

APPROVED

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## **NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY**

### **1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1.1. The aim of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Lithuania is to provide a vision of the state's development, its national interests and the implementation measures. The National Security Strategy establishes the basic goals and measures of the national security policy in the political, diplomatic, defence, economic and other spheres.

1.2. The Republic of Lithuania implements this National Security Strategy through a system of long-term political provisions and measures, enabling to safeguard the sovereignty of the state, its territorial integrity, democratic constitutional order, human and civil rights and freedoms, and a safe environment for each individual, by confronting security challenges, dangerous conditions, threats, crisis situations or armed conflicts.

1.3. The Republic of Lithuania perceives its security as preserving its sovereignty and territorial integrity, internal security and order, democratic foundations, economic security for all legal entities and the general population and protection of its natural environment.

1.4. Having become the member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (hereinafter referred to as NATO) and that of the European Union, Lithuania perceives its national security as a constituent part of the security policies of these organizations and follows the provisions of NATO strategic concept, those of the European Security strategy and other strategic documents of NATO and the EU, and takes into consideration the threat analysis, strategic goals and measures laid down in these documents.

1.5. The Republic of Lithuania, defining and implementing its national security policy adheres to the universally acknowledged principles of the international law and participates in the process of creating international order based on law and justice.

1.6. The National Security Strategy defines basic goals of different strategies and doctrines in separate areas of the state policy. These strategies and doctrines are directly based on

the provisions of the National Security Strategy and, if necessary, they are revised every time the National Security Strategy of Lithuania itself is updated.

1.7. The agenda for the security policy of the Republic of Lithuania until the next review of the National Security Strategy will be determined by the following distinguishing features of the current security environment:

1.7.1. the membership of the Republic of Lithuania in NATO and the EU, and the processes taking place in these international organizations;

1.7.2. processes taking place in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and especially in the CIS states directly bordering the Republic of Lithuania;

1.7.3. a response to the challenges of international terrorism and the increasing threat of proliferation of arms of mass destruction.

## **2. BASIC ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY**

2.1. The current situation of the Republic of Lithuania within the international security system is as favourable as never before since the regaining of the independence. The independence of the Republic of Lithuania is recognised and respected, economy is steadily growing, friendly relations and practical co-operation with other countries are being maintained, national minorities have been successfully integrated into the Lithuanian society, experience of functioning democratic institutions has been accumulated, democratic civil control of the military has been efficiently implemented and integration into the Euro-Atlantic and other international institutions is advancing successfully.

2.2. Currently the majority of traditional and new challenges to the security of the Republic of Lithuania are transnational in nature. Political, military, economic, or other crises in any state exert a major influence upon other states. The Republic of Lithuania, considering the fact that international security is indivisible, seeks to ensure its security as an integral and indispensable part of the security of the broader regional, European and global community of states. The Republic of Lithuania, in accordance with its assets and together with the international partners, contributes to security and stability in other regions of Europe, and, moreover, it is resolved to accept the assistance of its allies and international partners, in case of a crisis in Lithuania. Therefore, the Republic of Lithuania has affirmed mutual political, military and economic commitment, to ally with states that adhere to the same political, social, cultural, and moral values. At the same time, the Republic of Lithuania attaches particular importance to cooperation with all neighbouring countries seeking to assure stable functioning of democracy,

civil society and developing of free market economies in these countries. Participating in the activities of the international bodies that recognise and promote such values is an essential element of the National Security Strategy. In this regard NATO and the EU occupy a most important place among such institutions.

2.3. At present, the Republic of Lithuania does not observe any immediate military threat to its national security and therefore does not regard any state as its enemy. The security policy of the Republic of Lithuania is open, transparent and non-confrontational. It protects legitimate interests of the Republic of Lithuania and those of its people.

2.4. Globalisation in relation to the national security of the Republic of Lithuania is considered as an objective process, which is inevitable due to the scientific, technical, economical and any other progress of the mankind civilisation, the intensification of mutual interdependence of various countries and regions, and international economical, political and cultural integration processes, stipulated by the above mentioned factors. The main result of globalisation in the area of security is the internationalisation of factors determining the world's security and stability. Seeing its future as a part of a secure Europe and secure world, the Republic of Lithuania is open to the globalisation processes.

Globalisation does not mean automatic and total levelling of national identity. On the contrary, it provides an opportunity for Lithuania to enrich its national culture, civilisation and social political practice by the most valuable world's achievements in the corresponding areas, and, on the other hand, to make the best achievements of the Republic of Lithuania an integral part of the world's cultural and civilisational heritage.

### **3. NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

3.1. *Vital interests.* The security of the Republic of Lithuania is based on the protection of national interests. To protect vital interests, every legitimate measure is employed. A basic precept of national security is that failure to protect vital interests will result in immediate and serious threat to the very existence of the state of Lithuania and its people. The following interests are considered to be vital interests:

- 3.1.1. sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania, territorial integrity, democratic constitutional order and civil society;
- 3.1.2. respect for and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms;
- 3.1.3. peace and prosperity within the state.

3.2. *Primary interests.* These are the interests that if not protected, could eventually affect the vital interests of the Republic of Lithuania. Primary interests are the following:

3.2.1. global and regional stability;

3.2.2. security, democracy and welfare within NATO allies and the members of the European Union;

3.2.3. freedom and democracy in the neighbouring European regions;

3.2.4. open and stable security policy of all countries in the Euro-Atlantic area;

3.2.5. ensuring alternative energy supplies and supply of resources that are of strategic importance and the development of the strategically important regional infrastructure objects;

3.2.6. ecologically secure region .

#### **4. CHALLENGES, DANGERS AND THREATS**

4.1. Challenges, dangers and threats that are non-military in nature arise as a consequence of globalisation, and therefore, individual states alone cannot efficiently respond to them. Such transnational factors as terrorism, organised crime, arms proliferation, drug traffic, the illegal migration, and the spread of epidemics (including AIDS) defy state borders and become international security challenges, dangers and threats. The probability that namely these threats and dangers will continue to spread is increasing.

4.1.1. Terrorism poses a serious security threat to the international community, and therefore to the Republic of Lithuania as well. However, speaking of Lithuania, this threat is mainly external. The internal situation and the historical experience of the state do not provide conditions for the formation of a broad terrorist network within the country. This danger stems primarily from other countries:

4.1.1.1. The Republic of Lithuania may become a potential target of international terrorism. Terrorist attacks may be directed against the infrastructure and/or objects of strategic importance to the national security, as well as against the objects belonging to other states located in the Republic of Lithuania.

4.1.1.2. The Republic of Lithuania may become a transit country for international terrorism aimed at other countries. The following circumstances could intensify the threat of domestic terrorism:

4.1.1.2.1. occurrences of political extremism in the Republic of Lithuania;

4.1.1.2.2. social and economical differentiation may create preconditions for social terrorism (such terrorist attacks may be directed against certain state or private institutions, if they are perceived by the disadvantaged social groups as the source of their worsening social situation);

4.1.1.2.3. expansion of globalisation around the world and strengthening of anti-globalist movements may encourage the activities of local elements of these movements and create preconditions for specific terrorism (under cover of opposition to globalisation, environment pollution, or any other related issues).

4.1.2. While the likelihood of direct military confrontation in the region is low, but such conventional risk factors as the demonstration of military force, the threat to use such force, the presence of undemocratically ruled military forces, the failing states and unsolved regional conflicts still threaten the security of the Republic of Lithuania.

4.1.3. Overwhelming dependence of the Republic of Lithuania on the strategic resources and energy supplies of one country or the concentration of foreign capital representing economy, in which free market is not secured or unstable, in one or several economic sectors of strategic importance to national security is a potential danger not only for economic prosperity but also for the security of the country.

4.1.4. Certain economic conditions may constitute dangers to the security of the Republic of Lithuania, the well-being of its population, independence of the state or constitutional order. These could be the following:

4.1.4.1. Taking control over the assets in the sectors and objects of strategic importance to national security, while pursuing political goals, as well as acting in a manner so as to harm the economic security;

4.1.4.2. Disturbances in functioning of objects or energy sector enterprises that are of strategic importance to national security, their improper usage or non-usage, interfering with the interests of the state.

4.1.5. Uneven social and economic development that increases the gap in living standards between different social groups is considered to be a dangerous factor. As a result, there may be a decline in the living standards of certain social groups, accompanied by an increase in the unemployment rate, and at the same time it may trigger social and political extremism. This factor may also cause the growth of the crime which is a factor of danger national security.

4.1.6. The spread of theories, religious doctrines, and ideologies that are inhumane, racist, instigate ethnic or religious hatred, assault the values of human rights, or propagate and justify

violence or genocide constitute a threat that is a precondition, or source, of many other security challenges.

4.1.7. Corruption poses a particular danger, because it threatens legitimate individual and national interests, discredits the rule of law and diminishes the confidence of the citizens in the democratic values and democratic institutions.

4.1.8. Transnational activities of organised and financial crime groups constitute a major threat to the state and society. Of particular concern are the activities related to the trafficking of drugs and arms, trade in people, illegal business and the use of these funds obtained from such sources to achieve certain political goals.

4.1.9. Activities of other states' intelligence agencies directed against the Republic of Lithuania constitute a serious threat to national security. These activities are characterised by the use of traditional and unconventional methods as well as the use of the latest technologies to obtain information, compromise and influence military capabilities, political processes, and other areas of social and economic life. The seizure and (or) illegal disclosure, loss, destruction, damaging, collection, buying, selling, keeping or spreading of classified information to other countries would not only pose a threat to the security of the Republic of Lithuania and its allies but would also undermine the credibility of the Republic of Lithuania.

4.1.10. Weapons of mass destruction, their components and technologies for their production remain a global danger. The growing number of group of states and subjects in possession of such weapons, or who seek to acquire them; and the possibility that nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons may be used as a means for blackmail or terror is of particularly serious concern.

