



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO UŽSIENIO REIKALŲ KOMITETAS**

**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO NACIONALINIO SAUGUMO IR GYNYBOS KOMITETAS**

**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE**

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To: **Chairs of Foreign Affairs Committees and  
Chairs of National Security and Defence Committees**

24 February 2014 No S-2014-1605

Dear Colleague,

This year a significant number of European states – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, and Croatia – will mark important anniversaries of their membership of NATO, the most powerful alliance in the world. On 29 March 2014 Lithuania will celebrate the anniversary of its NATO membership. On this day, ten years ago, upon the biggest NATO enlargement in Europe, Lithuania became the fully-fledged member of NATO thus achieving the goal of Euro-Atlantic integration set upon the restoration of its independence. This year will also be critical for deciding on the future of the current NATO aspirants. It is time to look back at the main joint accomplishments and membership benefits and to take a look at further possible NATO enlargement.

With this aim in mind, the Foreign Affairs Committee and the National Security and Defence Committee of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania organise an international conference on a parliamentary contribution to the NATO enlargement process. The conference will be held in Vilnius on 27-28 March 2014. It will bring together representatives of parliaments from all NATO member and aspirant countries, former and incumbent NATO officials, outstanding politicians who contributed significantly to the successful NATO enlargement process, diplomats, and international security policy experts. The speakers and the participants will share their viewpoints on the NATO integration experience and lessons learned. The discussion will examine the current and possible future efforts in improving the overall security situation as well as the NATO enlargement process.

It is thus our pleasure to invite up to two members from the relevant Committees of your Parliament (two from each chamber for bicameral national Parliaments) to participate in the conference and one accompanying civil servant.

Please find attached the draft programme of the Conference, the general information and registration forms.

We kindly request to register **no later than 14 March 2014** by e-mail: [conference@lrs.lt](mailto:conference@lrs.lt).

We sincerely hope that you will accept our invitation and look forward to welcoming you to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Benediktas Juodka  
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Artūras Paulauskas  
Chairman of the National Security and Defence Committee