



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS  
SEIMAS

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NEWSLETTER

2017 December  
No 12 (67)

- SEIMAS APPROVED THE STATE BUDGET FOR 2018
- SEIMAS MADE A RESOLUTION ON THE APPLICATION OF SUMMER-TIME ARRANGEMENTS
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS MET WITH PETRO POROSHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE
- COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND LITHUANIAN-ELECTED MEPS WISH TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION ON ISSUES OF THE EU AGENDA THAT ARE OF TOP RELEVANCE TO LITHUANIA

## PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

### Seimas approved the state budget for 2018

On 12 December 2017, the Seimas approved the state budget for 2018, which will focus on reducing poverty, ensuring national security, promoting entrepreneurship and productive investment, and increasing municipal budgets and municipal financial independence. The motion was passed by 84 votes in favour with 29 against and 15 abstentions.

The 2018 budget is the first budget where the government revenue is projected to exceed the government spending. For the first time in history, Lithuania will meet its commitment to NATO and allocate 2 % GDP for national defence.

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### Minimum consumption rate established by the Seimas

On 5 December 2017, the Seimas established a new reference rate for the calculation of social security benefits, titled the minimum consumption rate (MCR). The Seimas also regulated the calculation of MCR and linked MCR to the data in the Social Security Benefits Report. The calculation of the MCR will be based on the prices in the minimum set of food products, average monthly retail prices for food in euro, forecast for average annual inflation rate for the coming September, and data from the Household Budget Survey.

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## Seimas introduced a progressive tax on immovable property

On 5 December 2017, the Seimas adopted amendments to the Law on Immovable Property Tax, thus providing for progressive taxation of immovable property belonging by the right of ownership to or being acquired by natural persons for non-commercial purposes. The aforementioned immovable property means housing, gardens, garages, animal barns, greenhouses, farm buildings, ancillary farm buildings as well as science, religion and recreation facilities (premises), fish-farming and engineering structures. The amendments were adopted by 58 votes in favour, 6 against, and 29 abstentions.

The Law stipulates that immovable property worth in total up to EUR 220,000 will remain tax exempt. When the total value of immovable property exceeds EUR 220,000 but does not top EUR 300,000, a tax rate of 0.5 % will apply to the value share above EUR 220,000. Next, when the total value of immovable property exceeds EUR 300,000 but does not top EUR 500,000, a tax rate of 1 % will apply to the value share above EUR 300,000. Finally, a tax rate of 2 % will apply to the value share above EUR 500,000.

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## Seimas made a resolution on the application of summer-time arrangements

On 21 December 2017, by 76 votes in favour, 7 votes against and 7 abstentions, the Seimas adopted a Resolution on the application of summer-time arrangements on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: EVENTS, MEETINGS, VISITS

### SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS MET WITH PETRO POROSHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE



On 8 December 2017, Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, on his working visit to Lithuania.

“May the European Plan for Ukraine drafted by the Seimas become an implementation instrument and a key to real economy investments bound by specific commitments on the path of reform”, said the Speaker of the Seimas in his briefing about the meeting.



After the meeting, the visiting delegation viewed the exhibition titled *Ukrainian Revolution: Lessons from the Past (... we could be celebrating a centenary anniversary)* staged by the Embassy of Ukraine in the Gallery of the Defenders of Freedom of Lithuania.

[Photo Album](#) (29 photos)

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## Social matters in close-up in the Annual Growth Survey 2018

On 15 December 2017, the Seimas Committee on European Affairs met with Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis, Member of the European Commission, to hear a presentation on the Annual Growth Survey 2018 (hereinafter referred to as the Survey). The Survey marks the beginning of the eighth cycle of the European Semester and covers three areas where economic policy coordination is needed: 1) structural reforms focused on promoting growth and employment in line with the Europe 2020 strategy; 2) fiscal policies to ensure sustainability of public finance in line with the Stability and Growth Pact; and 3) prevention of excessive macroeconomic imbalances.

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## Committee on European Affairs and Lithuanian-elected MEPs wish to intensify cooperation on issues of the EU agenda that are of top relevance to Lithuania



On 15 December 2017, the Seimas Committee on European Affairs held a meeting of 15 December 2017 with the participation of the Members of the European Parliament elected in Lithuania, namely, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Zigmantas Balčytis, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Valentinas Mazuronis, and Algirdas Saudargas.

Gediminas Kirkilas, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, noted that joint discussions and information exchange were particularly important with a view to ensuring a better representation of Lithuania's interests in the EU.

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## PHOTOS



Ramūnas Karbauskis, Chair of the Committee on Culture, opened the exhibition *Georgian National Costume in European Family*. On the right: Khatuna Salukvadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Lithuania. 30 November 2017

[Photo Album](#) (18 photos)



Meeting of Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, with Wei Ruixing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Lithuania. 4 December 2017

[Photo Album](#) (4 photos)



The Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan bidding farewell to Hassan Mamadzada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Lithuania. 5 December 2017



Meeting between Members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and a delegation of the Iraqi Parliament. 6 December 2017



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, participated in the ceremony of hoisting the state flag of the Republic of Lithuania and the national flag of the Republic of Finland to commemorate the 100th anniversary of independence of Finland. 6 December 2017



International seminar *Lithuania and Latvia: on the threshold of the Centenaries of the two Republics*. 8 December 2017

[Photo Album](#) (13 photos)



Meeting of Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, with foreign ambassadors residing in Lithuania. 8 December 2017.



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, receiving a delegation of the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia. 13 December 2017

[Photo Album](#) (29 photos)



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

## TEXT

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