

POLITICAL NEWS



During the Foreign Affairs Council that took place on 9 February, 2015 Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs initiated a campaign in support of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces and has been held illegally in prison in Russia.

Photo: [European Foreign Ministers stand united demanding Russia to #FreeSavchenko - illegally detained in July, 59 days on hunger strike.](#)

© European Union

TWEETS

-  **Lithuania MFA** @LithuaniaMFA · Feb 11
 .@LinkeviciusL: outcome of #Minsk must be judged by the developments on the ground. We should stand #UnitedForUkraine. cnn.com/videos/world/2
-  **Linkevicius** @LinkeviciusL · Feb 12
 Welcome timely #IMF decision to grant #UA 17,5 bil USD. Fin help to UA no less important than security. reuters.com/article/2015/0 ...
-  **Sergei Klimov** @sergeiklimov · Feb 12
 Lawyers/bizdevs from 15 countries are coming to #Vilnius for gameslawssummit.org, April 24. Riot, Valve, GOG, Noredus, WG, etc. Join us!

L. Linkevicius on Minsk Talks: Promises Were Broken Before, Why Should This Time Be Different

As four-way peace talks over the conflict in Ukraine have been ongoing in Minsk, Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs [Linas Linkevicius believes the main task is to reach an agreement on the control of the international border between Ukraine and Russia](#). Linkevicius told the national television that it is very unlikely that the conflict in eastern Ukraine will end after the Minsk meeting, whereas such delay gives an advantage to Russia. Meanwhile for Ukraine it is a bad situation both from the standpoint of security and economy.

Trilateral Military Brigade Being Established

[The Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian joint military brigade, soon to be established, might hold the first joint military exercises in the fall, Polish Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak said in Vilnius](#) on 11 February. The agreement on establishment of the trilateral brigade was signed last September and is in the process of ratification. According to Siemoniak, the joint brigade will help to reform the Ukrainian army and bring it closer to NATO standards.

Helping Lithuanians Abroad to Foster Their National & Community Spirit

Lithuania's Foreign Ministry has earmarked full or partial funding to 67 projects of Lithuanian communities, organizations and education institutions abroad for 2015. The largest projects include the 15th Seimas of the Lithuanian World Community, the Congress of Lithuanian Youth Unions of Europe and the Lithuanian congress Bridge of Friendship 2015. The projects of Lithuanian organizations abroad are selected in an effort to help Lithuanians living abroad to foster their national and community spirit, preserve their Lithuanian identity, improve organizational capacities, promote participation of Lithuanians living abroad in the political, public, economic and cultural life of Lithuania.

Belgian Awarded with Lithuanian Diplomacy Star

At the Lithuanian Embassy in Belgium on 9 February, Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas Linkevicius presented a Lithuanian Diplomacy Star, [the ministry's award of honour, to Belgian citizen Francina Baeten Van den Brande, the founder and head of the Belgian-Lithuanian friendship association.](#)

Lithuania Calls for Strengthening EU's External Borders

[Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Rolandas Kriščiūnas, who attended General Affairs Council in Brussels on 10 February, has stressed the necessity to strengthen the security of the European Union's external borders.](#) "In order to efficiently fight against terrorism and ensure its citizens' security the EU must act unanimously: strengthen and update the control of its external borders, fight against propaganda and fend off other information security threats, this way defending the European values and preventing radicalisation in society", R. Kriščiūnas said.

ECONOMY NEWS

Lithuania's qualities

#4 Business friendly environment – tax free zones

7 Free Economic Zones (FEZ):

- 0% corporate tax for the first 6 years*
- 50% discount on corporate tax over the next 10 years*
- 0% tax on dividends*
- 0% tax on real estate*

CLICK HERE
TO VIEW THE
PRESENTATION



FEZ IN LITHUANIA



Industrial Parks (IP)

6-12 months delivery of build-to-suit manufacturing facilities

WE SUGGEST

Lithuania's Baltic bliss: Neringa

„The word Baltic is often associated with plummeting temperatures and frozen seas but, [as travel writer Brendan Harding discovered](#), this is not always the case“.



Bloomberg:

Lithuania – A Right Place to Establish & Develop American Business

[Invest Lithuania, national foreign investment development agency, has announced a renewed commitment to attracting American business investment in Lithuania.](#) Powered by its recent adoption of the Euro, highly skilled professionals, a supportive economic environment and world-class infrastructure, Lithuania has all of the essential ingredients necessary for American companies seeking to establish a business hub in Europe, or grow their existing presence on the continent.

Record Year for Lithuanian Startups

[A survey conducted by Enterprise Lithuania which included 52 startups indicated that 2014 was a record year for entrepreneurs developing innovative products in Lithuania.](#) These startups attracted EUR 46 million in investments last year; with a total of 405 employees, they created more than 130 new jobs over the course of the year. The startups paid over EUR 2 million in taxes to the state budget in 2014. In 2013, EUR 34 million was invested in startups, they had over 200 employees and paid nearly EUR 0.5 million in taxes.

Triumph at CEE Shared Services & Outsourcing Awards

Lithuania's shared services sector won in three major categories at the Central and Eastern Europe Shared Services and Outsourcing Awards. At the black tie event in Warsaw on 5 February, [Kaunas won the award for "emerging" city of the year, Vilnius won best city of the year, and Barclays Technology Centre in Vilnius was crowned best service centre in Central and Eastern Europe.](#)

CULTURE

European Shooting Stars Award to Lithuanian Actress

[Lithuanian young actress Aistė Diržiūtė is among a small group of recognized up-and-coming European performers who were honoured this year at the prestigious Berlinale Palast with the European Shooting Stars Award](#), the Lithuanian Film Centre informs. "The Award handed to me by Natalie Portman is in my hands, I am going home full of experiences and new friendships in my heart", Diržiūtė, 23, said.

UPCOMING EVENTS

16 Feb.	Celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day.	6-8 Mar.	Kaziukas Fair in Vilnius.
19-22 Feb.	16 th International Vilnius Book Fair.	7-8 May	Login, IT and Tech Conference in Vilnius.

Disclaimer: Information based on Bloomberg, BNS, Elta, Delfi, Invest Lithuania, The Lithuania Tribune, MFA press releases.

