



1922–2022

# ŠIMTMEČIO KONFERENCIJA

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# CENTENARY CONFERENCE

On 28 July 2022, Lithuania and the United States will celebrate the centenary of their diplomatic relations. While our historical and cultural connections span over much more than a century, the establishment of diplomatic ties between Lithuania and the U.S. in 1922 formalised the enduring bonds between our two countries. Both during the years of occupation and years of independence, Lithuania demonstrated the will and leadership in international efforts to defend the common transatlantic values of democracy, freedom, and human dignity at home and abroad. Today, our countries enjoy praiseworthy and ever-growing relations. A lot was achieved throughout the 100 years, while we collectively continued to strive for peace, prosperity, and freedom for ourselves and others. Nevertheless, it should not be forgotten that we are entering a new era where strengthening of the transatlantic ties, especially the ties with the United States as our long-standing partner, is more important than ever before. Regardless of the past achievements, there is even more to be done in the changing geopolitical environment of today. Therefore, the goal of this Conference is to use the solid foundation of freedom to further advocate for peace and democratic values worldwide, standing in opposition to the autocratic regimes.

The Centenary Conference will be convened on **7 July 2022**. The event will be organised by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Lithuania, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), and the International Republican Institute. The event aims to bring together the most prominent political leaders from around the world to discuss the following topics: 1) defining Europe whole and free at the beginning of the end of Putin's regime; 2) global arena of the fight for freedom and the future of democracy.

The event follows a tradition of the President Valdas Adamkus Conference, which was the most prestigious strategic annual event held in Vilnius. Attended by a host of political figures, journalists and political analysts from across Europe and the USA, the Conference focused on topics of importance not only to Eastern Europe, but also to the entire transatlantic community. The first Valdas Adamkus Conference convened in August 2017 discussed the need for regional leadership. In 2018, the Conference focused on Russia's European future and the strategic transatlantic agenda aimed at restoring our resilience. In 2019, the discussion centred on the partnership for transatlantic energy cooperation as well as the need for a new, more effective, and strategy-driven Eastern policy. Today, President Valdas Adamkus has become a symbol of a strong transatlantic partnership and of the aspiration for freedom in Central and Eastern Europe.

7 July 2022, Thursday

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**9:00 OPENING SESSION: CENTENARY OF INDIVISIBLE FREEDOM** (Venue: the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino Ave. 53)

WELCOME SPEECHES:

**H. E. Mr Gitanas Nausėda**

President of the Republic of Lithuania (in-person)

**H.E. Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk**

Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (online)

**H. E. Mr Valdas Adamkus**

Former President of the Republic of Lithuania (in-person)

**H.E. Ms Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen**

Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (in-person)

**H.E. Ms Ingrida Šimonytė**

Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania (in-person)

**10:00 DEFINING EUROPE WHOLE AND FREE**

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:

**Sen. Richard Joseph Durbin**

U.S. Senator and Co-Chair of the bipartisan Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus (video-address)

**Mr Dereck J. Hogan**

U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs (in-person)

**Mr John Shimkus**

Former U.S. Congressman (in-person)

**10:30 SHORT COFFEE BREAK**

SPEAKERS:

**Mr Emanuelis Zingeris**

Member of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Head of the Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the United States of America, Signatory to the Act of Independence of Lithuania (in-person)

**Sen. Joni Ernst**

U.S. Senator (video-address)

**Mr Laurynas Kasčiūnas**

Chair of the National Security and Defence Committee of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (in-person)

**Rep. Don Bacon**

U.S. Congressman, Co-Chair of the bipartisan Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus (video-address)

**Mr Oleksandr Merezhko**

Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (in-person)

**Amb. Asta Skaisgirytė**

Chief Advisor on Foreign Policy to the President of the Republic of Lithuania (in-person)

**Mr Michał Kamiński**

Deputy Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland (in-person)

**Mr Harry Tseng Ho-jen**

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan (in-person)

**Mr Edward Lucas**

The Times columnist and CEPA senior fellow, author and consultant (in-person)

**Ms Khatia Dekanoidze**

Member of the Parliament of Georgia, Head of the Faction, UNM – United Opposition (in-person)

**Ms Cynthia Pasky**

President and CEO of Strategic Staffing Solutions International (S3I) (in-person)

**Mr Stephen Nix**

Eurasia Director, International Republican Institute (in-person)

**Mr Vytis Jurkonis**

Project Director of Freedom House, Vilnius office (in-person)

12:30 DISCUSSION

Moderator  
**Amb. Žygimantas Pavilionis**  
Deputy Chair of European Affairs Committee, Parliament of Lithuania

13:00 LUNCH + PRESS CONFERENCE (Venue: the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino Ave. 53)

14:30 GLOBAL ARENA OF THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

**Sen. Robert Menendez**

Chair of U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (video-address)

**Sen. James Elroy Risch**

U.S. Senator (tbc)

SPEAKERS:

**Ms Laima Liucija Andrikienė**

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Signatory to the Act of Independence of Lithuania (in-person)

**Mr Ali Ehsassi**

Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development of the Canadian Parliament (in-person)

**Mr Pavel Fischer**

Chairman of the International Relations, Defence and Security Committee, Czech Republic Senate (in-person)

**Mr Bogdan Klich**

Chair of the Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee, the Senate of the Republic of Poland (in-person)

**Ms Hsiao Bi-khim**

Representative of Taiwan to the United States (in-person)

**Sir Iain Duncan Smith**

Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom, Co-Chair of Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (in-person)

**Mr André Gattolin**

Member of the Senate of the Republic of France, Co-Chair of Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (in-person)

**Mr Chiu Chih-wei**

Legislator, Legislative Yuan of Taiwan (in-person)

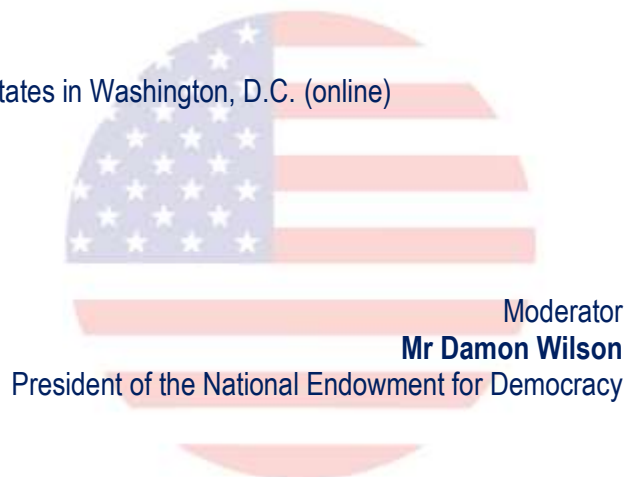
**Ms Heather A. Conley**

President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, D.C. (online)

**Mr Luke de Pulford**

Executive Director, IPAC CEO, Arise (in-person)

15:30 DISCUSSION



Moderator

**Mr Damon Wilson**

President of the National Endowment for Democracy

16:30 CONCLUDING REMARKS:

**H.E. Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya**

Leader of Democratic Belarus (in-person)

**Amb. Žygimantas Pavilionis**

Deputy Chair of European Affairs Committee, Parliament of Lithuania, Co-Chair of Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (in-person)