

**AGREEMENT
AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA
ON THE LITHUANIAN DEFENCE POLICY GUIDELINES**

10 September 2018
Vilnius

Political parties represented in the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as ‘the parties’),

commemorating the centennial of Lithuania;
being concerned about the security challenges in the region, Europe and the world;
considering the progress made in the Lithuanian defence system and essential provisions of the Agreement of 29 March 2014 among the political parties on Strategic Guidelines for the Foreign, Security and Defence Policy of the Republic of Lithuania for 2014-2020 being implemented;
recognising that the long-term consistent commitment and practical efforts to strengthen national defence capabilities are among the factors for successful deterrence;
reaffirming the vital importance of Lithuania’s membership in the Euro-Atlantic institutions for Lithuania’s security and *committing* to aligning the present and future internal policy of Lithuania with the commitments of Lithuania’s membership of NATO and the EU;
noting the violation by Russia of fundamental principles of international law and infringements of human rights in the annexed Crimea and the occupied territories of Eastern Ukraine and Georgia;
considering Russia’s constant aggressive large-scale military exercises simulating military attacks against NATO, including in the Baltic Sea Region, and *stating* that similar actions keep disrupting the security system based on international law and hence give rise to conventional threats in the European continent;
following commitments of Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty to maintain and develop individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack;
recognizing exceptional leadership of the United States of America in NATO and *reaffirming* the necessity of more equitable burden-sharing in the Alliance with a view to developing sustainable security policy;
reaffirming Lithuania’s commitments to contribute in a solidary manner to the efforts of NATO, the EU and international community while responding to international challenges to security;

have concluded the following agreement:

Major provisions of the Lithuanian defence policy

1. Through concerted efforts of the State and citizens, to deter every potential attacker and defend independence, territorial integrity, democracy and constitutional framework of the Republic of Lithuania.
2. Through concerted efforts of the parties, to make and support decisions strengthening national defence capabilities aimed at reliable deterrence and national defence and to ensure implementation thereof.
3. To seek unanimously constant and solid presence of the US and NATO in the region while maintaining and enhancing NATO’s forward presence and other allied forces deployed in the region.

Proper funding for defence

4. In order to ensure that the long-term defence needs are met, to increase defence funding in a consistent manner: to allocate at least 2 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product, to follow the principle of the annual increase of appropriations for the national defence and to achieve at least 2.5 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product no later than by 2030.

5. To ensure that growing appropriations for national defence are used in a transparent and efficient manner and that defence acquisitions meet the priority defence needs.

Strengthening of the Lithuanian Armed Forces to ensure proper deterrence and defence

6. To ensure long-term modernisation of the Lithuanian Armed Forces (hereinafter referred to as 'the LAF') and, at the same time, devote special attention to maintaining current capabilities.

7. While developing the LAF, to give priority to the Land Force: ensure staffing, provide with modern weapons and equipment, evenly strengthen the combat, combat support and supply capabilities.

8. To ensure high readiness of the national Rapid Response Force and to devote special attention to improve the supplies thereof.

9. In view of the current threats and security needs of international partners, to create conditions for the Special Operations Force to get ready for rapid response to violations of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity and to keep contributing actively to the implementation of Lithuania's international commitments.

10. To devote special attention to fill air defence gaps: to purchase medium and short range air defence systems and to integrate them into NATO's Integrated Air Defence System.

11. To find sustainable solutions to enable the Air Force to move over to the western helicopter platform.

12. To ensure that the capabilities of the Naval Force are maintained and that the National Integrated Sea Surveillance System is modernized.

13. To ensure consistent development of the combat training infrastructure of the LAF: to create proper conditions for the enhancement of combat readiness of the LAF's units and the allied forces.

14. To increase constantly the strategic (emergency) reserves for the LAF and to create conditions to decentralize them by ensuring possibilities to carry out operations of fixed duration and scope.

15. In order to maintain and strengthen territorial defence capabilities, to invest consistently into the National Defence Volunteer Forces and to develop favourable conditions to attract and retain volunteer soldiers.

16. To develop operational and tactical reconnaissance capabilities of the LAF: to purchase and modernize reconnaissance equipment and tools and unmanned aerial vehicle systems.

Addressing personnel challenges and making military service more appealing

17. Considering the exceptional contribution of the troops to the national and public security and in view of the country's demographic trends, to focus particularly on the appeal of military service and the development of a social guarantee scheme for the military, and to improve military health care, focusing on the reserve/retired personnel injured in service.

18. Recognising the added value of the military service in strengthening public resistance and the potential of defence, and considering the overall situation as regards the opportunities for LAF's staffing, modernisation and development of the infrastructure, to take a decision on introducing compulsory conscription as of 2022.

Increasing public and national resistance

19. Recognising the importance of intelligence services for threat prevention and timely response, to ensure proper financing of the Second Investigation Department under the Ministry of National Defence and the State Security Department, particularly focusing on modernisation and technological advancement.

20. Taking into account the growing importance of cyber security for the successful public and national functioning, to support unanimously the continued development of the capabilities of the National Cyber Security Centre and Lithuania's efforts to take on the leadership role in bilateral, EU and NATO initiatives.

21. In view of the increasing threats of hybrid nature to national security and public resistance, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall work out and regularly update a national strategy for the protection of the democracy against hybrid threats. For the purpose of the implementation of this strategy, to ensure the functioning of an effective system for the prevention of hybrid threats: to strengthen the monitoring of these threats and prepare for their prevention and management. The competent coordinating unit in the Government shall involve official authorities, the public, non-governmental organisations and the media in the effective prevention of hybrid threats and it shall submit, together with Government reports, its annual activity reviews.

22. With a view to ensuring information security, to raise awareness and strengthen public capacities to recognise and critically evaluate information attacks, and to create a uniform system for the analysis of information space, threat assessment and response to information attacks.

23. To develop and consolidate democracy, to adhere to the fundamental values recognised universally in Europe, to ensure the implementation of fundamental human rights and respect for the rights of ethnic minorities, and to adopt a law on ethnic minorities.

24. Through concerted efforts, to strengthen the readiness of the population for universal civil resistance and continue to integrate the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union into the national defence.

25. Considering the nature of the latest threats, to develop a nationwide, fast and flexible mobilisation and host-country support system enabling the effective use of public resources.

26. With a view to strengthening Lithuania's analytical capabilities in the field of defence and security and taking into account the best international practice, to contribute to the sustainable development of think tanks, particularly promoting the cooperation with the most influential US and European think tanks and the representation of Lithuania's interests therein.

27. To create new jobs relying on the domestic labour force and facilitate the development of defence industries generating high added value and defence-related innovations by attracting EU funds and fostering international cooperation.

28. To facilitate the development of research in physical and social sciences and humanities aimed at the strengthening of Lithuania's national security and defence, and the development of human defence potential and resistance.

Final provisions

29. This national agreement shall apply until 2030 and will guide official authorities in their daily activities and in adopting necessary legislation, regardless of electoral cycles, campaigns, outcomes and changes in political power. Taking into account the changing circumstances, the provisions of this agreement, which define the guidelines for LAF's modernisation, may be subject to reviewing every four years on the initiative of the Chief of Defence.

30. For the duration of this agreement, the Government, together with the delegates of the parties signatories to this agreement, will discuss and evaluate the progress of the implementation of this agreement each year before the adoption of the national budget.

31. The parties shall work together to counter irresponsible speculation that opposes defence funding with other sensitive areas.

For the agreeing parties:

Chair of the Liberal Movement

Eugenijus Gentvilas

Chair of the Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union

Ramūnas Karbauskis

Chair of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Labour Party

Gediminas Kirkilas

Chair of the Homeland Union-
Lithuanian Christian Democrats

Gabrielius Landsbergis

Chair of the Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania-
Christian Families Alliance

Valdemar Tomaševski

Chair of the Party Order and Justice

Remigijus Žemaitaitis