

## POLITICAL NEWS



Minister Linas Linkevičius with both Lithuanian teams that successfully finished this year's gruelling *Dakar Rally*.

## TWEETS

-  **Linas Linkevičius** @LinkevičiusL · Jan 19  
Good to see unity around the #FAC table: too early to review #EU policy towards #Russia . Broad support for need 2respond to Ru propaganda
-  **Raimonda Murmokaite** @PRLTUN · Jan 22  
In #Lithuania teaching about the Holocaust an obligatory part of school and university curricula, helps foster remembrance #No2antisemitism
-  **Lithuania MFA** @LithuaniaMFA · Jan 22  
In strongest terms condemn the inhuman behavior of pro-RU illegal armed groups the way they treat captured #UA soldiers. #StopterrorismNow

### Curbing Economic Recession by the Book

The Lithuanian president's participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos is a sign of recognition of the country's achievements, a renowned Lithuanian economist said on Wednesday. "Lithuania could be a good example of how to deal with a massive economic crisis. We overcame the 2009-2010 economic crisis successfully, albeit not without losses", Gitanas Nausėda, advisor to the President of SEB Bankas, one of the country's largest banks, told LRT Radio.

### LT to Russia: Stop Trying to Rewrite the Minsk Agreements

On 21 January, [at Lithuania's request, the Security Council of the United Nations discussed the rapidly deteriorating situation in the eastern regions of Ukraine](#) and continued violations of the truce as well as the Minsk Agreements. Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaite, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations, drew attention to the fact that despite the ceasefire agreement, the separatists supported by Russia continue arming, regrouping and have already seized 550 square kilometres more of the territory of Ukraine.

### Baltic Assembly for a Growing and United Baltic Region

In 2015 Lithuania took over the presidency of the Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly. Key priorities of the presidency are: enhancement of regional security measures in cooperation with NATO allies; cooperation in implementing the EU's Eastern Partnership policy; strengthening of energy security of the Baltic States and development of the Baltic regional energy market in implementing goals of the EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies; Cooperation in the area of improvement of information security of the Baltic States.

### Canada Allocated to NATO Center in Vilnius

On 21 January, Canada allocated EUR 715,000 to the Vilnius-based NATO Energy Security Center of Excellence. The center plans to spend the money for the purchase of mobile hybrid power generation equipment and its control system. The equipment will be further handed over to the Lithuanian army to use it during training events. Canada also allocated funds to the NATO centers of excellence in Latvia and Estonia. The NATO Energy Security Center of Excellence in Vilnius was established in July, 2012. It provides qualified and appropriate expert advice on questions related to operational energy security.

### More #NATO in Lithuania

[NATO Military Committee agrees to set up military staff in Lithuania and five other countries in Central and Eastern Europe](#). According to Lithuania's Chief of Defense Major General Jonas Vytautas Žukas the military staff, which is directly subordinate to Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), may be stationed in Vilnius next to the Joint Staff, with half of the personnel consisting of Lithuanians and the rest of international forces.

## ECONOMY NEWS

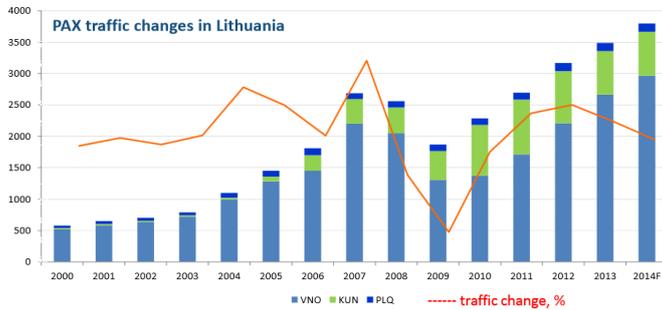
### LITHUANIAN AIRPORTS

Lithuania's three largest airports (Vilnius, Kaunas, Palanga) were merged in 2014 in order to:

- Implement airports development strategy
- Increase efficiency
- Utilize synergies and economies of scale

Altogether:

- 3.7 M PAX (2014\*) **ALL TIME HIGH**
- 24 airlines
- 61 destinations
- 26 countries



## WE SUGGEST

### Take a new look at Vilnius with City Card 2015

An annually updated project started its new year with good news – brand new design of Vilnius City Card and bigger variety of discounts were introduced. Vilnius City Card, like most European city cards, is for those tourists, who would like to explore the city actively and to save money.



### Nasdaq Technology and Business Support Competence Center in Vilnius

Nasdaq announces that the world leading operator of exchanges and provider of capital markets technology will create a new technology and business support competence center in Vilnius. According to its representatives, the Baltic countries increasingly demonstrate strong growth potential and advanced infrastructure, as well as an internationally recognized strong talent pool. Nasdaq has decided to leverage these assets by establishing [a new global technology and business support competence center in Vilnius](#). American giant has similar centers in Stockholm, Sydney, Bangalore, Philadelphia and Manila.

### Increased Foreign Investment Anticipated

By entering the common European currency Lithuania's economy will get an additional boost, with [more foreign investment](#) on the cards, especially from Sweden. "It is easy for us to find talented engineers and IT technicians here. The geographical location gives us advantages. It is easy to reach large parts of Europe by both sea and road, which shortens delivery times. There is also a cultural proximity between Lithuania and Sweden. I find it easy to do business here", claims Claes Mellgren, CEO of AQ Group.

### Baltic Internet Highway to Connect Eastern & Western Europe

21 January, 2015 marks an [official launch of the Baltic Highway](#), the fastest data connection network between Tallinn and Frankfurt via Riga, Vilnius, Warsaw and Berlin. The 3000 km optical fiber network is distinguished for its reliability, low 35 milliseconds latency, capacity of 100G per channel and 9.6 Tbit/s total throughout.

## CULTURE

### 10th French Film Festival in Lithuania Ecrans d'Hiver

Twenty-one film will be shown in 12 Lithuanian towns from 22 January to 8 February as part of the annual French film festival *Ecrans d'Hiver (Winter Screens)*, organized by the French Institute in Lithuania. "Traditionally, as every year, the festival will consist of two parts. One part will be a retrospective of one film director, and the second one will include new films", the institute's director Frédéric Bellido told journalists. In his words, the festival's main goal is to introduce viewers to the "young French cinema". The films were produced within the last one or two years, and this year the festival's theme is *In the Eyes of Women*.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

30 Jan.	Conference for IT Specialists <a href="#">High Load Strategy</a> , Vilnius.	14 Feb.	<a href="#">Shrovetide (Užgavėnės)</a> in Vilnius.
30-31 Jan.	<a href="#">Halls Winter Rally 2015</a> , Utena.	24-27 Apr.	Festival <a href="#">Kaunas Jazz 2015</a> , Kaunas, Vilnius.

Disclaimer: Information based on BNS, Delfi, Invest Lithuania, Lithuanian National Radio and Television, MFA press releases.

