

POLITICAL NEWS



Minister Linas Linkevičius took part in the conference “NATO and Ukraine: Prospects and Opportunities” hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Kiev. The event officially launched activities of the Lithuanian Embassy as a NATO Contact Point Embassy.

TWEETS

 **UKR Embassy in LTU @UKRinLTU** · Jan 29
#Lithuania President @Grybauskaitė_LT is #1 of Ukraine's promoters in the world!
goo.gl/RYBCfB #LithuaniaSupportsUkraine @uacrisis

 **Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA** · Jan 29
.@LinkevičiusL Extraordinary #FAC Doorstep: How many more people should be killed that we will say #JesuisUkrainian ?

 **Linas Linkevičius @LinkevičiusL** · Jan 29
Impressive score for #Lithuania- 5 'leader' positions for principled foreign policy @ecfr #scorecard2015!
#softpower
ecfr.eu/scorecard/2015

LT in the UN SC: It's Russia's Responsibility to Put an End to Aggression in Ukraine

On 26 January, at Lithuania's request, the United Nations Security Council discussed the deadly shelling of Mariupol on 23 January, when 30 people were killed and 90 wounded. [“The shelling of the city of Mariupol suffered the second deadliest single incident on the soil of Ukraine since the downing of MH17 in July 2014. Despite this the Security Council failed to unanimously condemn this deadly act because Russia put protecting the militants above condemning the perpetrators”, spoke Raimonda Murmokaitė](#), Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the UN, at the an extraordinary meeting of the UN Security Council.

An Embassy of Israel Opens in Vilnius

[An embassy of Israel was opened in the Lithuanian capital](#), BNS reported. Amir Maimon, known as a diplomacy veteran in his home country, has been appointed as Israel's ambassador to Lithuania. He has held diplomatic positions in Ethiopia, the United States and Turkey.

Lithuania Sends Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine

Lithuania's government on Wednesday decided to send EUR 126,000-worth of humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The shipment will be flown to Ukraine by a Spartan of the Lithuanian army next week, the Ministry of National Defense told.

Bilateral Cooperation Plan of Lithuania & Ukraine

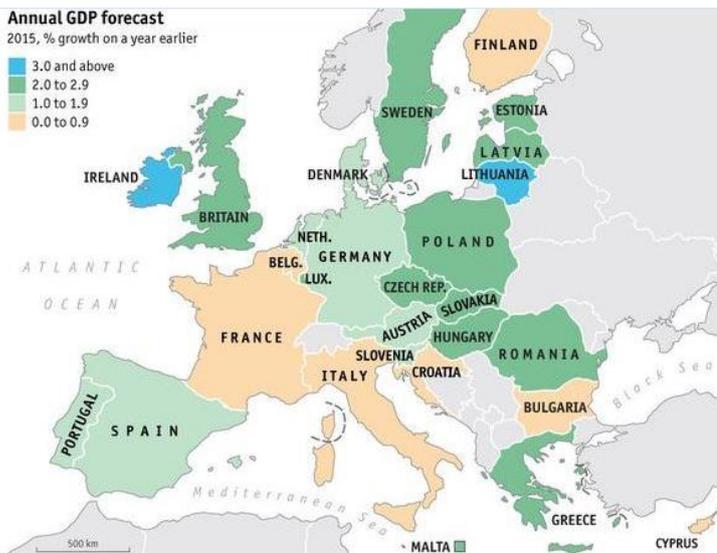
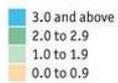
[Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania and Defence Ministry of Ukraine signed the Bilateral Cooperation Plan 2015](#) that maps out further invitation of Ukrainian officers to study the English language and staff officer courses at the Military Academy of Lithuania, and Ukrainian NGOs – at the international military instructor course at the Lithuanian Armed Forces School, arrangement of consultations for Ukrainian colleagues on the development of cyber defence system and to share experience in the area of military medicine.

Promoting Non- Discrimination

[The Government of Lithuania backed an inter-institutional action plan for promoting non-discrimination and will allocate over EUR 1.4 million for research and promotion of public tolerance towards groups suffering from discrimination](#). The five-year plan provides for reducing discrimination, ensuring equal opportunities, raising awareness and promoting respect. The document stipulates the organization of annual equality and diversity awards, seminars, information campaigns and other educational events aimed at promoting non-discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race or language as well as educating children from ethnic minority and migrating families.

ECONOMY NEWS

Annual GDP forecast
2015, % growth on a year earlier



Source: [The Economist](#)

More Freedom for Business in Lithuania

[Lithuania has gone up six notches to rank 15th among 178 countries worldwide and is the sixth freest economy among 43 European countries in the latest economic freedom ranking](#) released by the US-based think tank *Heritage Foundation*. Lithuania's best scores are for economic freedom (number three in the world), trade freedom (11th place), fiscal freedom (18th place) and business freedom (22nd place).

New Swedish Manufacturer's Factory in Northern Lithuania

[Anva Polytech, a rubber component producer from Sweden, is setting up a production facility in Lithuania.](#) The factory, which will produce a variety of rubber components, will be established in Biržai town. [“We became interested in Lithuania for many reasons, first of all because of the favourable geographic location and the existing competences here.](#) In addition, right from the very beginning, we felt we were welcome. We managed to establish contact very quickly both with the public sector – *Invest Lithuania* – and reliable partners in the private sector. They encouraged us to select Lithuania and to set up in Biržai”, Leif Andersson, co-owner and chairman of *Anva Technologies*, said.

LT Game Jam Reached Record Levels

LT Game Jam, the largest game creation event in the Baltic States, saw record numbers attend its 2015 event, held on 23-25 January. [A total of 450 current and future game development professionals met to share ideas, experiment, and create a working computer game within 48 hours.](#) The event's main sponsor, Lithuania-based Game Insight, is one of the world's largest game developers.

TOURISM

Vilnius' Kempinski Hotel Among TripAdvisor's Top 25 Hotels In Europe

[Kempinski Hotel Cathedral Square was named one of the “Top 25 Hotels in Europe” and “Top 25 Luxury Hotels in Europe” by TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel site.](#) Kempinski Hotel Cathedral Square was also nominated as the No 1 hotel in Lithuania. “Since the opening, our team has strived to deliver outstanding hospitality and impeccable service with attention to every detail. Such evaluation has a significant impact on guests' decision making in choosing a particular hotel and perhaps even inspires the choice of a destination. We would like to thank our guests for allowing us to reach this achievement”, said *Kempinski Hotel Cathedral Square* General Manager Kees Heuveling.

UPCOMING EVENTS

 5-7 Feb.	Studies 2015 : 13 th International Exhibition of Knowledge and Education, Litexpo, Vilnius.	 6-8 Mar.	Kaziukas Fair in Vilnius.
 11-12 Feb.	Convene A Live Meetings Industry Market Place for the Countries of the Baltic Sea Region , Vilnius.	 18-21 Mar.	International Baltic Jewellery Show Amber Trip , Vilnius.

Disclaimer: Information based on *The Economist*, *BNS*, *Delfi*, *Invest Lithuania*, *Lithuanian National Radio and Television*, *MFA* and *MoD* press releases

WE SUGGEST

Sartai Derby

Since 1905, the Derby is held the most popular winter event in Lithuania. Previously carried out on the lake ice Sartai for almost a decade racing takes place at the racetrack Dusetos and attracts tens of thousands of spectators.

