



GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE

National Backgrounders – European Foreign Policy

Country Profile

Lithuania

Capital:	Vilnius
Geographical Size:	65 300 km ²
Population:	2 943 472 (2014)
Population as % of total EU population:	0.6% (2014)
GDP:	€ 34.631 billion (2013)
Defense Expenditure:	€ 267 million (2013)
Official EU language(s):	Lithuanian
Political System:	Parliamentary republic
EU member country since:	1 May 2004
Seats in European Parliament:	11
Currency:	Eurozone member since 2015
Schengen area member?	Schengen Area member since 21 December 2007
Presidency of the Council:	Once: in 2013

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a. Political System

Lithuania gained independence after World War I, but was again annexed by the USSR in 1940. Then, in 1990, Lithuania was one of the first Soviet Republics to unilaterally declare its independence from the USSR. Today, it is a democratic parliamentary republic with 60 municipalities.

The President of Lithuania (Dalia Grybauskaitė since 2009) acts as the Chief of State and is primarily responsible for conducting foreign policy. The President also has to sign off laws in order to make them applicable. In this function, she or he has the power to send laws back to the Parliament for reconsideration within ten days. The President is elected by the people for a five-year term with the possibility of one subsequent term. The Prime Minister (Algirdas Butkevicius since 2012) acts as the Head of Government. Together with the whole government, the Prime Minister is appointed by the President and formally approved by the Parliament. Most of the executive power lies within the cabinet of ministers.

Legislative power resides within the unicameral parliament, the *Seima*. This body holds 141 seats. Voting for these seats is divided into 71 directly elected politicians from single seat constituencies as well as 70 politicians directly elected through a nationwide constituency, all of them for a four-year term. Their main power lies in passing laws, considering the program of the government, supervising the government, as well as making the budget and setting the taxes¹. Regarding the judicial branch of Lithuania, the most important courts are the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court.²

b. Foreign Policy

The priorities of the Foreign Ministry of Lithuania are economic diplomacy for competitiveness, strategic energy projects, strengthening regional and international security, as well as becoming a more active country on the international scene. Moreover, human rights have a very high stance in the constitution of the country. For a long time, accession to the Western international organizations such as EU and NATO was what Lithuania was striving for. However, now the country has to suffer a dual loyalty as the country relies on Russia for many trading goods such as oil³.

The French language and culture seems to be of importance to Lithuania as the country is an observer state of the “Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie”. Lithuania is only able to be an observer state as French is neither the first nor the second language in the country. With the help of this organization linguistic cultural as well as political economic objectives are achieved.

European Union (EU)

Lithuania has been a part of the EU since 2004. The most important benefits that the EU offers to Lithuania are: access to the common market, free movement of goods, and financial support. EU membership also had the negative consequence to increase emigration to other EU countries.

¹ Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, *Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania*, Vilnius, October 1992. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. <http://www3.lrs.lt/home/Konstitucija/Constitution.htm>.

² "Lithuania", *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency, 2015. Web. Accessed July 8, 2015. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/lh.html>.

³ Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, *Resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on Directions in Foreign Policy*, Vilnius, May 1, 2004. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/foreign-policy/key-foreign-policy-documents/resolution-of-the-seimas-of-the-republic-of-lithuania-on-directions-in-foreign-policy-may-1-2004>.

Foreign policies of interest to Lithuania within the EU are relations with neighbors through the Eastern Partnership, as well as advancing further enlargement. Lithuania sees a lot of benefits in the **Eastern Partnership** and is especially interested in facilitating visa regimes in order to allow better movements and contact between people. Furthermore, Lithuania is a supporter of the open door policy of **enlargement**, to avoid creating artificial borders in Europe and to exclude others⁴. In addition, **development cooperation** has been a project Lithuania values. This started when the country turned from an aid receiver to a donor around the time Lithuania joined the EU.

While holding the **presidency of the EU Council** in 2013, Lithuania's goal was to build a credible, growing, and open Europe. Credibility could be gained through a stable financial sector, several economic measures for growth, and openness to tackle global challenges. Moreover, an emphasis was laid on an integrated maritime policy as well as furthering the cohesion policy.⁵

Nordic and Baltic Countries

Regional cooperation is of importance to Lithuania and is achieved through several organizations through cooperation in the field of security. The most important regional organization is the **Baltic Cooperation** between the three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania). This was already based on a trilateral treaty in 1934, and restored in 1990 upon independence from the Soviet Union. Decisions are taken within the Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly, functioning through cooperation between national governments. In 2015, Lithuania held the presidency of this organization with the objective to enhance: regional security with NATO's assistance, cooperation on the Eastern Partnership, integration of Baltic states into the EU, and information security⁶. Notably, despite the fact that Lithuania's city of Klaipeda liquefied natural gas terminal became operational at the end of 2014, the Baltic States' natural gas imports mostly come from Russia, leading to significant problems with gas supply to the rest of Europe⁷. That is why, according to the ECFR's *European Foreign Policy Scorecard 2015*, Lithuania is among the leading nations in the diversification of gas supplies away from Russia⁸. Moreover, the **Nordic Baltic Eight** (NB8) consisting of Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia allows cooperation on various levels since 1992. Another partnership exists with the help of the intergovernmental cooperation of Baltic and Benelux states that was proposed in 2006 by Belgium. On the EU level there is also the *EU Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region* that is of importance to Lithuania.⁹

⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, *Evaluation of the effect of integration of Lithuania into EU on Lithuanian economy in 2002-2006 (ex-post)*, 2006. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. https://www.urm.lt/uploads/default/documents/uzienio_politika/ES/ES_tyrimai_EN/1_Effect_on_economy_summary.pdf.

⁵ "Programme of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union", *Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2013*, 2013. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. http://static.eu2013.lt/uploads/documents/Presidency_programme_EN.pdf.

⁶ "Baltic Cooperation", *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania*, last update January 19, 2015. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/foreign-policy/lithuania-in-the-region-and-the-world/regional-cooperation/baltic-cooperation>.

⁷ Chyong C. K., Tcherneva V., "Europe's vulnerability on Russian gas", *European Council on Foreign Relations*, March 17, 2015. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_europes_vulnerability_on_russian_gas.

⁸ "Lithuania", *European Council on Foreign Relations*, March 3, 2015. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. <http://www.ecfr.eu/scorecard/2015/countries/lithuania>.

⁹ "Baltic Cooperation", *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania*, last update January 19, 2015. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/foreign-policy/lithuania-in-the-region-and-the-world/regional-cooperation/baltic-cooperation>.

c. Peace & Security Policy

The Lithuanian Armed Forces are the cornerstone of the Lithuanian defense policy and are further divided into land, navy, air, special, and volunteer forces. These forces have a double responsibility to the nation as well as to international organizations such as the EU and NATO. In recent years, defense spending has been rather low due to negative economic circumstances. This is supposed to change and the goal is to increase defense spending to 2% of the GDP.

Lithuania's security environment is overall regarded as favorable and predictable. There is no direct military threat but non-democratic states with strong military power such as **Russia** could become increasingly dangerous. Moreover, the Lithuanian *National Security Strategy* lists a further set of threats, such as the possibility of cyber-attacks, foreign intelligence services, climate change, energy security, as well as information attacks. International threats are able to influence Lithuania's security environment, undermine social and economic development, as well as trigger corruption, mass migration, political radicalism and economic vulnerability¹⁰. Other priority areas in Lithuania's security and defense policy are: the active fight against terrorism as well as ratifying arms control and proliferation treaties. Moreover, the country wishes to enhance its nuclear safety requirements¹¹.

As an active part of the international community, Lithuania's security is mainly guarded through NATO but also with the help of the EU and UN. In return, Lithuania also participates in several missions. According to their official security policy, Lithuania's objectives are broader than only in the Euro-Atlantic region. When examining the issues more closely, most of the focus seems to be on **NATO**, which allows them more opportunities to counter Russia's aggressive behavior. Moreover, close bilateral and multilateral defense cooperation is also of importance to Lithuania and the country would like them to be strengthened. So far agreements exist, with the Nordic and Baltic states as well as with US, Poland and other important allies. Recently, agreements have also been reached with countries in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus in order to further expand the security environment.

European Union (EU)

According to Margiris Abukevicius, Lithuania would not mind having a proper European collective security system, but for the moment it sees the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as a product of a past era that does not fit to respond to the challenges of today, as many effective tools that the EU possesses to influence Russia's behavior are not related to security or defense. This is the main reason why when it comes to the reassurance measures for its members and deterrence against conventional threats, NATO is considered a key player. In Lithuania, the conflict with **Russia** is perceived as a long-term challenge that needs to be tackled in cooperation with NATO. Vilnius will never allow CSDP to duplicate or counterbalance NATO but, nonetheless, it wishes the EU to become a stronger defense actor within the framework of the new *European Security Strategy* that is being drawn up¹².

¹⁰ Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, *National Security Strategy*, June 26, 2012. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=433830.

¹¹ "Lithuania's Security Policy", *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania*, last update February 7, 2014. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/foreign-policy/lithuania-in-the-region-and-the-world/lithuanias-security-policy>.

¹² Abukevicius M., "Refocusing CSDP: A Lithuanian Perspective", in Fiott D. (ed.) *The Common Security and Defence Policy: National Perspectives*, Egmont Institute, No. 79, May 2015, p. 89-90. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. <http://www.egmontinstitute.be/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ep79.pdf>.

Lithuania participates in the EU operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA off the coast of Somalia. Lithuanian military instructors participate in the EU training mission EUTM Mali. Lithuania also took part in the EU mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina EUFOR ALTHEA as well as in CONCORDIA/FYROM (Macedonia) and in EUFOR DR Congo. Lithuania also participates in the following civil operations of the EU: police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan), monitoring mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia), rule of law mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo), border assistance mission in Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM Moldova-Ukraine)¹³.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Lithuania has a long history with NATO starting in 1991 when the country joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. In 1994, Lithuania joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program, and official membership was reached in 2004. NATO is Lithuania's **landmark in defense and security**, since the country is not able to secure all of its territory on its own. The country promotes an open door policy of the organization, and is positive towards enlargement¹⁴.

In 2015, Lithuania devoted 1.1% of its GDP to defense expenditures¹⁵. Additionally, for the period 2014-2015, Lithuania contributed to 0.21% of the NATO Common-Funded Budgets and Programmes¹⁶. In 2015, the **European Reassurance Initiative** (ERI) was providing Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia a total of \$100 million to enhance their defense capacity, in addition to other forms of U.S. Department of State and Defense security assistance Lithuania already receives¹⁷. Moreover, a small NATO command post was recently inaugurated in Vilnius along with posts in five other NATO members from the former Soviet bloc¹⁸. Within the NATO framework, Lithuanian armed forces are responsible for air policing, providing the necessary support for NATO allies in the Baltics¹⁹.

United Nations (UN)

Lithuania has been a member of the UN since 1991. Official priority areas of the country within the organization are: peacekeeping and international security, international humanitarian law, arms control and disarmament, human security, sustainable economic and social development, good governance, as well as the promotion of human rights. In line with

¹³ "Lithuanian foreign policy", *Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations in New York*, last update December 30, 2014. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. <http://mission-un-ny.mfa.lt/missionny/en/lithuania-in-the-world/lithuanian-foreign-policy>.

¹⁴ "Lithuanian Membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)", *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania*, last update September 12, 2014. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/foreign-policy/lithuania-in-the-region-and-the-world/lithuanias-security-policy/lithuanian-membership-in-the-north-atlantic-treaty-organization-nato>.

¹⁵ "NATO publishes defence expenditures data for 2014 and estimates for 2015", Press release PR/CP(2015)093-COR1, *The North Atlantic Treaty Organization*, June 22, 2015, p. 6. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015.

http://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2015_06/20150622_PR_CP_2015_093-v2.pdf

¹⁶ "NATO Common-Funded Budget & Programmes", *The North Atlantic Treaty Organization*. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015.

http://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2014_06/20140611_20140601_NATO_common_funded_budgets_2014-2015.pdf

¹⁷ "U.S. Relations With Lithuania", *U.S. Department of State*, August 7, 2015. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5379.htm>.

¹⁸ Barnes J. E., "NATO Increases Presence in Eastern Europe With Opening of Military Post in Lithuania", *The Wall Street Journal*, September 3, 2015. Web. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/nato-increases-presence-in-eastern-europe-with-opening-of-military-post-in-lithuania-1441281814>.

¹⁹ "Lithuania – General Information", *NATO Allied Command Operations*, last update November 13, 2015. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. <https://aco.nato.int/page12730113>.

these values, Lithuania has ratified most of the **arms control** treaties and is part of several commissions. The country has participated in peacekeeping missions since 1994 in Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Iraq, Afghanistan, Georgia, Kosovo, Haiti, Syria, Cyprus, and Liberia. Another area of interest is the advocacy of **gender equality** as can be seen in the ratification of the UN Security Council resolution on Women, Peace and Security dealing with women in armed conflict and calling for increased representation²⁰. Lithuania was elected non-permanent member of the Security Council for two years in 2014-2015. During this period, Lithuania held the presidency of the Council twice: in February 2014 and May 2015, focusing on the issues of protection of civilians in conflict situations, preventing illicit transfers of arms, and the rule of law. In May 2015, the UN Security Council adopted 2 resolutions drafted by Lithuania: on protection of journalists in conflict situation and on small arms and light weapons²¹. In September 2015, Lithuania had 2 police officers engaged in the UNFICYP peacekeeping mission in Cyprus²². For the period 2014-2015, Lithuania contributed to 0.02% of the UN Peacekeeping budget²³.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Lithuania is a member of the OSCE and already saw it as an important organization when it supported the country shortly after gaining independence. This support has continued with several election observation missions having taken place over the years. Priority areas of Lithuania within this organization are grouped into three dimensions: politics and military, economy and environment, and the human dimension. Interests in the area of politics and military include realizing new threats, preparing a cyber-security concept as well as reinforcing European transparency measures for military. Second is the economic and environmental dimension with the desire for a dialogue on energy security and transport issues. Third is the human dimension focusing on the freedom of media and security of journalists, strengthening independent human rights institutes as well as fighting against hatred crimes through tolerance education²⁴. In 2014, Lithuania contributed to 0.1% (€125,939) of the Organization's unified budget²⁵, and 3 nationals were involved in its staff²⁶.

Council of Europe (CoE)

Lithuania became a member state of the Council of Europe in May 1993. In 2014, the European Court of Human Rights issued 5 judgments concerning the country, of which 3 were violations and 2 were non-violations. In 2015, Lithuania contributed to 0.19% (€775,679) of the CoE's unified budget²⁷. In November 2015, the CoE urged Lithuanian

²⁰ "Priorities at the UN", *Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations in New York*, last update January 23, 2015. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. <http://un.mfa.lt/missionny/en/lithuania-in-the-un/priorities-at-the-un>.

²¹ "Membership in the Security Council", *Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations in New York*, last update August 10, 2015. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. <http://mission-un-ny.mfa.lt/missionny/en/membership-in-the-security-council>.

²² "UN Mission's Summary detailed by Country", *United Nations Peacekeeping*, September 31, 2015, p. 23. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/2015/sep15_3.pdf

²³ United Nations General Assembly, "Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 55/235 and 55/236", *Report of the Secretary General*, December 27, 2012, p. 4. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/224/Add.1.

²⁴ "Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe", *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania*, last update December 12, 2014. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/foreign-policy/lithuania-in-the-region-and-the-world/international-organizations/organization-for-security-and-co-operation-in-europe>.

²⁵ The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), *Annual Report 2014*, July 2015, p. 105. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/169971?download=true>

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 109

²⁷ "Lithuania – Member state", *Council of Europe*. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/lithuania>.

lawmakers to reject a bill that would create fines for "public defilement of families," as this would violate the freedom of expression of sexual minorities²⁸.

Strategic Culture

Lithuania's strategic culture has always been shaped by the hard realities of being at the edge of Europe. Thus, their first aim is to try deterrence in order to avoid an attack on the country. If an attack does occur, regional and international security systems should deploy all their capacities. In fact, security is guaranteed with the help of **NATO's** multilateral cooperation and marked by receptivity towards its Eastern neighbors²⁹.

d. Economic Policy

Lithuania's economy has undergone a lot of change in the last 15 years when it changed from a market to an open economy with the help of foreign investments especially from the EU and had to overcome the financial crisis of 2008. Today, the country has rebounded and is **one of the fastest growing economies** within the EU, thanks to a steady increase in foreign direct investment. The country, however, is in need of export opportunities to enable this growth. In this respect, Russia used to be a big trading partner before EU sanctions on Russia and Russian bans on the EU.

Strategic goals of the economic policy of Lithuania are based on the EU economic policy guidelines with the overall goal of sustained macroeconomic stability. These are:

- Ensuring the growth of Lithuanian economy by improving the business environment and investment climate as well as maintaining the financial stability.
- Promoting entrepreneurship, to support SMEs and to increase employment.
- Promoting more active penetration of enterprises into the world markets, to increase the competitiveness of the industry, to stimulate the creation of innovations and productivity growth.
- Improving conditions for research and innovation as this is still lacking in the country.
- Increasing the electricity supplying safety and the effectiveness of utilization for example by increasing the use of renewable energy resources.
- Ensuring that public funds are spent efficiently.
- Restructuring state owned companies to gain more efficiency and bring about economic growth.
- Improving healthcare and initiating a social insurance reform after several services were reduced in order to save money.
- Increasing the share of the service industry such as tourism to avoid the increasing prices of transport and raw materials.³⁰

Obstacles to economic growth are a big budget deficit, insufficient competitiveness and productivity, a bad business environment, and an underdeveloped infrastructure. Moreover,

²⁸ n.a. "Council of Europe commissioner urges Lithuania to reject fines for 'family defilement'", *The Baltic Course*, November 11, 2015. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/baltic_states/?doc=112814.

²⁹ Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania, *The Military Strategy of the Republic of Lithuania*, November 22, 2012. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. http://mercury.ethz.ch/serviceengine/Files/ISN/167339/ipublicationdocument_singledocument/85d046e6-a0a5-4013-a75a-a16d85e33830/en/THE+MILITARY+STRATEGY+of+the+Republic+of+Lithuania.pdf.

³⁰ "Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania", *European Commission – ERAWATCH*, 2012. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. http://erawatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/erawatch/opencms/information/country_pages/lt/organisation/organisation_mig_0005.

the labor market is not flexible and marked by a huge mismatch between demand and supply. The underdeveloped labor market policies need to change to avoid structural unemployment especially for younger people. An issue related to this is the high number of early school leavers that Lithuania wants to reduce³¹.

European Union (EU)

Since joining the EU, Lithuania has been able to benefit greatly from the European Regional Development, Cohesion, and Social Funds, which have sustained the country's growth. However, the lack of gas and electricity connections with the EU hampers economic growth. In 2015, the country also became a part of the Eurozone, through which Lithuania wishes to strengthen markets and financial sector regulations. Other areas of interest include the establishment of free trade areas with several key partners (especially Eastern Partnership countries) as well as creating a separate space for transport and telecommunications. Lithuania tries to achieve most of these objectives through the *EU 2020 Economic Strategy*.

In 2015, the European Commission asked Lithuania to work on eliminating obstacles to economic growth, increasing employment, as well as achieving sustainability of finances³². According to the *2015 Council Recommendation*, Lithuania is currently under the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact. The Government plans to reach a headline deficit of 1,2 % of GDP in 2015 and to turn it into a surplus of 0,7 % of GDP by 2018, and the debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to peak in 2015 at 42,2 % and to decline to 32,9 % in 2018. However, the Council believes that there is a risk that Lithuania will not comply. Despite recent progress, the current fiscal framework should be further improved by strengthening its binding character and ensuring full consistency with the EU fiscal provisions. Lithuania is facing a substantial fall in the working-age population, driven by demographics, migration and poor performance of the healthcare system. The pension reform measures that have been adopted are not sufficient to address the issue of the medium-term sustainability of the pension system. Over 30 % of Lithuania's population is at risk of poverty or social exclusion³³.

Economic Diplomacy & Foreign Trade

Lithuania has been a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since 2001. Even though no official cases are registered several complaints have been voiced towards Russia for discrimination. However, all of these were conducted through the EU even though they only affected Lithuania. In April 2015, Lithuania was invited to open formal accession talks with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Nonetheless, from 1998 to 2005, a Baltic Region Program was already conducted that ended with high praise due to its success. Moreover, opening accession talks were already anticipated and the Action Plan 2014-2015 was initiated in 2013 showcasing that today Lithuania is already well prepared for membership in this organization³⁴.

³¹ Government of the Republic of Lithuania, *Lithuania: National Reform Programme*, 2012. Web. Accessed July 10, 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/nd/nrp2012_lithuania_en.pdf.

³² "Programme of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union", *Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2013*, 2013. Web. Accessed July 9, 2015. http://static.eu2013.lt/uploads/documents/Presidency_programme_EN.pdf.

³³ Council of the European Union, "Council Recommendation on the 2015 National Reform Programme of Lithuania and delivering a Council opinion on the 2015 Stability Programme of Lithuania", *Official Journal of the European Union*, C272/71 (July 14, 2015). Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2015/csr2015_council_latvia_en.pdf.

³⁴ "OECD", *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania*, last update April 30, 2015. Web. Accessed July 10, 2015. <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/economic-diplomacy/lithuania-and-the-international-economic-organizations/oecd>.

Lithuania exports mostly mineral products, foodstuffs, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipment and chemicals. Lithuania's main export partners are Russia, Latvia, Germany and Poland. Lithuania imports mineral products, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipment. Its main import partners are Russia, Germany, Poland and Latvia³⁵. In November 2015, the Lithuania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Economic Diplomacy Council approved a list of priority export markets, dividing the most important markets for economic cooperation into three categories: development markets include Sweden, Norway, Germany, United Kingdom, and France; promising markets are the USA, China, Israel, Japan, and Ukraine; markets to prospect are the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Turkey, and South Africa³⁶.

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³⁵ “Lithuania Balance of Trade”, *Trading Economics*, last update November 6, 2015. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/lithuania/balance-of-trade>.

³⁶ n.a. “Lithuania to target 10 priority export markets”, *DELFI by The Lithuania Tribune*, November 4, 2015. Web. Accessed November 19, 2015. <http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/economy/lithuania-to-target-10-priority-export-markets.d?id=69475966>.

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<http://www.wsj.com/articles/nato-increases-presence-in-eastern-europe-with-opening-of-military-post-in-lithuania-1441281814>.
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http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/nd/nrp2012_lithuania_en.pdf.
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