

To be free you need good tanks and good think tanks!

## Discussion

# New Geopolitical Reality, the Search for a Strong European Identity, and Promotion of Freedom and Democracy



April 16, 2025



1:00pm - 4:30pm

Lithuanian  
Parliament

Constitution Hall

Gediminas ave. 53,  
Vilnius

Institute  
of European  
Right



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democracy  
institute

# Meeting Schedule

## **Part 1: The New Geopolitical Reality, the Search for a Strong European Identity, and the Promotion of Freedom and Democracy**

- 1:00pm ○ Opening Remarks
- 1:10pm ○ Keynote Address: The New Geopolitical Reality, the Search for a Strong European Identity, and the Promotion of Freedom and Democracy
- 1:50pm ○ Panel Discussion: How Can We Safeguard Our State and Defend Ourselves in the New Geopolitical Reality?
- 2:50pm ○ Coffee Break & Networking

## **Part 2: Trust in Democratic Institutions vs. the Rise of Populism: Do We Have Solutions?**

- 3:10pm ○ Panel Discussion: Democratic Erosion – How Can We Rebuild Trust in Democratic Processes?
- 4:00pm ○ Coffee Break & Networking



# New Geopolitical Reality, the Search for a Strong European Identity, and Promotion of Freedom and Democracy

April 16, 2025

## Part 1: The New Geopolitical Reality, the Search for a Strong European Identity, and the Promotion of Freedom and Democracy

Moderator: Tomas Tomilinas, MP, Lithuania

### Panelists:

- Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielson, MP, Lithuania
- Ruslanas Baranovas, MP, Lithuania
- Virginijus Sinkevičius, MEP, Lithuania
- Giedrimas Jeglinskas, MP, Lithuania
- Arūnas Burinskas, Assoc. Prof. & Head, Economic Policy Dept., FEBA, Vilnius University, Lithuania
- Laurynas Kasčiūnas, MP, Lithuania
- Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius, Chair of the Freedom Party, Lithuania

### **1:00 – 1:10 PM Opening Remarks**

Speaker: Speaker of the Parliament Saulius Skvernelis.

**1:10 – 1:50 PM Keynote Address:** The New Geopolitical Reality, the Search for a Strong European Identity, and the Promotion of Freedom and Democracy.

- ✓ The first 100 days of the new U.S. administration – navigating changes in the liberal democracy consensus and global rules?
- ✓ The future of European security and the challenges of liberal democracy in Eastern Europe.

### Speakers:

- Prof. dr. Luiza Bialasiewicz. Professor of Political and Economic Geography, University of Venice.
- Julius von Freytag-Loringhoven, Head of Baltic States, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

**1:50 – 2:50 PM Panel Discussion:** How Can We Safeguard Our State and Defend Ourselves in the New Geopolitical Reality?

- ✓ The future of NATO
- ✓ EU treaty reforms for faster decision-making
- ✓ European defense policy
- ✓ EU expansion and the search for a strong European identity
- ✓ Regional challenges

2:50 – 3:05 PM

Coffee Break & Networking

## Part 2: Trust in Democratic Institutions vs. the Rise of Populism: Do We Have Solutions?

Moderator: Maciej Makulski, Head of Europe and International Politics Programme Heinrich Böll Foundation Warsaw

### Panelists:

- ▶ Oliver Morwinsky. Head of the Baltic States Offices, Konrad Adenauer Foundation
- ▶ Tadas Vinokur, Advisor of Prime Minister, Lithuania
- ▶ Simonas Gentvilas, MP, Lithuania
- ▶ Jekaterina Rojaka, MP, Lithuania
- ▶ Daniel Ilkevič, Head of the Liberal Democracy Institute, Lithuania
- ▶ Justinas Mickus, senior political analyst, STRATA , Lithuania

### 3:05 PM

- ✓ The legitimacy crisis of democratic institutions
- ✓ The growing influence of populism and its social impact
- ✓ Effective political engagement strategies

### 3:10 – 4:00 PM **Panel Discussion:** Democratic Erosion – How Can We Rebuild Trust in Democratic Processes?

- ✓ The recent rise of populism phenomenon—should we fight it or wait it out?
- ✓ Reforms of democratic institutions
- ✓ Changing priorities of political foundations
- ✓ How U.S. decisions triggered tectonic shifts in democracy endowment
- ✓ Potential of existing democracy education hubs in Lithuania and Poland
- ✓ New strategies for democracy promotion and the role of political foundations

4:00 – 4:30 PM

Coffee Break

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