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NEWSLETTER

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- ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2017, MEMBERS OF THE SEIMAS CONVENED FOR THE III (AUTUMN) SESSION
- LITHUANIA AND ISRAEL SHARE THE SAME UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE GLOBAL SITUATION AND THE TASKS TO BE FULFILLED TO ENSURE SECURITY
- LITHUANIA AND POLAND AGREED TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS ON BILATERAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL
- SEIMAS LAUNCHED THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF THE RESTORATION OF THE STATE

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

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



On 10 September 2017, Members of the Seimas convened for the 3rd regular (autumn) session.

During the first sitting, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, presented the major tasks for the session, while Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis informed of draft laws submitted by the Government.

Welcoming the beginning work of the session, the Speaker of the Seimas reminded that the session started against the challenging backdrop of the Zapad military

exercises in the Lithuanian neighbourhood, strengthening hostile propaganda and likelihood of different provocations.

While referring to the tasks for the beginning session, the Speaker of the Seimas said that the particularly important draft Law on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets for 2018 and the accompanying legislation would be considered along with the draft laws aimed at social welfare.

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On 14 September 2017, the Seimas adopted the Work programme of the autumn session.

Seimas adopted the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child

On 28 September 2017, with 100 parliamentarians voting in favour, no votes against and one abstention, the Seimas adopted a new version of the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child and the accompanying legislation to improve the system for protection and implementation of the rights of the child, focussing on the child's safety.

The newly adopted Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child regulates the rights, duties and responsibilities of the child's parents or other legal representatives of the child. A novelty introduced by the Law is that the child's parents or other legal representatives must make sure that the child up to 6 years of age is not left alone, for no objective reason, without supervision of the people older than 14 years.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: EVENTS, MEETINGS, VISITS

Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas: Lithuania and Israel share the same understanding about the global situation and the tasks to be fulfilled to ensure security



On 13 September 2017, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, had a meeting with the delegation from the Knesset of the State of Israel headed by Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, Speaker of the Knesset, who had arrived in Lithuania on an official visit. The Speakers and members of the Lithuanian and Israeli parliaments discussed geopolitical and security challenges and new hybrid threats. Viktoras Pranckietis was convinced that Lithuania and Israel share the same understanding about the global situation and the tasks that are to be fulfilled with a view to ensuring security.



“Our cooperation in the field of security is increasing. We know that cyber threats respect no borders; therefore, international cooperation facilitating the sharing of knowledge and good practice is of particular importance,” the Speaker of the Seimas said.

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Speaker of the Seimas met the Speaker of the Flemish Parliament



On 21 September 2017, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, welcomed the delegation of the Flemish Parliament headed by its Speaker Jan Peumans.

The parliament Speakers were satisfied to note the close cooperation between Lithuania and the Flanders, the economically strongest Belgian region.

“We are happy about excellent political, economic, and cultural relations between Lithuania and Belgium. We are strong likeminded partners on many foreign and

security policy matters. Lithuania is grateful to Belgium for its support to enhancing the security of the region. Belgium has been the first country on several previous occasions to show its solidarity with Lithuania in practical terms. In 2004, the Belgian air forces launched the NATO Air Policing Mission of the Baltic States. In January this year, Belgian troops were the first to come to Lithuania and contribute to the deployment of the EFP multinational battalion,” Mr Pranckietis said.

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Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas: both countries agreed to strengthen the important relations between Lithuania and Poland on bilateral and regional level



On 26 September 2017, at the invitation of Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, Marek Kuchciński, Marshal of the Polish Sejm, visited Vilnius. The two Speakers attended the sitting of the Seimas, where Mr Kuchciński addressed Members of the Lithuanian Parliament.

A bilateral meeting of the two parliamentary leaders was subsequently held focussing on Lithuanian and Polish common interests in such areas as security, cooperation within NATO, energy, infrastructure, the Eastern Partnership countries and the future of the EU.

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Seimas launched the centenary celebration of the restoration of the State



On 20 September 2017, the Seimas hosted a festive conference to mark the anniversary of the Lithuanian Conference, which paved the way to the Act of Independence of 16 February 1918 and began other events to celebrate the centenary of the restoration of the State of Lithuania.

At the Lithuanian Conference, held in Vilnius on 18–22 September 1917, representatives of different social classes and political views from across Lithuania agreed that Lithuania had to be an independent state built on

democratic principles, whereas its foundations had to be established by a Constituent Seimas democratically elected by the entire population of Lithuania. The Lithuanian Conference elected 20 members to the Council of Lithuania, which soon achieved the goals set by the Conference by signing the Act of Independence of 16 February 1918.

Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas and initiator of the event, said that it was important to recall the key developments of the state and understand their significance.

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Seimas commemorated the 85th birth anniversary of Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas, Signatory to the Act of Independence, Speaker of the Seimas, Prime Minister and President of Lithuania



On 21 September 2017, at its sitting, the Seimas commemorated the 85th birth anniversary of Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas, Speaker of the Seimas and Acting President of the Republic, President of the Republic of Lithuania in 1993–1998, Head of the 12th and 13th Governments, and Honorary Chairman of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party.

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PHOTOS



Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, met with the delegation from Shanghai, China.
5 September 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Andrew Baker, Director of International Jewish Affairs for the American Jewish Committee.
12 September 2017



Delegation of Members of the Seimas paid an official visit to Georgia.
12 September 2017



Meeting of Jozas Bernatonis, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, with Ambassador Taissir Al-Adjouri, Head of Mission of Palestine.
14 September 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Urszula Doroszewska, Ambassador of Poland.
15 September 2017



Meeting of the Nordic and Baltic delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.
18 September 2017



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Saeima of Latvia, met in Palanga in celebration of the Day of Baltic Unity.
23 September 2017



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Angelika Viets, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Lithuania.
27 September 2017



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Stefano Taliani de Marchio, Italian Ambassador to Lithuania.
27 September 2017



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

TEXT

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