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• SEIMAS

- EXPANDED THE LEGAL BASIS FOR BANNING FROM LITHUANIA ALIENS RELATED TO LARGE-SCALE CORRUPTION, MONEY LAUNDERING, AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- URGED BANNING 44 PERSONS FROM ENTERING THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
- ADOPTED THE LAW ON THE ACQUISITION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS AND EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSED THE RELEVANT FINANCIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND ENERGY SECURITY ISSUES
- SEIMAS DELEGATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE VISITED UKRAINE

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Seimas expanded the legal basis for banning from Lithuania aliens related to large-scale corruption, money laundering, and violations of human rights

On 16 November 2017, the Seimas approved the amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens, which expanded the basis for banning an alien from the Republic of Lithuania for a long-term. The new amendments provide for an entry ban on aliens related to large-scale corruption, money laundering, and violations of human rights. The amendments were adopted unanimously by 91 votes in favour.

The Law provides that an alien is banned from entering the Republic of Lithuania for a period exceeding five years, when there are serious grounds to believe that an alien has committed a serious or very serious crime against a person in a foreign state and has consequently violated universally recognised human rights and freedoms, or has committed a corruption-related offence or a criminal offence related to money laundering, or who has instigated or otherwise participated in the commission of such offences and/or for these reasons has been included in the national list of alerts for refusal of entry by an EU Member State, a member state of the European Free Trade Association, or a NATO member country.

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Seimas urged banning 44 persons from entering the Republic of Lithuania



On 23 November 2017, when commemorating the anniversary of the death of Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, the Seimas urged placing 44 persons on the list of persons banned from entering the Republic of Lithuania based on the US Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 and on the grounds provided for in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Legal Status of Aliens. The resolution of the Seimas providing for the ban was adopted by 83 votes in favour, with no votes against and 1 abstention.

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Seimas adopted the Law on the Acquisition of Agricultural Land



On 23 November 2017, the Seimas, with 62 Members voting in favour, 12 against and 33 abstentions, adopted a recast of the Law on the Acquisition of Agricultural Land.

The Law no longer provides for any safeguards against the acquisition of agricultural land, concerning which the European Commission initiated the infringement procedure against Lithuania and which constitute an obstacle for Lithuania to join the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The provisions in force until now set the so-called safeguards for the acquisition of agricultural land in the form of qualification requirements for persons eligible for the acquisition of agricultural land: natural persons must have carried out agricultural activities on the land for three years; they must have declared agricultural land and crops, and must have a registered farmer's farm and a diploma in the area of agriculture. Legal persons must have income from agricultural activities accounting for at least 50 per cent of all income and demonstrate their economic viability. It was these provisions that have been identified by the European Commission as incompatible with the right of establishment, the free movement of capital and excessively limiting the rights of individuals.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: EVENTS, MEETINGS, VISITS

Speaker of the Seimas and European Commissioner discussed the relevant financial, agricultural and energy security issues



On 2 November 2017, at his meeting with Günther Oettinger, Member of the European Commission responsible for the EU Budget and Human Resources, Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, discussed the EU's multiannual financial framework, agricultural financing, decommissioning of the Ignalina nuclear power plant, safety of the Astravyets nuclear power plant, and other issues.

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Seimas delegation of the Committee on National Security and Defence visited Ukraine



On 2–4 November 2017, the Seimas Committee on National Security and Defence paid a visit to Ukraine. The delegation of the Committee led by Vytautas Bakas, Chair of the Committee, was made up of 7 out of a total of 10 members of the Committee, including Marius Janukonis, Lithuanian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ukraine. At the meetings with Ukrainian government representatives, the delegation was interested to learn about the progress of reforms in Ukraine, particularly the defence reform in line with NATO's democratic standards of the military's subordination to civilian authority. They equally inquired about the economic situation in the country, fight against corruption, and input of Lithuanian civilian and military advisers in reforming the armed forces of Ukraine.



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PHOTOS



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Günther Oettinger, Member of the European Commission.
2 November 2017



Members of the Committee on European Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the Western Balkan Countries, met with Nikola Dimitrov, Foreign Minister of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 3 November 2017



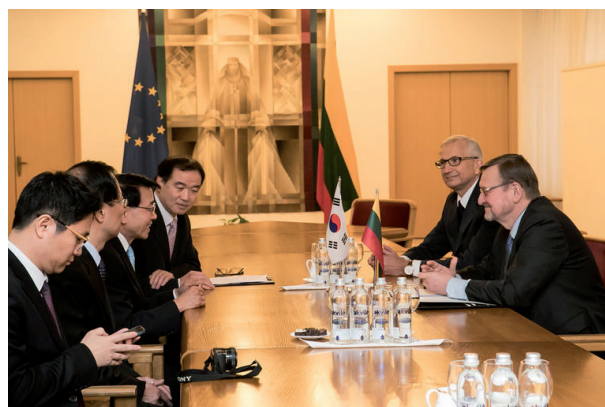
Presentation of the European *Plan for Ukraine*. From left to right: Linas Antanas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania; Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs; Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Andrius Kubilius, Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Affairs.
6 November 2017



Presentation of the initiative European *Plan for Ukraine*.
6 November 2017



Rima Baškienė, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, met with Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. 10 November 2017



Meeting between the delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas. 13 November 2017



Meeting between the Committee on Culture and representatives of the Standing Commission on Media of the Senate of the Czech Republic. 15 November 2017



Meeting of Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Urban Ahlin, Speaker of the Riksdag of the Kingdom of Sweden. 20 November 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Khadija Rouissi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Lithuania. 22 November 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, attended a solemn formation on 23 November, the Lithuanian Armed Forces Day. 23 November 2017



Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, received Hassan Mamadzada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Lithuania. 24 November 2017



Meeting between the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on National Security and Defence and the delegation of the US Congress administration. 24 November 2017



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

TEXT

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