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NEWSLETTER

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- FREEDOM PRIZE 2017 AWARDED TO NIJOLĖ SADŪNAITĖ, FREEDOM FIGHTER AND FORMER POLITICAL PRISONER
- SEIMAS SOLEMNLY COMMEMORATED THE DAY OF THE DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM OF LITHUANIA
- SEIMAS ADOPTED THE LAW ON ENTERPRISES AND FACILITIES OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO NATIONAL SECURITY
- PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW ARE IN LINE WITH THE OECD STANDARDS

EVENTS

Freedom Prize 2017 awarded to Nijolė Sadūnaitė, freedom fighter and former political prisoner



On 13 January 2018, at the solemn Commemoration of the Day of the Defenders of Freedom on 13 January 2018, the Freedom Prize 2017 was awarded to Nijolė Sadūnaitė, freedom fighter and former political prisoner. Owing to her underground activities, Nijolė Sadūnaitė is considered to be one of the most famous Lithuanian dissidents of the time, human rights activist and fighter for Lithuania's freedom.

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Seimas solemnly commemorated the Day of the Defenders of Freedom of Lithuania

On Saturday, 13 January 2018, the Hall of the Act of 11 March of the Seimas hosted a solemn commemoration dedicated to the 27th anniversary of the Day of the Defenders of Freedom and award ceremony of the Freedom Prize.



Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, addressed the solemn sitting by emphasising that the people – men, women and children – who stood in defence of Lithuania’s freedom on the bloody night of the 13th of January, were courageous and stayed true to their values.

“There was fear. But there was no selfishness. We are free today because of their sacrifice and determination. Hunger for freedom should continue to spread further and reach the hearts and minds of people who were

either already born on a free land or who came to a free land. There is no other society that could give you more but the one that is built on freedom and democracy,” Viktoras Pranckietis said.

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PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Seimas adopted the Law on Enterprises and Facilities of Strategic Importance to National Security

On 12 January 2018, the Seimas adopted an updated version of the Law on Enterprises and Facilities of Strategic Importance to National Security and Other Enterprises of Importance to Ensuring National Security. The Law was adopted by 81 votes in favour, with no votes against and 6 abstentions.

The adopted Law mainly seeks to ensure that enterprises, facilities, economic sectors, and property and territory of the protection zones of importance to national security are safeguarded from the risks to national security interests. The Law also aims to eliminate the causes and conditions of occurrence of the risks of this kind as well as to liberalise and make more effective the currently valid procedure of assessment of investors’ conformity to national security interests.

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Provisions of the Constitutional Law are in line with the OECD standards

On 12 January 2018, the Seimas adopted amendments to the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Implementation of Paragraph 3 of Article 47 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, which stipulate that the criteria of European and transatlantic integration embarked on by Lithuania are met by those foreign subjects which, in addition to being set up in a member state of the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), NATO or state party to the European Economic Area Agreement, are not established in a member state of a political, military, economic or any other type of union or commonwealth of states functioning on the basis of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: MEETINGS, EVENTS

Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, took part in the meeting of the Speakers of the Nordic and Baltic Parliaments in China



On 6–11 January 2018, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, made a working visit to China, where the Speakers of eight Nordic and Baltic Parliaments (Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia), otherwise referred to as NB8, met with the leaders of the People's Republic of China.

The discussions focused on political, security, economic, social and other issues relevant to the above-mentioned countries and regions, as well as international affairs.



At the meeting of the Speakers of Nordic and Baltic Parliaments with Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, the Speaker of the Seimas discussed the development of cultural, scientific, economic and business ties between China and Lithuania. It is noteworthy that during nine months of 2017, Lithuania's export of goods to China amounted to EUR 132 million, a 50 % increase as compared to the same period in the previous year. The cooperation between Lithuania and China in the field of transport received a lot of attention.



On 10 January 2018, Mr Pranckietis met with Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China. At the meeting, the Speaker of the Seimas, the Speakers of other NB8 Parliaments, and the Chinese President discussed the current situation and potential development of political,

economic and cultural relations among their countries. A particular focus was made on the transport and transit development project One Belt, One Road, which is initiated by China and which will connect the EU and Chinese markets.

Mr Pranckietis was accompanied by Kęstutis Glaveckas MP, Head of the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the People's Republic of China, who was visiting China from 6 to 14 January 2018.

New stage of cooperation between Lithuania and Latvia: ambulance services in the border area will be provided free of charge



On 12 January 2018, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met in his office with Members of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly: Prof. Jānis Vucāns and Dr Romualds Ražuks. The meeting discussed the activities of the Baltic Assembly and the key matters under consideration, including energy and security cooperation and the Rail Baltica project.

The meeting also focussed on the launch of negotiations on the draft treaties on the trial period of free of charge ambulance services in the border area between

Lithuania and Latvia following the approval by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia in November 2017. The trial is projected for the period of up to three years. The period will be used to evaluate the practical application of the agreement between Lithuania and Latvia.

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Committee on European Affairs: Europe might need to address a very complicated issue

On 17 January 2018, the Seimas Committee on European Affairs deliberated the European Commission action on the rule of law in Poland.

In November 2015, the European Commission became aware of an ongoing dispute in Poland concerning in particular the composition of the Constitutional Tribunal, as well as the shortening of the mandates of its current President and Vice-President. In order to solve the uncertainties, the European Commission asked Poland for clarification. During the exchange of correspondence between the Commission and Poland, Poland continued to reform its judiciary.

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PHOTOS



Meeting between Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Wei Ruixing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Lithuania.
16 January 2018

[Photo Album](#) (4 photos)



Meeting between Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and David Harris, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee.
17 January 2018

[Photo Album](#) (6 photos)



Meeting between members of the Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with Ukraine and members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.
23 January 2018

[Photo Album](#) (17 photos)



Meeting between Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Dr Jonathan F. Fanton, President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
25 January 2018

[Photo Album](#) (7 photos)



Meeting between Viktoras Prancietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and David McAllister, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament.
25 January 2018



Meeting between the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas and David McAllister, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament. 25 January 2018

[Photo Album](#) (24 photos)



For more photos of the January 2018 events and meetings, see [here](#) or please visit the Seimas [Flickr](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

TEXT

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