

POLITICAL NEWS



Minister Linkevičius welcomes Lithuanian ambassadors and leaders of LT communities in Europe, Hüttenfeld, Germany, October 3-4.

TWEETS & QUOTES



Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA · Oct 4

#Fitch affirms 'A-'; Outlook stable, #Lithuania will remain one of the fastest growing countries in the #EU. #Euro goo.gl/626tYO



Lithuania MFA @LithuaniaMFA · Sep 30

#EU calls #Russia to respect international obligations&release #Lithuanian fishing vessel "Jūros Vilkas" europa.eu/!Wq83Jk



Linas Linkevičius @LinkeviciusL · Oct 5

Today we remember #Havel, the great leader of values, who's ideas are remembered & greatly missed at the moment. We need more Havels today.

Ukraine

LT Government allocated finances to **cover study, living and other expenses for 15 orphans from east of Ukraine**, who will study in Lithuania in 2014/15 academic year. October 2 **MFA strongly condemned the shelling of the office of the Red Cross** in Donetsk, which led to a death of a RC worker, and strongly condemned the intensified violations of ceasefire in the past days. MFA stated that Russia had not taken any decisive measures or concrete steps to withdraw its military forces and weapons from eastern Ukraine and Crimea, to hand over border control to Ukrainian border guards, to release hostages and to stop all provocations.

Increase in defence spending

Lithuania's defence budget will grow by a third next year, according to the draft budget published on October 2. The increase in spending reflects changing geopolitical and security situation in Europe and the need to fulfil NATO commitments.

Allies' commitments

[Heavy combat equipment of the new U.S. contingent for combined training with Lithuanian forces arrived at Klaipėda Seaport](#) on October 1. U.S. Army, brought 8 STRYKER armored personnel carriers, 8 BRADLEY fighting infantry vehicles, 4 HMMWV all-terrain vehicles, 1 M88 heavy technical service armored vehicle, and other technical service vehicles and personnel carriers.

Respecting those, who saved Jews

[80 Lithuanians who saved Jews during WWII were granted status of freedom fighters.](#) They receive the certificate testifying their legal status as participants of freedom fights during the October 2 ceremony. *Yad Vashem* recognized almost 900 Lithuanians as *Righteous Among the Nations*.

Fighting terrorism

Lithuania is ready to send instructors to train Iraqi forces fighting ISIS jihadists, the Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas said October 1.

ECONOMY NEWS

Number 1

Lithuania is a regional leader for attracting foreign investment projects. According to *fDi Markets*, the number of companies establishing new operations in Lithuania, or expanding existing ones, has increased by 25% in 1st half of 2014. Lithuania had 6.7 investment projects established per 1 mil residents, and 561 [new investment-related-jobs will be created](#).

Higher than EU average

Lithuania ranks higher than EU average in 5 fields-entrepreneurship, administration, state aid and procurement, possibilities for financing and business conditions, says the 2014 report on the implementation of the SBA (*Small Business Act for Europe*).

Japan: Learn from Lithuania

Japanese games industry research and analysis agency Media Create calls Lithuania as the hottest spot for game producers in Central and Eastern Europe. The agency, which is one of the most influential in Japan, cites the accumulation of technological competence, a society that values creativity and the serious attitude of politicians and businessmen towards the creative IT industries as the key reasons for [Lithuania's success](#).

Shale gas and tax incentives

Shale gas production in Lithuania to be taxed at 1 percent rate in the first three years, according to September 29 Government's proposal to amend the Law on Tax on Petroleum and Natural Gas Resources. The proposal needs Seimas approval.

Record high cruise ship season

2014 was a record-breaking season for Klaipėda port as 62 cruise ships docked at the port, bringing around 57,000 tourists, 70 percent more than in 2013. This season Klaipėda surpassed Riga which was visited by 57 cruise ships.

WE SUGGEST

[„We love Lithuania“](#)

shares the beauty of Lithuania



CULTURE, SCIENCE

Lithuania's first **Chinese-language classroom** has been opened in the Mikalojaus Daukšos Secondary School in Vilnius, with Chinese language, culture and history to be taught by volunteers from China.

The **Memorial Plaque for Nobel Prize winner, poet Czeslaw Milosz**, born in Lithuania, was opened in Mittelbergheim, the Alsace, on October 3. Lithuanian Ambassador to the Council of Europe Vytautas Leškevičius took part in the ceremony.

UPCOMING EVENTS & VISITS

5-13
Oct.

Prime Minister Butkevičius and Foreign Minister Linkevičius visit USA.

11-12
Oct.

[One of Europe's largest and most-anticipated mobile industry events](#), Live Mobile Congress, will be held for the 3rd year in a row.

8-10
Oct.

A high-level policy event "[Empowering Women in Development](#): challenges beyond 2015", Vilnius.

23-25
Oct.

"The indispensable. People. Companies. Products." - the biggest [Business and Leadership Forum](#) in Central Europe, Vilnius.

Disclaimer: Information based on BNS, Invest Lithuanian, Lithuania Tribune translations, MFA and MoD press releases

