



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
SEIMAS

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NEWSLETTER

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- SEIMAS
 - APPROVED THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE V (AUTUMN) SESSION
 - ENDORSED THE STRATEGY FOR THE DEMOGRAPHIC, MIGRATION, AND INTEGRATION POLICY FOR 2018–2030
 - ANNOUNCED THE DATES FOR THE 2019 ELECTIONS
 - CALLED ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE PACE TO COMPLY CONSISTENTLY WITH THEIR DECISIONS TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
- MP RASA JUKNEVIČIENĖ TAKES UP THE POSITION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
- VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO LITHUANIA ([PHOTOS](#))

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Work Programme of the Autumn Session of the Seimas presented

On 10 September 2018, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis presented* to the Seimas Work Programme of the fifth (Autumn) session.

When informing the Seimas of the priorities of the Work Programme, Viktoras Pranckietis underlined that approval of the 2019 budgets of the state, municipalities, the State Social Insurance Fund, and the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund was one of the most important tasks in implementing the Government's programme. "These budgets will continue to be geared towards the reduction of social exclusion, i.e. increasing the child's money and financial assistance for young families to acquire their first home," said the Speaker of the Seimas.

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** At the sitting of 18 September 2018, the Seimas approved the Work Programme of the Autumn Session, which contains about 600 draft laws (excluding the accompanying legislation). The resolution of the Seimas (draft No XIIP-2482(2)) was approved by 72 votes in favour, with 8 against and 29 abstentions.*

Seimas approved the complimentary preventive measures to be included in the Law on the Provision of Information to the Public

On 11 September 2018, the Seimas adopted amendments to Article 22 of the Law on the Provision of Information to the Public to establish that producers and/or disseminators of public information and/or their participants, when announcing the news about suicides or suicide attempts, may not publish the motives, means and methods of committing suicides or suicide attempts, present suicide as a proper way of resolving any problem or as a natural daily reality, romanticise suicides, and show the process of committing suicide or the person who attempts or has committed suicide.

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Seimas endorsed the Strategy for the Demographic, Migration, and Integration Policy for 2018–2030

On 20 September 2018, in consideration of the adverse effects on the national economy, social welfare system, as well as Lithuania's national and social development caused by a complicated demographic situation in Lithuania, with steady emigration rates and the fertility rate below the generation replacement level, the Seimas endorsed the Strategy for the Demographic, Migration, and Integration Policy for 2018–2030.

The main objective of the Strategy is ensuring a positive population change and a balanced age structure. The document establishes three goals related to developing a family-friendly environment, managing migration flows, and integrating senior citizens into public life.

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Seimas announced the dates for the 2019 elections

On 25 September 2018, in its sitting, the Seimas endorsed its resolutions announcing the dates for the presidential, local and European Parliament elections.

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Seimas called on the Council of Europe and the PACE to comply consistently with their decisions taken in respect of the Russian Federation

On 27 September 2018, the Seimas called on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) to refrain from adopting the amendments to the rules and procedures

proposed by the Russian Federation allowing a Member State to recover its rights without implementing the Assembly's decisions, and urged the Council of Europe and the PACE to comply with their decisions in a consistent manner.

[MORE](#)

Seimas ratified the Convention on Road Traffic

On 27 September 2018, the Seimas ratified the Convention on Road Traffic (hereinafter referred to as the Geneva Convention) adopted in Geneva on 19 September 1949. The Convention allows for the recognition of driving licences issued in the Republic of Lithuania in countries that have ratified the Geneva Convention.

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Seimas set out longer deadlines for holding a referendum



On 28 September 2018, the Seimas adopted amendments to the Referendum Law (draft No XIII P-2477(2)), thereby extending the period between the day of passing the Seimas Resolution on the date of calling a referendum and the day of conducting the referendum. Until now, the Referendum Law provided that a referendum is conducted “no later than in three months and no sooner than in two months from the day of passing the Seimas Resolution on the date of calling the referendum”.

Arvydas Nekrošius, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and head of the Seimas working group dealing with the matters related to the preparation for the referendum on dual citizenship, formerly said that the previously established period was very short and that its extension would facilitate better preparation for the referendum (allowing time for the authorities to plan the dedicated budget and for citizens to acquire a much better understanding of the referendum questions).

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: MEETINGS, EVENTS

Rasa Juknevičienė takes up the position of the President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly



On 24 September 2018, Rasa Juknevičienė, Head of the Seimas Delegation to the NATO PA, came to office as President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. She succeeded President Paolo Alli upon the expiration of his national mandate as Member of the Italian Parliament.

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EVENTS

Visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to Lithuania.

22-23 September 2018

[150 photos](#)



Farewell ceremony for His Holiness Pope Francis as he leaves Lithuania.

25 September 2018

[19 photos](#)



Speaker of the Seimas: Today, we repent for the harm inflicted on the Jewish people



On 23 September 2018, Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, paid tribute to the victims of the Holocaust at the Memorial Museum of Paneriai.

The Speaker laid flowers at the Memorial to honour the victims. "Today, we repent for the harm inflicted on the Jewish people. As we are standing in front of the monument sending us a silent but profound message, we must speak out loudly to ensure that these atrocities do not happen ever again and that nobody has to ever go through that kind of experience which is beyond words," the Speaker said.



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Lithuanian Social Democratic Labour Political Group of the Seimas: exhibition *Adult Crimean Childhood* opened in the Seimas at Gediminas Kirkilas' initiative



On 27 September 2018, a photo exhibition titled *Adult Crimean Childhood* was opened in the Seimas at the initiative of Gediminas Kirkilas, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas and Member of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Labour Political Group. The exhibition is aimed at raising public awareness of the families that lost their close ones as a result of decisions by the occupation authorities.

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PHOTOS



Juožas Bernatoniš, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, met with Khalaf Khalafov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. 6 September 2018



Meeting between members of the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan and Khalaf Khalafov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. 7 September 2018



The Seimas hosted the exhibition *Żegota. Council to Aid Jews*. The exhibition was opened by Viktoras Pranciškis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Jacek Czaputowicz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. 13 September 2018



Meeting between the Committee on National Security and Defence and the delegation of the Committee for Defence, Public Order and National Security of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania. 17 September 2018



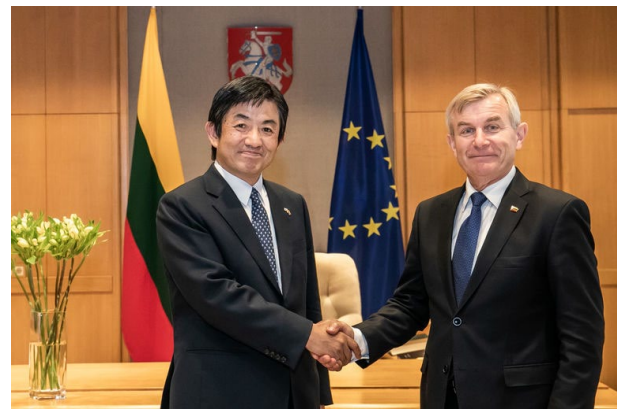
Meeting between Irena Degutienė, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, and the delegation of members of the Parliament of Georgia. 18 September 2018



Meeting between members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas and the delegation of members of the Parliament of Georgia. 19 September 2018



The delegation of members of the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the Republic of Latvia joined the celebrations of the Day of Baltic Unity in Jelgava. 24 September 2018



Meeting between Viktoras Pranciškis, Speaker of the Seimas, and Shiro Yamasaki, the newly appointed Ambassador of Japan. 26 September 2018



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

TEXT

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