4.1.11. Uncontrolled migration poses a challenge to national security, although the Republic of Lithuania currently is not the main target of the migration flow. Now that the Republic of Lithuania is a member of the European Union, the migration control is becoming one of the most relevant objectives. A uncontrolled migration that may occur as a result of regional conflicts could result in instability for the whole of Europe and, at the same time, could endanger the interests of the Republic of Lithuania.

4.1.12. Potential industrial accidents and breakdowns, natural disasters and calamities, epidemics, or ecological disasters also are dangers to the security of the Republic of Lithuania.

4.2. The above listed threats and dangers are dynamic and therefore they may radically change as a result of internal, regional and global events and conditions.

## 5. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

### 5.1. *Major goals and objectives:*

5.1.1. The major goals of the national security of the Republic of Lithuania are to secure vital and primary national interests, neutralise threats, and prevent dangerous conditions developing into threats. Among these, the protection of vital interests has the highest priority.

5.1.2. Some of the principal objectives are maintaining friendly relationships with foreign countries, regional stability, peace and entrenchment into the Euro-Atlantic area.

### 5.2. *Strategic concepts and implementation guidelines:*

5.2.1. The fundamental strategic concept of the Republic of Lithuania is to consolidate the accomplishments and the positive changes that occurred over the last decade. As the most appropriate and credible means to consolidate these historical achievements, the Republic of Lithuania, having become member of NATO and the EU, considers its successful entrenchment into the Euro-Atlantic structures, its active participation in the decision-making process in NATO and the EU institutions and the further enlargement of these international organizations, by extending invitations to join the organizations to all countries adequately prepared for membership. Further enlargement of these international organizations would definitely ensure the security and stability of the Baltic region and consolidate the long-term security and welfare achievements of the countries of this region.

5.2.2. The security policy of the Republic of Lithuania provides for the use of the Armed forces both in cases of individual or collective self-defence against the armed attack and in case of fulfilment of the assumed international obligations in accordance with the United Nations Charter of 1945, Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949, the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania as well as other legal acts.

5.2.3. Following the approval of the National Security Strategy, specialised strategies and doctrines must be prepared or revised. In this regard, the main principles in the areas of diplomacy (foreign policy), military affairs and intelligence (defence policy), internal security (public security, economic policy, social security, environment and cultural heritage), are the following:

5.2.3.1. *Internal stability and prosperity.* Internal and foreign policies of the Republic of Lithuania are focused on fostering internal social and economic stability. This involves ensuring public security, stability of fiscal and monetary policies, intensification of the foreign trade, encouragement of economic development, privatisation, social support, anti-corruption campaigns, and reinforcement of civil society, development of culture and

civilisation, and a full-fledged integration into international economic and cultural organisations. Priorities of the security policy are:

5.2.3.1.1. *Public security.* The Republic of Lithuania guarantees the protection of the legitimate interests of each and every individual within its territory against criminal offences and to provide with urgent help in case of emergencies. To this end, effective crime prevention and crime control policies are being developed and implemented giving priority to fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism; crisis management system is being developed.

5.2.3.1.2. *Human and Civil rights.* The Republic of Lithuania assures the compliance with the provisions of the International law regarding the rights of citizens and persons within its territory. These include full respect for the rights of national minorities and any other minorities.

5.2.3.1.3. *Stable economic growth.* A strategic priority for the national security of the Republic of Lithuania is the creation of appropriate conditions for economic growth so as to ensure a higher quality of life for its citizens.

5.2.3.1.4. *Social security and stability.* An important element of security is to eliminate negative consequences of structural economic reforms and external impact on the employment level of the population, as well as to reduce illegal employment. Every citizen is entitled to have sufficient conditions for social, cultural and economic development. The formation of a socially self-supporting, unified and at the same time stable society is a basic element of the security of the Republic of Lithuania.

5.2.3.2. *Military defence.* Military defence is one of the major state security policy measures. The Lithuania's military defence adheres to the following main principles:

5.2.3.2.1. *Democratic control of the Armed forces.* While executing military defence of the Republic of Lithuania and carrying out the development of the Armed forces, it is aimed to ensure that the national defence system was accountable to the society through its elected representatives – the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (Seimas). Seimas exercises parliamentary control of the national defence system. The Government, the Minister of National Defence and the Commander of the Armed forces are accountable to the Seimas for the functioning of and the command over the Armed forces.

5.2.3.2.2. *Deterrence and collective defence.* Deterrence relies upon the strengthening of the national defence system of the Republic of Lithuania and its military capabilities and on the principles of NATO collective defence. Strong Alliance is the most important factor of security of Lithuania, ensuring effective deterrence and in case of a direct threat – collective defence.



5.2.3.2.3. Crisis prevention and the enhancement of stability. Adhering to the principle of the indivisibility of the security and having regard to the transnational character of threats, the Republic of Lithuania together with other NATO allies implements crisis prevention programmes and contributes to the maintenance of global and regional stability by using the available military measures.

5.2.3.3. *Euro-Atlantic stability and integration.* The national security system of the Republic of Lithuania is being developed as a part of security and transatlantic defence system. Therefore, foreign and internal policies are focused on full-fledged and comprehensive integration into the Euro-Atlantic area. Within the scope of their competences, all State institutions prepare and implement policies aimed at ensuring the objectives of stability and closer integration into the Euro-Atlantic region:

5.2.3.3.1. Membership in NATO and the EU. The Republic of Lithuania seeks to make use of all the opportunities and resources provided by membership in NATO and the EU in order to become a safe, prosperous and competitive state. Active and effective membership in NATO and the EU and the forthcoming expansion of these structures to the states that would express such a wish and will be adequately prepared to join the above mentioned international organizations are the priorities of the security policy of the Republic of Lithuania.

5.2.3.3.2. Active participation in maintaining peace and international stability. In this field, the Republic of Lithuania gives priority to conflict prevention, diplomacy, and International law measures. Priority is given to the ability to ensure law and justice as well as any other democratic values, participation in international crisis management, prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, participation in international arms control regimes, strengthening of the effective national export control system and drafting policies and legislation that would address new threats, dangers and security challenges.

5.2.3.3.3. Promotion of good neighbourly relations and regional co-operation. The Republic of Lithuania gives priority to co-operation throughout the Baltic Sea region, Northern Europe, with the Russian Federation, and its new neighbours – countries from the European Union. Lithuania develops and strengthens multilateral and bilateral relations with these countries making use of its geographical position and historical and cultural conditions. Specific policies have also been developed such as the policy of pragmatic selective co-operation with Belarus.

5.2.4. *Legislation.* Analysing the implementation of the National Security Strategy, the Government may submit draft laws and drafts of other legal acts to the Seimas for consideration.

5.2.5. *General resource priorities.* With regard to allocation of resources in the various areas that directly affect the overall security of the Republic of Lithuania, priority is given to activities, that enhance political involvement and raise civil awareness, economic growth, social stability, and threat response capabilities with particular attention to activities associated with more active participation in the activities of NATO and the EU institutions.

## **6. PRIMARY ACTIONS AND MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY**

6.1. *Shaping the security environment.* In shaping and implementing the national security policy, Lithuania adheres to the universally accepted principles and rules of International law. major actions and measures of shaping the security environment are:

6.1.1. *Membership in NATO.* One of the main interests of the Lithuanian national security is the effectiveness of and active participation of NATO in the processes that are aimed at ensuring international security and stability. The security policy of the Republic of Lithuania is based on the assumption that our country will never again be left alone to face a potential threat. Equal degree of security provided to each and every NATO member country regardless of their military capabilities or any other differences strengthen the stability and security of the Euro-Atlantic area. The Republic of Lithuania, being an active NATO member, is interested in the implementation of NATO policy that aims to ensure international security and stability. Actively participating in the activities of NATO institutions, the Republic of Lithuania is engaged in all the activities necessary to achieve NATO objectives. The most important activities are as follows:

6.1.1.1. *Participation in the Alliance transformation.* The Republic of Lithuania supports the strategic transformation of NATO as well as the transformation of its structures and capabilities. Acting as one of NATO allies, the Republic of Lithuania is fighting against the threats posed by international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and illegal migration. The Republic of Lithuania supports NATO attitude to fight the threats in those regions where such threats emerge. The Republic of Lithuania is also involved in the process of adjusting NATO structures so that they could effectively fight new security challenges and contributes its military units to participate in the operations of NATO Reaction Force (NRF).

6.1.1.2. *NATO's Open Door policy.* The Republic of Lithuania actively supports NATO's Open Door policy. The Republic of Lithuania considers that the enlargement of NATO is one of

the most important guarantees ensuring security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and therefore actively expresses its support to the continuation of this process.

6.1.1.3. *Support for the Alliance missions.* The Republic of Lithuania supports peacekeeping and crisis response operations led by NATO. Participating in these operations, the Republic of Lithuania contributes to the successful implementation of the operations. The Republic of Lithuania considers the following fields of NATO activities to be the underlying ones fight against terror and the peace restoration measures in the regions devastated by war, namely the Southeastern Europe and Afghanistan.

6.1.1.4. *Enhancement of the transatlantic cooperation.* In order to remain the main guarantee of security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, NATO has to maintain close cooperation between Europe and North America. Actively cooperating with the United States of America, the Republic of Lithuania seeks to enhance transatlantic cooperation. An important aspect of the transatlantic cooperation is a successful development of the relations between NATO and the European Union. The Republic of Lithuania supports the ongoing dialogue between NATO and the European Union in the field of security policy.

