



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
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NEWSLETTER

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- CENTENARY OF THE RESTORATION OF THE STATE OF LITHUANIA
- VIKTORAS PRANCKIETIS, SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THE RAIL BALTICA POTENTIAL FOR BUSINESS AS EARLY AS IN 2019
- IMPORTANT PROVISIONS WERE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL STATEMENT OF THE EU INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE THANKS TO THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE POLISH AND LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS
- ARVYDAS NEKROŠIUS, MP ADDRESSED INTERNATIONAL JOURNALIST AND BROADCASTING ORGANISATIONS

EVENTS

Centenary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania marked by a solemn sitting in the Seimas



On Thursday, 15 February 2018, The Seimas held a solemn commemoration to mark the Centenary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania.

In his speech delivered from the rostrum of the Hall of the Act of 11 March, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, stressed that one hundred years was not a long period for the nation that had just stepped over the threshold of the millennial history. During that period, Lithuania has been shaped by numerous events and personalities.

“The Act of Independence of Lithuania was signed only by twenty members of the Council of Lithuania. In reality, however, it was an expression of the aspiration and expectations of the whole nation to have its own country with a capital in Vilnius. Since then the responsibility for a free country lies with each citizen who is free from slavish mentality, free from dictatorship and from imposed power. We all are creators of history,” Mr Pranckietis said.

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Delegation led by Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, marked the Centenary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania in the European Parliament



On 21 February 2018, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, paid a working visit to Brussels, where he attended the commemoration of the Centenary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania held in the European Parliament. Mr Pranckietis also met with Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission for Energy Union.

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PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Arvydas Nekrošius, MP addressed international journalist and broadcasting organisations

On 21 February 2018, in his capacity as Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Investigation Commission, assigned to carry out a parliamentary investigation into the management and financial and economic activities of the Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT), Arvydas Nekrošius, Member of the Seimas, has addressed international journalist and broadcasting organisations. The Chair of the Commission has invited the organisations to send their observers to attend the meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Commission. The invitations have been extended to the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), representing 73 broadcasters from across the world, and the Reporters Without Borders, an international media monitoring organisation.

“Engagement of international observers in the meetings of the Commission would prevent various speculations over the Commission’s alleged attempts to interfere with the content of the LRT programmes. International observers would likewise be invited to express their opinion on the openness and financial accountability of the public broadcaster and share their expertise and experience. Lithuania has to learn the best practices available, thus enabling it to establish and ensure a legal basis required for an independent and transparent domestic public broadcaster,” Mr Nekrošius says.

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Seimas hosted a joint meeting of the Baltic Assembly Committees



On 9 February 2018, the Economics, Energy and Innovation Committee and the Natural Resources and Environment Committee of the Baltic Assembly held a joint meeting.

At the meeting, Members of Parliaments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, experts, and representatives of the European Commission discussed the Energy Package, presented by the Commission in November 2016 to help the EU energy sector become more stable, more competitive, and more sustainable. The package

has three main goals: 1) to put energy efficiency first; 2) to achieve global leadership in renewable energies; and 3) to provide a fair deal for consumers. For this reason, the EU has committed itself to cut CO2 emissions by at least 40% by 2030 while modernizing the EU's economy and delivering on jobs and growth for all European citizens.

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Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas: We will be able to demonstrate the Rail Baltica potential for business as early as in 2019



On 13 February 2018, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Transport. The meeting focused on the projects to develop strategic transport connections of the EU, including the *Rail Baltica* project, which is of particular importance for the Baltic Sea region.

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Speaker of the Seimas discussed common strategic goals with the President of Latvia

On 19 February 2018, while on his visit in Latvia, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with the top leaders of the country.

At the meeting with Raimonds Vējonis, President of the Republic of Latvia, the Speaker of the Seimas expressed his gratitude for the congratulations on the Centenary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania and called for closer and more constructive cooperation in creating prosperity for both nations.

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Committee on European Affairs: Commissioner Bulc says that success of Rail Baltica is “in your hands”



On 13 February 2018, the Members of the Seimas Committee on European Affairs had a meeting with Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Transport, who was on her second visit to Lithuania. The European Commissioner brought the topical political issues pertaining to the EU transport policy before the Committee and answered the questions important to Lithuania.

While addressing the topic of the EU transport policy, Ms Bulc emphasised two objectives, namely increasing efficiency of the transport system, especially by adopting effective logistics solutions, and strengthening EU transport connections by using them for trade and services and by digitalising them and increasing investment.

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Important provisions were included in the Final Statement of the EU Inter-Parliamentary Conference thanks to the cooperation between the Polish and Lithuanian parliamentary delegations



On 15–17 February 2018, an Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy was held in Sofia, the capital city of the Republic of Bulgaria. Thanks to the delegation of the Lithuanian parliamentary delegation consisting of Dr Mindaugas Puidokas (Head of the Delegation), Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, and Dr Laurynas Kasčiūnas, Member of the Committee on National Security and Defence, provisions relevant to Lithuania’s foreign policy were included in the

Statement of the Heads of Delegations. It was noted that the EU must continue to maintain the unity on all the matters pertaining to the relations with Russia – both on the sanctions against it and on freezing the relations with it – until Russia fully implements the Minsk agreements and stops its aggression against Ukraine.

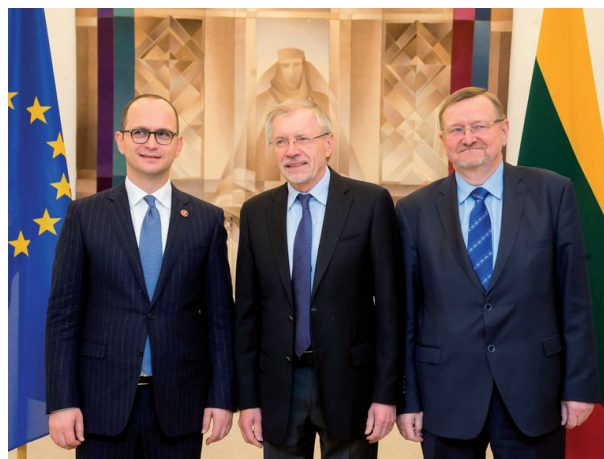
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PHOTOS



Meeting between Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Árni Þór Sigurðsson, Ambassador of the Republic of Iceland. 2 February 2018

[Photo Album](#) (18 photos)



Meeting between the Members of the Seimas Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Dirmir Bushati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania. 6 February 2018

[Photo Album](#) (5 photos)



Meeting between the Members of the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with North European Countries and Karsten Klepvik, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Republic of Lithuania. 7 February 2018

[Photo Album](#) (7 photos)



Joint meeting of the Economics, Energy and Innovation Committee and the Natural Resources and Environment Committee of the Baltic Assembly. 9 February 2018

[Photo Album](#) (29 photos)



Meeting between Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson, President of Iceland. 15 February 2018

[Photo Album](#) (36 photos)



Solemn commemoration dedicated to the Centenary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania at the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. 15 February 2018

[Photo Album](#) (84 photos)



Commemoration of the Centenary of the Restoration
of the State of Lithuania at the European Parliament.
21 February 2018

[Photo Album](#) (49 photos)



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

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