuanian and Ukrainian delegations at international parliamentary organisations, particularly the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Parliamentary committees in charge of individual sectors are strengthening their cooperation.

2.3. Development of party diplomacy. With the participation and mediation of its major (traditional) political parties, Lithuania undertakes and develops a long-term party diplomacy initiative, which is a state-funded platform for cooperation between Western political parties and Ukrainian political forces with a view to mobilising the political parties in Ukraine and promoting their reform along the Western lines.

2.4. Enhancement of cooperation with the European Parliament. Lithuania is strengthening the cooperation with the European Parliament in order to mobilise support for Ukraine and initiate the necessary actions of EU institutions.

3. Financial assistance

Marshall Plan for Ukraine

Lithuania, in cooperation with its partners, initiates without delay the necessary international consultations and backing to ensure provision of the financial support earmarked for investment into the Ukrainian economy in the short term, as defined in A New European Plan for Ukraine. The annual investment package of up to EUR 5 billion would guarantee the growth of 6–8% per year in the immediate term, instead of the current rate of 2–2.5%.

Lithuania initiates EU-level political discussions with the European Parliament, European political parties, EU Member States, the European Commission, and other EU institutions on the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework for 2020–2027. The objective is to achieve allocation of up to 3% of the currently projected overall EU budget of over EUR 1,000 billion for the implementation of the new Marshall Plan for Ukraine and thus set up a EUR 30 billion instrument for multiannual financial support for Ukraine.

4. Support for strengthening of the Ukrainian army

4.1. Enhancement of military cooperation between Lithuania and Ukraine. The aim is to assist Ukraine in reforming its armed forces in line with NATO standards, maintain the experience acquired and interoperability formed in operations, and become more actively involved in regional and Euro-Atlantic cooperation.

4.2. Training for Ukrainian soldiers. A large-scale training programme for Ukrainian soldiers is carried out, thus inviting them to constantly participate in joint exercises in Lithuania and organising military exercises in Ukraine. The Lithuanian, Polish and Ukrainian brigade LITPOLUKRBRIG is being trained in line with NATO standards for acting across the full spectrum of operations.

4.3. Training of military officers for the Ukrainian army. Ukrainian representatives are offered an increased number of places at Lithuanian military training institutions and the Baltic Defence College; additional courses are organised on demand; support for military training is coordinated with other countries.

4.4. Military assistance to Ukraine. Insofar as the available capacity permits, Lithuania directly provides the Ukrainian army with outfits, gear and equipment, and offers, in cooperation with NATO partners and in view of its capacities, the necessary assistance for Ukraine.

5. Support for democratic, economic and governance reforms in Ukraine and implementation of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement

5.1. Offering of a package of support for reforms in Ukraine. Lithuania offers a package of support for reforms to Ukraine that includes a clear list of reforms, a system of expert services and their financing, and a system of reform measures. Financial and expert assistance is offered in the areas where Lithuania has the experience and knowledge needed, including, but not limited to, restructuring of state-owned enterprises, privatisation, regulation of monopolies, public procurement reform, legal reform, energy reform, reform of political party funding and financing of electoral campaigns, assurance of transparent business environment, and fight against corruption. Particular focus is given to the implementation of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement and consistency in Ukraine's economic regulation with EU standards. The Business Ombudsman Council of Ukraine, which leads these processes, should receive more Lithuanian, international and local support. Lithuania is determined to provide expert support at the sectoral level in particularly important areas of business regulation to ensure implementation of recommendations by the Business Ombudsman.

5.2. Specialised consultations by Lithuanian experts to Ukrainian authorities. A twinning programme is implemented in key directions of reform. The programme provides for assistance rendered by Lithuanian institutions working in the area of reform to the respective authorities in Ukraine by sending experts to Ukraine and providing long-term placements for Ukrainian officials at Lithuanian institutions. For this purpose, Lithuania will develop the necessary institutional framework to ensure smooth transfer of experience and skills to Ukraine and implementation of the whole package of support for reforms.

In order to secure EU funding, Lithuania consults the European Commission and the European External Action Service about the list of reforms contained in the package of support for reforms in Ukraine. By exploring the contribution and experience of Lithuanian experts placed in Ukraine in supporting democratic, economic and governance reforms in Ukraine and implementation of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement, Lithuania promotes better understanding and transfer of know-how among the EU institutions and EU Member States to ensure more effective use of support measures for Ukraine.

5.3. Support for the modernisation of civil service and public sector services. Lithuania will explore and promote ways of allocating EU support for the modernisation of Ukraine’s civil service and public sector services.

6. Humanitarian aid

6.1. Aid to the injured Ukrainian soldiers and participants of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO). Lithuania continues to offer treatment and rehabilitation services to the Ukrainian soldiers and participants of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) injured during Russia’s aggression in eastern Ukraine.

6.2. Humanitarian aid to widows and orphans. Lithuania provides support for the affected women, children, widows and orphans. Lithuania takes in up to 60 children left orphaned as a result of military action.