6.1.2. *Membership in the European Union.* The Republic of Lithuania, being the EU member state, views this political union as an important guarantee of its national security as well as of security of the whole continent of Europe. The Republic of Lithuania adheres to the principles of co-operation, equality, solidarity, the rule of law and other principles laid down in the European Union treaties. The Republic of Lithuania aims to exert considerable influence on the European Neighbourhood policy and supports the “open door” policy based on the Copenhagen criteria applied to the countries that would express an intention to join the European Union. The Republic of Lithuania will also seek to become part of the integral structure of the European Union as quickly as possible and to receive financial assistance from the European Union for the implementation of projects related to infrastructure. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania informs the society about the obligations assumed with the Lithuania’s accession to the European Union and the latest achievements. The Republic of Lithuania considers the following actions as being important for the national security of the state:

6.1.2.1. *Active participation in the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union and contribution to the development of the European Security and Defence policy.* The Republic of Lithuania supports the development of the European civil and military capabilities that would contribute to enhancement of the transatlantic partnership and would result in a more effective participation of the European Union in the process of ensuring global security and stability;

6.1.2.2. *Cooperation with the EU institutions and member states, efficient use of assistance provided by the EU to the Republic of Lithuania;*

6.1.2.3. *Administrative adjustments inside the state;*

6.1.2.4. *Strengthening Lithuanian diplomatic and institutional representation in EU institutions and specialized agencies.*

6.1.3. *Strengthening of the international cooperation and good neighbourly relations.*

The Republic of Lithuania is carrying out a wide range of activities and undertakes measures aimed at improving the strategic environment of the neighbouring regions. The most important actions in this field are as follows:

6.1.3.1. *Cooperation within the Baltic Sea region.* The Republic of Lithuania seeks to promote stability and prosperity in the Baltic Sea region. The Republic of Lithuania continues trilateral security cooperation with Estonia and Latvia, including joint military projects. The Republic of Lithuania strengthens close multilateral and bilateral cooperation with the Northern Europe states: Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland and Sweden. The Republic of Lithuania also seeks to develop a more active cooperation among the Baltic States and the Northern Europe States in the security and defence sectors, including potential joint military projects. The Republic of Lithuania actively participates in the work of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and in the multilateral initiatives that include the United States of America into the cooperation within the Baltic Sea region and promote the inclusion of the Russian Federation into practical and mutually beneficial cooperation with the Euro-Atlantic security organizations.

6.1.3.2. *Strategic Partnership with the United States of America.* The Republic of Lithuania continues to develop its relations with the United States of America, the strategic partner. The Republic of Lithuania considers the United States of America to be the main partner of the European security. The implementation of the 1998 Charter of Partnership between the US and the Baltic States continues to be instrumental in the evolution of the strategic partnership with the US. The Republic of Lithuania seeks to actively promote the initiative introduced by the United States to the Northern Europe - “The Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe”, that aims at consolidating the zone of security and stability in the region and use of the experience of the Northern European and the Baltic countries for the development of the neighbouring regions. The Republic of Lithuania also maintains its historical and cultural links with the Lithuanian emigration in the United States, which hosts the largest Lithuanian community abroad, an important aspect of its strategic partnership with the United States. The Republic of Lithuania continues to provide political and practical support for the antiterrorist coalition led by the US, after they became the target of the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001.

6.1.3.3. *Strategic Partnership with the Republic of Poland.* The Republic of Lithuania develops co-operation with the Republic of Poland, the strategic partner. This co-operation proceeds at all levels: between the Parliaments of the two countries, their Governments, various institutions, universities, local and municipal authorities, and non-governmental institutions, which foster public relations. Due to its geographical location, Poland is considered to be an indispensable link in the process of integration of the Lithuanian economy, information, communications, transport, energy and infrastructure into appropriate systems of the European Union, and in the process of inclusion of its defence infrastructure into NATO integrated military structure.

6.1.3.4. *Relations with the Russian Federation.* The Republic of Lithuania seeks to enhance mutual confidence with Russia in the field of international security. The Republic of Lithuania makes use of the multilateral arms control system and of confidence and security building measures; implements bilateral confidence and security building measures agreed with Russia; and takes unilateral security and defence policy openness initiatives with respect to Russia and other neighbours. The Republic of Lithuania supports multilateral initiatives that seek for closer practical co-operation of Russia with the NATO, and actively participates in the implementation of such initiatives. The Republic of Lithuania cooperates with Russia in assuring her military transit to and from the Kaliningrad region through the territory of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with mutually acceptable and legally regulated measures. This transit is executed in accordance with regulations approved by bilateral agreement, reviewed on an annual basis, and conforming to the laws and requirements of other normative acts of the Republic of Lithuania. The Republic of Lithuania is satisfied with the current military transit arrangements. The fact that The Republic of Lithuania is already a member of NATO and the EU does not alter its determination to cooperate with Russia, and to ensure Russian civil, commercial, and military transit through the territory of Lithuania on the terms that do not contradict to the Shengen *acquis*.

6.1.3.5. The Republic of Lithuania is particularly interested in political, social, economic and ecological stability in the Kaliningrad region. Instability can cause serious problems associated with smuggling, organised crime, uncontrolled migration and pollution of the neighbouring countries, including the Republic of Lithuania. Other interests of the Republic of Lithuania with regard to the Kaliningrad region include the maintenance of good neighbourly relations, and economic, trade and cultural partnership, and encouraging economic and social development in this country and involving the Kaliningrad region – with the view to the whole Russian Federation – into the European cooperation processes.

6.1.3.6. *Relations with Belarus.* The Republic of Lithuania, as a democratic country and a neighbour of Belarus, is interested in the formation of a civil society and the establishment of democratic norms and principles in this country, in the welfare and prosperity of its people and internal stability. The Republic of Lithuania implements tactics of pragmatic selective cooperation at a practical level. This tactics beside other issues encompasses cooperation on border protection and border control institutions, application of confidence and security building measures, cooperation with non-governmental organisations of Belarus and representatives of the media. The Republic of Lithuania would expand the area of cooperation upon the strengthening of democratic trends in Belarus.

6.1.3.7. *Interregional cooperation.* The Republic of Lithuania takes an active role in sharing the experience gained from security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region with interested states located in other regions, in particular in the Balkans, the Transcaucasus (the southern part of the Caucasus), and Central Asia.

6.1.3.8. *Participation in international operations, crisis management and prevention.* The Republic of Lithuania gives priority to participation in international military and civil crisis management operations led by organisations that have acquired the mandate of the United Nations Security Council. The Republic of Lithuania is developing its military and civil police capabilities that are included into the NATO, the European Union and the UN rapid reaction crisis management forces. The Republic of Lithuania, according to its means, will further contribute to conflict prevention, peace making, peace-building initiatives, and participate in other diplomatic, civil police and monitoring missions led by the NATO, the European Union, the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (hereinafter referred to as OSCE) and the international operations led by *ad hoc* coalitions formed for the purpose of achieving the aims of these organizations.

6.1.3.9. *Weapons of mass destruction.* The Republic of Lithuania cooperates with its foreign partners and international organisations, and strictly applies all the provisions laid down in international agreements and conventions limiting proliferation of or prohibiting weapons of mass destruction, their components and technologies for their production. The same applies to limiting proliferation or prohibiting of nuclear, chemical and biological materials.

6.1.3.10. *International arms control.* The Republic of Lithuania regards international arms control regimes and confidence and security building measures an important element of the world's and particularly of the European security. The Republic of Lithuania takes an active part in the UN and OSCE arms control regimes. While participating in multilateral regimes, the Republic of Lithuania also consults with separate neighbouring countries on application of

bilateral confidence and security building measures and prepares for the possibility of joining the adapted 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty as soon as it will come into force. The Republic of Lithuania is ready to join the Treaty on Open Skies, signed in 1992 in Helsinki. The Republic of Lithuania was the first Baltic State to join the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction, and actively seeks to implement its provisions in the region and supports wider application of the principles of the Ottawa Convention. The Republic of Lithuania actively supports the implementation of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), also known as the United Nations Convention on Inhumane Weapons and its Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. Effective control of circulation of all types of small arms and promotion of international cooperation in this field is an important priority of the Lithuania's national security policy.

6.1.4. *Responding to international security challenges and dangers.* The Republic of Lithuania places the highest priority on taking specific measures in the fight against terrorism, corruption, international organised crime, trade in people, drug trafficking, illegal migration, smuggling, and responding to other challenges of modern society such as crime related to informational technologies and telecommunications. Together with foreign partners and international organisations, the Republic of Lithuania creates, adopts and implements instruments of International law, paying special attention to the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the United Nations conventions, promotes inter-institutional cooperation of police forces, border control services, customs and special services on a bilateral basis as well as through international organisations such as Interpol and Europol.

6.1.5. *Prevention of terrorism.* The anti-terrorism program includes:

6.1.5.1. Participation in the fight of the international community against terrorism in the respective structures of NATO and the European Union;

6.1.5.2. Drafting of general anti-terrorist legislation;

6.1.5.3. Protection of potential targets against terrorist attack – including critical infrastructure;

6.1.5.4. Identification of individuals involved in ordering and executing possible terrorist acts;

6.1.5.5. Identification and removal of sources of terrorist funding;

6.1.5.6. Establishment of clearly defined procedures for investigation of terrorist acts;

6.1.5.7. Constant preparedness for eliminating crisis situations caused by terrorist acts;

6.1.5.8. Reinforcing the capabilities of anti-terrorist intelligence and counterintelligence.

## 6.2. Strengthening of the public, economic and social security:

6.2.1. *Crime control and prevention.* A new model for crime control and prevention system is being formed in Lithuania, the application of which will allow consistent and complete elimination of the main causes and conditions of development of crime and rational use of the allocated resources. The role of local authority institutions is reinforced in the process of creating a safe living environment. Activities of pre-judicial investigation institutions are being strengthened in investigating and revealing crimes and their efficient intercommunication and interaction with prosecution office is being ensured. Priority in the field of crime control is given to the fight against organised crime and corruption. Measures are taken in order to destroy the economic potential that has been illegally accumulated by the criminal structures thus reducing organised crime. The fight against corruption is executed through implementation of measures of corruption prevention, comprehensively eliminating causes of this phenomenon. Prevention and control of financial crimes, especially those infringements that are related to the obtaining and usage of the assistance funds received from the European Union or any other foreign country. The protection of witnesses and victims is being reinforced. In order to prevent illegal migration and cross-boarder expansion of crime, the development of state border protection system is being continued by means of implementing the EU requirements for state border control, by ensuring the state of constant preparedness for eliminating possible threats occurring near the state border and posing threat to the national security of the Republic of Lithuania.

6.2.2. *Protection of information.* Having regard to international standards, legal regulation of security of informational technologies is being improved, protection of the critical informational systems of the state is being strengthened, and appropriate control of implementation measures for security of information technologies and data is being ensured.

6.2.3. *Environmental protection.* The aim of the environmental protection is to keep to the European Union anti-pollution standards and fulfil the requirements laid down in the international conventions. In the process of improving the environmental quality in view of rapid development of the economy, the water resources protection and water management sector is undergoing restructuring and a new institutional system that will be responsible for the administration of the river basins ensuring the achievement of water protection goals will soon be introduced. International requirements regulating the management of chemical materials and preparations are being fulfilled in order to avoid harmful effects of such materials on the health of the population and environment.

Protection from the danger of radiation is an important aspect of the national security of the Republic of Lithuania, because there is a potential source of nuclear pollution – *Ignalina* Nuclear



Plant. Following the provisions of the laws and other legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania, the control of nuclear waste material and monitoring of the environment of nuclear energy sites are being executed. The management and disposal of nuclear waste and used nuclear fuel is priority action in ensuring safe environment. Many serious environmental and national security problems are related to the search for oil and oil extraction in the Baltic Sea performed by the neighbouring countries. The most important actions to be undertaken in the field of environmental protection are as follows:

6.2.3.1. to ensure ecological safety in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania;

6.2.3.2. to fulfil the requirements laid down in the international conventions related to environmental pollution and the global climate change;

6.2.3.3. to prevent the occurrences of fires, natural disasters, catastrophes and industrial accidents;

6.2.3.4. to protect and preserve the landscape and biological diversity of the country and its natural and cultural heritage values;

6.2.3.5. to develop environmental monitoring system and improve the process of communication of the information about any negative changes observed in the environment;

6.2.3.6. to be able to immediately respond to emergency situations related to ecosystem and mitigate and eliminate their consequences.

6.2.4. *Social security*. In order to ensure social security of the population, social cohesion and create the opportunities for qualified employment, an effective labour and social security policy is currently being implemented.

6.2.4.1. The implementation of the employability enhancement programmes allows for the reducing unemployment and mitigating negative social outcomes that occurred as a result of changes in the labour market determined by the economic structural reforms and the external influence and the balancing of the labour supply and demand. Streamlining of the coordination of activities of various state institutions by implementing the employment guidelines common to the member states of the European Union enables to join and to promote institutional efforts aimed at increasing employment, reducing social exclusion and enhancing economic competitiveness.

6.2.4.2. Seeking to improve the quality of the workplaces, the state ensures the implementation of necessary labour relations, payment for work, safety at work and other measures.

6.2.4.3. Coordination of measures of social insurance and social support ensures that all citizens are provided with social protection, and measures of social support are guaranteed for the people who need it most.

6.2.4.4. The aim of the reform of the pension system is to provide an opportunity to the population of the Republic of Lithuania to acquire greater social guarantees.

6.2.4.5. Implementing the strategy for poverty reduction, the Republic of Lithuania seeks to reduce poverty and social exclusion and overcome extreme poverty. Cash-based social assistance system has been introduced to guarantee at least minimal means of subsistence and to cover part of housing expenses. Institutional development aimed at ensuring the implementation of the effective social assistance programme is underway.

6.2.5. *Economic security.* In order to ensure the national security of the Republic Lithuania in the economic sectors that are of strategic importance, it is prescribed which strategic objects must belong to the state by ownership right and in which objects private national or foreign capital will be allowed, provided that the controlling decision power is retained by the state. A single national investor, or an investor from a foreign state, is not allowed to dominate in one or several economic sectors that are of strategic importance. Capital of unclear origin is prevented from penetrating into the economic objects of the country. The state attaches a high priority to the actions that are aimed at strengthening the economy of the country. Such actions are focused on creating conditions for stable economic growth, ensuring a higher quality of life for the citizens of Lithuania, and increasing the competitiveness of the economy. The main activities for ensuring sustainable economic development of the Republic of Lithuania are related to smooth integration into the single market of the EU. Priority has been given to the following actions:

6.2.5.1. Further implementation of structural reforms;

6.2.5.2. Assurance of conditions for macroeconomic stability;

6.2.5.3. Creation of favourable environment for the investment and business, beneficial for economic development;

6.2.5.4. Implementation of employment policy, encouraging the development of small and medium sized business in order to create more new workplaces;

6.2.5.5. Implementation of the regional policy seeking to reduce social and economic disparities between different regions within the state territory;

6.2.5. 6. Export incentives;

6.2.5. 7. Establishing obligatory energy reserves;

6.2.5.8. Ensuring stable fiscal and monetary policies;

6.2.5.9. Diversification of sources of energy supply;

6.2.5.10. Preparing the economic infrastructure and transport for operation under extreme and critical conditions.

6.2.6. *Preservation and sustainability of cultural identity.* The Republic of Lithuania seeks to preserve its distinctive cultural identity that could enrich global cultural heritage and ensure the creativity of the society that would allow protecting the existing and creating new artistic and cultural values. The Republic of Lithuania creates the conditions for the preservation of the Lithuanian language, Lithuanian ethnic culture and both material and non-material cultural heritage. The Republic of Lithuania follows the provisions of the UNESCO's Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage stating that the risk of cultural and natural heritage destruction increases not only for traditional reasons, but also because of changes of social and economic conditions. It is important that the Republic of Lithuania joined the international agreements and other global efforts to preserve cultural heritage, cherish cultural diversity and pay particular attention to the protection of heritage during periods of possible conflicts. The Republic of Lithuania creates the conditions for the development and spread of professional and amateur art that promotes the creativity and competitiveness of the society and ensures the necessary protection of the copyright and related rights. Seeking to protect cultural development against the destructive anti-humanist tendencies, the Republic of Lithuania implements the public information policy that would ensure the protection of the juvenile against the negative influence of the public information. The Republic of Lithuania protects and cherishes its state language, and seeks to achieve that it would be recognized as an equivalent means of communication in the institutions of the European Union.

6.3. *Enhancing the capabilities of the response to potential threats:*

6.3.1. *Improving military capabilities.* As a result of positive changes in the strategic environment of the Republic of Lithuania, ongoing economic growth and the requirements related to membership of the Republic of Lithuania in NATO, the Republic of Lithuania revises its defence structures and capabilities. Implementing this reform, the main focus is directed at:

6.3.1.1. the creation of a modern, well equipped Armed Forces that would be able to participate in the military operations together with NATO allies. The Republic of Lithuania, as one of the NATO member countries, when planning its defence system gives priority to the capabilities that would strengthen the collective defence of the whole Alliance and its preparedness to overcome threats of any nature;

6.3.1.2. creating and exercising on a regular basis highly qualified, well commanded and properly trained armed forces and their regular training. The soldiers of the Republic of

Lithuania are adequately trained to successfully accomplish complex military objectives and well-educated so as to live up to the confidence showed by the society and the allies of the Republic of Lithuania;

6.3.1.3. modernisation of the Armed Forces so that the Republic of Lithuania would be able to fulfil the assumed international obligations.

6.3.2. *Strengthening intelligence, counter-intelligence capabilities and protection of classified information.* Intelligence and counter-intelligence is carried out by the national security institutions, operating in accordance with the law. The Republic of Lithuania will continue to develop its intelligence and counter-intelligence capabilities seeking to prevent the threat posed by hostile activities of foreign intelligence services. The Republic of Lithuania is implementing and improving measures for the protection of the state and military secrets. Particular attention is paid to the verification system for confirming the suitability of personnel who will be working with confidential state and service information in compliance with NATO requirements and the new technologies as well as other areas related to protection of communications and information systems.

6.3.3. *Improving crisis management and response capabilities.* In order to ensure national security not only in the area of crisis management, but also in their identification and prevention, the crisis management system is being developed in the Republic of Lithuania. This crisis management system is being prepared for efficient functioning already in the pre-crisis situations, ensuring comprehensive monitoring of dangerous situations and threats, crisis detection, preparation and implementation of preventive measures. The main means and measures for improving crisis management and response capabilities are as follows:

6.3.3.1. in order to detect dangerous situations and threats and eliminate the possibilities of their occurrence and development, priority is given to enhancing the preventive role of the crisis management system;

6.3.3.2. to establish, in compliance with international standards, civil safety and rescue institution capable of managing extreme situations and to meet the needs of society in this sphere – to ensure immediate emergency aid in case of fire, industrial disaster or another incident.

6.3.4. *Civic education.* Actively participating in the processes of introducing and fostering democratic and civic values, the state consolidates the civil society. Raising civic awareness and enhancing political involvement and public spirit helps to prepare for civil resistance. Civil resistance is a determination of the nation to fight for its independence and also the determination of each and every citizen to protect the motherland. Raising civil and national awareness remains an important aspect of national security.

6.3.5. *Threat analysis and monitoring.* The Republic of Lithuania increases the strategic threat analysis and monitoring capabilities and also allocates funds for enhancing the strategic planning in all the levels of the state government.

## **7. FINAL PROVISIONS**

7.1. The Republic of Lithuania has already undertaken the obligations related to its membership in NATO. Membership in this organisation will give the Republic of Lithuania an unprecedented level of military, political and economic security.

7.2. Membership in the European Union provides the Republic of Lithuania with conditions for improvement of the level of economic prosperity and provides non-military security guarantees. Integration into the democratic Western societies stimulates economic growth, internal stability and paves the way for the new opportunities of cooperation to counteract organised crime and to respond to natural or industrial calamities.

7.3. It is anticipated that the conditions, which could affect the vital interests of the Republic of Lithuania, will remain stable in the future. However, the Republic of Lithuania has to be prepared to adequately respond to the new challenges and threats that the dynamic security environment may pose.

7.4. The National Security Strategy is regularly revised and updated reacting to the major changes in the internal or external security environment.

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