

**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**STATEMENT
ON THE BICENTENNIAL OF INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE**

24 March 2021
Vilnius

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

looking forward to the Bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence, otherwise known as the Greek Revolution, which broke out on 25 March 1821 and led the Greek nation to the creation of the modern Hellenic state,

noting that this struggle of independence of the Greek nation was the first liberal democratic movement of national liberation in Europe of the 19th century,

appreciating the commitment, courage and success of the Greek nation when practically implementing the idea of a liberal democratic nation-state,

noting that the liberation war won by the Greeks against the Ottoman Empire furthered the liberation of other nations oppressed back then not only by the Ottoman Empire but also by other empires in Europe, including Russia,

considering that the independence won by Greece helped to preserve and further foster the legacy of the ancient Greece for the European civilisation,

recalling the celebration of the Centenary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania three years ago, in 2018,

emphasising that the revival of the Lithuanian nation was influenced by the ideas and processes associated with the Greek independence struggle and the legacy of the ancient Greece,

stating that the year 2022 marks the 100th anniversary of the *de jure* recognition of the restored State of Lithuania by Greece,

noting that both states suffered from totalitarian regimes during World War II and mounted heroic resistance against them by a partisan struggle,

expressing gratitude to Greece for its policy of the *de jure* non-recognition of the annexation of Lithuania and other Baltic States throughout the period of occupation by the Soviet Union,

looking forward to the 30th anniversary of the decision by Greece to recognise the independent State of Lithuania restored on 11 March 1990,

noting that Greece and Lithuania have been calling one another NATO allies and European Union (EU) partners for 16 years now,

recalling that the Treaty of Accession of Lithuania to the EU was signed in Athens, the capital of Greece, in 2003,

appreciating the contribution of the Greek-origin people living in Lithuania and brought together by the Association of Greeks in Lithuania *Patrida* to the development of Lithuania and to building bridges between Lithuania and Greece,

recalling that the metaphor of Vilnius as the Athens of the North lives on in Lithuania,

congratulates Greece on the bicentennial of the start of the honourable Greek War of Independence and on Hellenic Independence Day commemorated on 25 March;

declares the interest in strengthening and expanding bilateral relations between Lithuania and Greece, including the inter-parliamentary cooperation, in compliance with the principle of the EU-NATO solidarity;

invites Greece to work together towards democracy, freedom, European values and enforcement of international law across Europe.

Žygimantas Pavilionis

Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs