

Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and of the Government of the Republic of Poland on strategic partnership and Belarus

Vilnius, 17 September 2020

As the Year of the Constitution of 3 May 1791 and Mutual Pledge of the Commonwealth of the Two Nations approaches, we, the Heads of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and of the Government of the Republic of Poland, declare, on behalf of our Governments, that:

- The strategic partnership between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland has strengthened in recent years, both in terms of quality and quantity; it has regained mutual understanding, dialogue and comprehensive cooperation on all issues relevant to our countries, Europe and transatlantic relations; further steps to develop and deepen comprehensive relationship between the Governments and People of the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland have been actively discussed; we will continue to promote dialogue and cooperation in the fields of security, business, economics, national minorities, culture, education, youth exchanges, research and other areas; we will remain committed to cooperation on all EU issues, including shaping climate policy; we will pay special attention to historical memory in the relations between the two countries and will not tolerate the blatant attempts of certain states to rewrite history and interpret the facts of history differently;
- Significant and irreversible progress has been made over the last few years in the context of regional cooperation, namely in implementing energy and transport projects of strategic importance to Poland, the Baltic States and Europe, such as the synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity grids with the Continental European Network including Harmony Link electricity interconnection, Lithuania-Poland gas interconnection, Rail Baltica, Via Baltica, Via Carpatia; these projects will bring the Baltic States and Central Europe ever closer together as part of the Three Seas Initiative and strengthen the EU internal market and energy security; the success of the projects will also serve as a role model for Europe;
- Welcoming the success of the transport and energy projects, we are ready to continue to maximize their commercial success and to present, as wide as possible, the opportunities offered by our close cooperation to our EU neighbours and the Eastern Partnership countries, particularly Belarus and Ukraine; we are convinced that these opportunities may result in reinforcing the aspirations and expectations of these countries and their people for political and economic development;
- Strengthening security and defence cooperation has a special role to play in the relations between the two countries; we have been and will remain the strongest supporters of the closest possible transatlantic cooperation, as well as the cooperation between NATO and the European Union, in which we are placing hopes for the future of our countries and of Europe; we have been and we will be allocating at least 2 per cent of the national GDP to defence, thereby ensuring adequate defence readiness of our countries and, together with allies and partners, taking all the steps required for common defence and effective deterrence of potential aggressors;

- We support the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Belarus; we also support the aspirations of the people of Belarus to live in a free and democratic country, governed by leaders elected in free and fair elections; we deplore the reluctance of the country's leaders to heed the legitimate expectations of civil society; we condemn the violence and other forms of coercion against the people, and call for free and democratic presidential elections to be held as soon as possible; the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Poland have already approved measures to support the victims of repression and people in need of treatment or care, as well as students, researchers and representatives of culture and arts who have lost their jobs due to their beliefs and persecution; Lithuania and Poland have agreed to further coordinate their efforts in this direction, including at all international fora;
- We strongly support and back the reforms underway in the Eastern Partnership countries and the aspirations of the Associated States to become members of the European Union and NATO when relevant; we are ready to closely coordinate our positions, seek wider and deeper cooperation of international organisations with the partners that have opted the path of the Euro-Atlantic development and the greatest possible attention and resources of the Western community for the implementation of the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of these countries.

Saulius Skvernelis
Prime Minister
of the Republic of Lithuania

Mateusz Morawiecki
Prime Minister
of the Republic of Poland