



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
SEIMAS

Lithuanian
Parliamentary
Mirror

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Lithuania
100



NEWSLETTER

2018 April
No 04 (71)

- SEIMAS APPROVED THE GOVERNMENT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
- SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS: THE UNITY OF THE ALLIES IS KEY TO ENSURING NATO'S COLLECTIVE RESPONSE
- SEIMAS PAID TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE POLISH PRESIDENT LECH KACZYŃSKI AND OTHER POLISH CITIZENS WHO DIED IN AN AIR CRASH EIGHT YEARS AGO
- SEIMAS CONGRATULATED THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Seimas approved the Government Annual Performance Report

On 10 April 2018, Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis submitted the Government Annual Performance Report to the Seimas*. The Report highlights that the year 2017 was particularly successful for the Lithuanian economy. Moreover, the tasks and structural reforms (in taxation, innovation, education, health, pension system and reduction of the new shadow economy) planned by the Government for 2018 will significantly contribute to a better quality of life of each person in Lithuania.

The Prime Minister stated that in the previous year particular attention had been given to the fight against poverty and material inequality, with over EUR 600 million being used for tackling these problems. "It was the first time that a political decision was taken to universally pay the child allowance, otherwise called the child's money. [...] In 2017, as compared to 2016, the number of recipients of child allowances increased by about 81 % boosting the related expenditure by approximately 63 %. The forecast is that this year around 400 thousand children will receive the child's money, and the amount paid will double as compared to the amount previously paid through additional income tax exemptions," said the Prime Minister. He spoke about the plans to progressively increase the child's money every year, and, from the next year onwards, to make a growth in income felt even by better earning residents who raise children.

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* On 24 April 2018, the Seimas approved the Government Annual Performance Report.
Voting results: 62 MPs voted for, 10 – abstained and 30 – against.

Committee on European Affairs: decommissioning of the Ignalina NPP is a high added value EU project



At its meeting with a delegation of the Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament on 6 April 2018, the Committee on European Affairs discussed the course of developments in the decommissioning projects of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (NPP). Members of the Committee on European Affairs and chairs of other Seimas committees stressed the progress achieved in implementing the projects in the Ignalina NPP and their importance for the national security of Lithuania and for the security of the whole European Union.

It was the second time that a delegation composed of members of the Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Court of Auditors and lead by Ingeborg Gräßle, Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control, visited Lithuania. The main purpose of the visit was to learn about the progress of the Ignalina NPP decommissioning processes in preparation for the decision-making on the Union's post-2020 budget, including further funding of the decommissioning of the Ignalina NPP.

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Committee on Foreign Affairs: reinforced attention to creating a secure neighbourhood for the EU should be maintained in the debate on the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework

At its closed sitting on 11 April 2018, the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs discussed the funding of the EU's external action in the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021–2027 and the financial aspects of strengthening of the European Neighbourhood Policy both in the East and the South.

By consensus, the Committee adopted the Opinion on Financing of the European Neighbourhood Policy in the New Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union (2021–2027), highlighting herein that the EU needs to be an effective global player, speak with one voice and focus its resources on strategic priorities, one of which notably being a secure neighbourhood.

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Speaker of the Seimas: the unity of the allies is key to ensuring NATO's collective response



On 18 April 2018, in the opening of the session of the Bucharest Nine meeting, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, stressed the importance of strengthening the deterrence and collective defence in the Baltic and Central European region.

“Lithuania and other countries in the Baltic region face direct military and hybrid threats. We are grateful to our allies for enhancing the security of our region by showing solidarity in joining the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic States and Poland,” said the Speaker of the Seimas.

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Seimas paid tribute to the memory of the Polish President Lech Kaczyński and other Polish citizens who died in an air crash eight years ago

On 10 April 2018, by observing a minute of silence at its sitting, the Seimas paid tribute to the memory of the Polish President Lech Kaczyński and other Polish citizens who died in an air crash eight years ago.

Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, said that the entire Europe had been shocked by the Smolensk tragedy that had claimed the lives of nearly a hundred people, including Prof. Lech Kaczyński, Polish President and Lithuania's good friend.

“I often wonder why this happened and why such brilliant people fell prey to such a meaningless death. I have no answer. There are no right words to describe what it felt for the Polish people at the time to lay their leader to rest. Warsaw was drowning in tears and flowers. So was Vilnius. Crowds were gathering to offer condolences to our Polish friends, which was testimony to our fraternity,” said Mr Pranckietis.

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Seimas congratulated the State of Israel on the 70th anniversary of its independence



At a Seimas sitting of 19 April 2018, Emanuelis Zingeris, Head of the Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the State of Israel, congratulated the State of Israel on its 70th anniversary and conveyed the congratulations by the leaders of the country.

“As we celebrate the centenary of our own statehood, we would like to convey our very best wishes to Israel, currently marking the 70th anniversary of its own miracle. We have supported and we will continue to support you in the face of the wonderful friendship that exists between us,” said Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, in his note of congratulation.

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Speaker of the Seimas: we support Ukraine's strive for European integration, but the country needs to continue reforms and show real progress



On 20 April 2018, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, met with Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Vice-Prime-Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine on her official visit to Lithuania.

At the meeting, the Speaker of the Seimas stressed that Lithuania was an active supporter of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, indivisibility and aspirations for European integration.

The seriousness of Ukraine's European ambition can only be measured against the success of reform in the country. Successful

reform will increase the trust of international partners and donors in Ukraine, improve credit ratings, lower the borrowing costs and promote investment.

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PHOTOS



Meeting between Juozas Bernatonis, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Shen Zhifei, the new Chinese Ambassador to Lithuania. 4 April 2018



Meeting between the Members of the Committee on European Affairs, Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament and a delegation from the European Commission. 6 April 2018



Meeting between Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, and Tigran Mkrtchyan, Armenian Ambassador to Lithuania. 13 April 2018



Meeting between Kęstutis Masiulis, Head of the Seimas Group for the Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the Republic of Latvia, and Romualds Ražuks, Chair of the Saeima Group for Interparliamentary relations with Lithuania. 13 April 2018



Joint meeting of the Natural Resources and Environment Committee and the Economics, Energy and Innovation Committee of the Baltic Assembly. 20 April 2018



Meeting between Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Rimantas Šadžius, Member of the European Court of Auditors.
20 April 2018



Meeting between Irena Šiaulienė, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, and a delegation of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia.
23 April 2018



Presentation of the photo exhibition of the Hungarian Embassy dedicated to the Hungarian Presidency of the Visegrad Group.
23 April 2018



Meeting between parliamentarians of Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Members of the Seimas Energy Commission.
24 April 2018



Meeting of the Commission of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Lithuanian World Community.
24 April 2018



Meeting between Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, and Shen Zhifei, Chinese Ambassador to Lithuania.
25 April 2018



Planting of Lithuania's Centenary Forest by Members of
the Seimas and staff members of the Office of the Seimas
28 April 2018



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

TEXT

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