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NEWSLETTER

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- DELEGATION LED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO UKRAINE
- VIKTORAS PRANCKIETIS, SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED, IF IT CONTINUES ITS AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE
- LITHUANIA WILL SUPPORT EU SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA
- SEIMAS HOSTED A UNIQUE CONCERT DEDICATED TO THE EUROPEAN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF STALINISM AND NAZISM, AND DAY OF THE BALTIC WAY

On 10 September 2017, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania convened to the III (autumn) session



**Extract from the Statute of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania:**

1. The Seimas shall meet biannually in two regular spring and autumn sessions.
2. The spring session shall open on 10 March and shall close on 30 June.
3. The autumn session shall open on 10 September and close on 23 December.
4. The Seimas may resolve to prolong a session.
5. If the day of the opening of a session is a non-working day, only one sitting shall be held on that day.
6. The Members of the Seimas shall convene in ordinary sessions without a separate invitation.
7. In Seimas sittings, sessions shall open and close with the Lithuanian National Anthem.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: EVENTS, MEETINGS, VISITS

### Baltic States need solidarity to deal with energy and nuclear safety issues in the region



On 10 August 2017, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia. The meeting of the Speakers took place in Jūrmala, Latvia, on the eve of the meeting of the three Baltic Prime Ministers in Inčukalns, Latvia, and Pärnu, Estonia, in the run-up to the NB8 Conference of the Speakers in Lillehammer, Norway.

The Speakers talked about Lithuania's initiative to block the imports of electricity from the Astravyets Nuclear Power Plant being built in an unsafe manner. The Lithuanian Speaker handed the respective legal acts adopted by the Seimas over to his Latvian counterpart and called on Latvia to join the initiative. The corresponding Law was adopted by the Seimas on 20 April 2017.

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### Solidarity of the Nordic and Baltic states is crucial for maintaining transatlantic unity



On 21–23 August 2017, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, had a working visit in Lillehammer, Norway, where he participated the Conference of Speakers of the Nordic–Baltic Parliaments (NB8).

The Speakers of Parliaments discussed the challenges facing the region such as terrorism, energy and cyber security, and fight against propaganda. At the discussion on the Eastern Partnership countries, Viktoras Pranckietis presented the situation in Ukraine.

“What is happening in Ukraine is not merely regular exchanges of gunfire. This translates into thousands of deaths and injuries, a large-scale humanitarian disaster with millions of refugees and displaced people, and massive violations of human rights. We should not allow European countries to accept the current situation and wait until it leads to yet another frozen conflict,” said Viktoras Pranckietis.

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## Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas: relations with Russia will remain unchanged, if it continues its aggression in Ukraine



On 29 August 2017, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Members of the United States Congress representing the ruling Republican Party: John Shimkus, Doug Lamborn, Andy Barr and Earl “Buddy” Carter. The meeting focussed on security of the Baltic States and the role of the international community in dealing with essential issues involving Russia.

“Dialogue alone represents no policy if Russia does not alter its behaviour. All the sanctions

against Russia must be maintained until it completely stops its aggression against Ukraine. The unity of the international community is key here,” said the parliamentary leader.

The meeting also discussed the security challenges in the Baltic region.

“The statement by Donald Trump that the US is very protective of this region shows the strategic importance of transatlantic relations and solidarity of our countries,” said Viktoras Pranckietis.

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## Delegation led by the Speaker of the Seimas paid an official visit to Ukraine



A delegation led by Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, visited Ukraine on 31 August – 2 September 2017. During the official visit in Kiev, the Speaker met with the top Ukrainian officials: Andriy Parubiy, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Volodymyr Hroisman, Prime Minister, and Piotr Poroshenko, President of Ukraine. The delegation also visited Kherson, where it participated in the inauguration of a Lithuania-Ukraine Business Forum, met with the Governor of Kherson, and visited

the Kherson seaport. The visit agenda included a meeting with representatives of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People and the Tatar community.

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## Lithuania will support EU sanctions against North Korea



On 4 September 2017, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Hirofumi Nakasone, Member of the Japanese Parliament, Chairman of Japan-Lithuania Friendship Diet Members' League.

The meeting discussed prospects of the development of bilateral cooperation, regional security issues and the threat posed by North Korea.

“It is important to stress that Lithuania and Japan belong to the same alliance of democratic states and mutually support each other in addressing security challenges. Lithuania urges North Korea to completely and irreversibly terminate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes that pose a serious threat to international peace and security and breach the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime,” said Viktoras Pranckietis.

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## EVENTS

### Seimas hosted a unique concert dedicated to the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism, and Day of the Baltic



On 23 August 2017, a concert dedicated to the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism, and Day of the Baltic Way took place in the Hall of the Act of 11 March of the Seimas.

In the run-up to the Centenary of the restoration of the state of Lithuania, the musical bridge Baltic Wave was created, for the first time, to unite artists from three continents. Dedicated technology connected musicians from Lithuania, Latvia, Australia, Chicago and Canada for simultaneous performance.

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## PHOTOS



Gathering of Lithuanian deportees, political prisoners and freedom fighters.  
Ariogala, 5 August 2017



Viktoras Pranciškis, Speaker of the Seimas,  
met Sergey Kanovich, Founder of  
the Šeduva Jewish Memorial Fund.  
16 August 2017



*Velomathon*, a traditional event staged for  
the eighth year in a row, is the largest cycling  
event in Lithuania.  
20 August 2017



Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas,  
met the delegation of the House of Councillors  
of the National Diet of Japan.  
21 August 2017



Viktoras Pranciškis, Speaker of the Seimas,  
received the German Ambassador Jutta Schmitz.  
21 August 2017



Meeting of the Seimas Anticorruption Commission  
and Committee on Legal Affairs with the representatives  
of Ukrainian special services.  
29 August 2017



For more photos of the August 2017 events and meetings, see [here](#) or  
please visit the Seimas [Flickr account](#).

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