

SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
RESOLUTION
ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BALTIC WAY

22 August 2019 No
Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

having regard to the fact that 23 August 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the Baltic Way, which became a breakthrough for national liberation and restoration of statehood and democracy,

recalling that the Baltic countries were made into an object of exchange as a result of the sordid pact between Stalin and Hitler eighty years ago, but have retained an overwhelming desire for freedom alongside other subjugated European nations,

thanks the US and other Western countries for their pro-active policy of non-recognition of the occupation of the Baltic States;

recalls that, thirty years ago, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia had a single goal to regain statehood and that the Baltic Way made a significant contribution to achieving this goal by drawing the attention of the whole world to the matter;

states that the Baltic Way is the way of human courage, determination and unity, which has led the Baltic countries to freedom and independence. The Baltic Way, which turned into a manifestation of respect for human rights, showed that the nations of the Baltic countries were part of the Western civilisation;

underlines that the sheer multitude of participants in the Baltic Way was among the factors shielding people from repressive measures that might have been used in an attempt to preserve the collapsing Soviet Union;

notes that the Baltic Way gave an ultimate impetus to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of national democratic movements. Alongside the Polish *Solidarity* and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Baltic Way proved to be a critical milestone of the 20th century;

highlights that mass voluntary participation of people in the Baltic Way and, subsequently, in the defence of the Seimas were equivalent to mass participation in the voluntary national defence in 1918–1920;

draws attention to the Declaration of the European Parliament of 23 September 2008 on the proclamation of 23 August as European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism;

states that the 30th anniversary of the Baltic Way provides a great opportunity for the Baltic countries to recall their nations' struggle for freedom and people's remarkable unity in achieving this goal;

recommends that, with a view to defending the freedom and independence of the Baltic countries, NATO further strengthen effective and timely defence measures in the region and implement effective defence plans as soon as possible;

being grateful to Germany, **Great Britain**, Canada and other countries involved in the defence of the Baltic States, **further wishes** for the increasing involvement of the US in the defence of the Baltic countries;

proposes that other NATO countries follow the example of the Baltic countries, Poland and other NATO members and speed up the allocation of 2 % or more of GDP to the defence.

Speaker of the Seimas

Submitted by
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