6.3. Support for non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Lithuania supports non-governmental organisations providing humanitarian and other assistance for Ukraine. Efforts are made to promote establishment of a permanent public centre under the auspices of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania to coordinate the activities of these organisations.

7. Economic cooperation and support for Ukrainian youth education

7.1. Attraction of investment and capital from Ukraine. Lithuania works towards developing mutually beneficial economic cooperation with Ukraine and creates favourable conditions for Ukrainian investors through the use of the image of Lithuania as a close and friendly country to Ukraine.

7.2. Provision of opportunities for skilled Ukrainian specialists and researchers to work, realise their potential, and gain experience in Lithuania. A special division under the auspices of the agency *Invest Lithuania* will be established to create opportunities for skilled Ukrainian professionals to be employed in Lithuania for up to 3 years, especially in healthcare, research, hi-tech and engineering institutions and companies.

7.3. Scholarships for Ukrainian students. Lithuania will envisage awarding of up to 200 scholarships of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) to gifted students from Ukraine to pursue bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies in Lithuanian universities.

7.4. Transfer of experience to young professionals. Lithuania runs a dedicated young leaders' training programme, similar to the *Create Lithuania* programme, offering up to one-year-long traineeships in Lithuanian public institutions, high-tech and other innovative companies to young Ukrainian professionals, especially to those who are graduates of Lithuanian educational establishments. By using mentoring instruments, Lithuania works, as a follow-up to the traineeships, towards returning the young professionals to Ukraine and ensuring effective use of their potential.

8. Capacity building of local self-government

Lithuania will encourage Ukrainian municipalities to take over the best practice of Lithuanian municipalities in connection with long-term planning and proper use of programmed funds by focusing in particular on projects on the renovation of infrastructure. Lithuania will encourage Lithuanian municipalities to cooperate with Ukrainian municipalities, particularly with those where the Lithuanian business has already made some investment, namely, Kyiv, Poltava, Mykolayiv and Chernihiv. Targeted use of funds from the Lithuanian development cooperation budget should also be ensured to promote cooperation of this kind. Cooperation with municipalities of eastern Ukraine that have been affected by the military aggression, namely, Mariupol, Kramatorsk and Slovyansk, will also be promoted.

9. Europeanisation of Ukraine's historical memory

9.1. Targeted falsification of history serves as an instrument of Russia's hybrid ideological warfare. Lithuania will therefore mobilise the community of experts in the EU and the world to research into and assert Ukraine's culture, its European development and its identity.

9.2. Lithuania will advise Ukraine to establish an institution under the Presidential Administration of Ukraine that is similar to the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania by engaging the most prominent historians and political and public figures from the US, Germany, Israel, Ukraine, Poland and the United Kingdom in its activities. Lithuania will propose that the museum workers and intellectuals working on Judaic heritage join their forces and organise a joint exhibition displaying original artefacts of the cultural heritage of Ukrainian, Lithuanian and Polish Jews.

9.3. Lithuania will work towards joining efforts with Ukraine in restoring by 2020 the demolished memorial gravestone of Kostiantyn Ostrogski, Duke of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Grand Hetman of Lithuania, at the Uspensky Cathedral in the National Kyiv-Pechersk Historical Cultural Preserve in accordance with a coordinated timetable for works.

10. Other support measures

10.1. Support for civil society. Joint Lithuanian–Ukrainian NGO projects with the engagement of partners from other EU Member States, NATO member countries and Eastern Partnership countries are promoted and supported. The projects should contribute to the spread of democratic ideas and reinforcement of the non-governmental sector and civil society in Ukraine.

10.2. Fight against the Russian propaganda. By employing public diplomacy and awareness-raising initiatives, further opportunities are explored to offset the Russian propaganda in the public domain of both Ukraine and the Western world.

The Committees call on the Government and other Lithuanian public institutions to make provisions for the necessary funds for the said support measures for Ukraine and take active steps in implementing the proposals contained in this Decision.

The Committees invite the Government to submit information on the implementation of the measures under this Decision to the joint committee meeting at least once per Seimas session.

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania initiates establishment of a special group of Members of the Seimas with a shared interest and constant focus on the implementation of Lithuania's Plan on Ukraine in 2017–2020 both in Lithuania and Ukraine as well as in the Western community.

Other Western states, particularly those belonging to our region, and their parliaments as well as the parliamentary institutions of the EU and NATO are informed about Lithuania's Plan on Ukraine in 2017–2020 through diplomatic and interparliamentary channels. Other countries and international institutions are called upon to draft and implement similar bilateral and multilateral plans on support for Ukraine and exchange information on their implementation.

The Committees undertake to submit to the Seimas a summary report on the implementation of Lithuania's Plan on Ukraine at the start of each year. In the light of the results achieved and the changes in the situation in Ukraine and the Western community, the list of the measures under the Decision may be revised and re-approved at a joint meeting of the Committees.

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Juozas Bernatonis

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