

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

**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE**

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

**DECISION
ON THE POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ON JOINING PERMANENT
STRUCTURED COOPERATION (PESCO) INITIATED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

20 September 2017 No 100-S-13/104-S-6/105-S-7
Vilnius

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

in view of the changed security environment and the fact that the security challenges arising at the eastern and southern borders of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the EU) require from the EU a more active role and greater responsibility in connection with security and defence by implementing the respective principal goals of the EU and its Member States, namely responding to external conflicts and crises, building the capacities of partners, and protecting the Union and its citizens, which are set out in the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of 14 November 2016;

emphasising the unique role played by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (hereinafter referred to as NATO) in Europe's collective defence system and *noting* that, for a safer Europe, the EU and NATO must complement each other, thus reinforcing one another and ensuring synergy and cooperation;

taking into account Article 42(6), Article 46 and Protocol No 10 of the Treaty on European Union, which allow EU Member States to strengthen cooperation in the area of security and defence and, to that end, establish Permanent Structured Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as PESCO), as well as Article 42(2) providing that the EU's efforts to strengthen the Common Security and Defence Policy must be compatible with the obligations of NATO member states under the North Atlantic Treaty;

noting that the effectiveness and value of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy will depend on the success of the new initiatives in the area of the EU security and defence;

having regard to the decision of the European Council of 22–23 June 2017 on the need to launch an inclusive and ambitious Permanent Structured Cooperation and to the subsequent discussions and initiatives relating to the implementation of the decision,

agree to the Republic of Lithuania joining Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) initiated within the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union;

call on the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to inform, in a consistent and timely manner, the Committees of the progress on establishment of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), drawing up of the list of commitments, notification of joining PESCO, as well as development and implementation of the plans of PESCO national commitments by the Republic of Lithuania and other EU Member States and present the abovementioned matters at the Committees' meetings.

Gediminas Kirkilas
Chair of the Committee on European Affairs

Vytautas Bakas
Chair of the Committee on National Security and Defence

Juozas Bernatoniš
Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs