



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
FOR DEMOCRACY



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF LITHUANIA



URM  
THE MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF LITHUANIA



LITHUANIAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION

## THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACIES IN EASTERN EUROPE: ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES

*Vilnius, 3 May 2012*

*Venue: Parliament of Lithuania  
Gedimino Ave. 53, Vilnius*

The 3rd of May is the Constitution Day in Lithuania and Poland, which marks the declaration on 3 May 1791 of the Constitution of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Constitution is considered one of the most important achievements in the history of Poland and Lithuania, despite being in effect for only a year, until the Russo-Polish War of 1792. The historian Norman Davies has called it “the first constitution of its type in Europe”; other scholars also refer to it as the world’s second oldest constitution. Although it took nearly two centuries, both Poland and Lithuania now enjoy firmly entrenched democracies, which is not the case for all Eastern European countries.

On the occasion of this symbolic day, the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy is organising an international conference devoted to the perspectives of democratisation in Eastern European countries. During the meeting, Members of Parliament, NGO leaders and academicians will discuss pertinent issues with special focus on recent political developments and contemporary challenges, current issues and visions of international integration and cooperation in this region. The second part of the event is devoted to the case studies of individual countries, such as Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine and the analysis of key issues and opportunities of democratic development in each of these countries.

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9:00 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 – 10:00 Opening Remarks

- **Mrs. Irena Degutienė**, Speaker of the Seimas, *Lithuania*
- **Mr. Emanuelis Zingeris**, Chairman of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs, President of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy, *Lithuania*
- **Mr. Audronius Ažubalis**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, *Lithuania*
- **Hon. John McCain**, Ranking Minority Member of United States Senate Committee on Armed Services, *United States of America*
- **Mr. Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz**, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, *Poland*

**10:00-10:15 Briefing**

Attended by Hon. **John McCain**, Ranking Minority Member of the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services, and Mr **Emanuelis Zingeris**, Chairman of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs and President of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy

*(Lobby near the office of the Speaker of the Seimas (Building 1, Floor 3) )*

10.15–11.30 Panel I: Recent political developments in Eastern Europe: contemporary global challenges and visions of international integration

- **Mr. Emanuelis Zingeris**, Chairman of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs, President of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy, *Lithuania*
- **Mr. Boris Nemtsov**, Opposition Leader, *Russia*
- **Mr. Evaldas Ignatavičius**, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, *Lithuania*
- **Mr. Andrzej Halicki**, Chairman of the Committee of the Constitutional Accountability, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland, *Poland*

**DISCUSSIONS**

11.30-12.00 *Coffee break*

**11:30-12:20 Press Conference**  
Press Conference Hall (Building 2)

12.00-13.30 Panel II: Strengthening the cooperation between NGOs and parliamentarians in promoting democracy in Eastern Europe: current issues and prospects

- **Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis**, Member of the European Parliament, *Lithuania*
- **Mr. Stephen Nix**, Vice-President of the International Republican Institute, *USA*
- **Mr. Borys Tarasyuk**, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration, Member of the Verkhovna Rada, *Ukraine*
- **Ms. Izolda Bričkovskienė**, Director of the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Lithuania*

**DISCUSSIONS**

13.30-15.00 Lunch

15.00–16.30 Working session: Presentation of cases studies of individual countries: key issues and opportunities of democratic development in each of the countries (Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Democratic Republic of Congo)

- **Mr. Gigi Tsereteli**, Vice-Speaker of Parliament, Member of Parliament, *Georgia*
- **Ms. Olha Bodnar**, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on State Building and Local Self-Government, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Member of "The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc" Political Group, *Ukraine*
- **Mr. Anatoly Lebedko**, Opposition Leader, *Belarus*
- **Mr. Guillaume Ngefa. A. Andali**, Human Rights Expert, Founder of the Association Africaine des droits de l'homme(ASADHO), *Democratic Republic of Congo*
- **Mrs. Corina Fusu**, Deputy Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee on Culture, Education, Research, Youth, Sport and Mass-media, Member of the Moldavian Parliament, *Moldova*

**DISCUSSIONS**

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For more information, please contact the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy in Vilnius by email: [vilnius@parliamentary-forum.org](mailto:vilnius@parliamentary-forum.org) or by telephone+370 698 22 921