



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS
SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

Gedimino pr. 53, LT-01109 Vilnius, LITHUANIA Tel. + 370 5 239 6847 Fax + 370 5 239 6409 E-mail: erk@lrs.lt

Courtesy translation

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission

04 February 2015 No S-2015-619

CONCERNING THE PRIORITIES OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORK PROGRAMME 2015 OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Dear Mr President,

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania has very thoroughly examined the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "Commission Work Programme 2015. A New Start" COM(2015) 910 (hereinafter referred to as the Commission Work Programme).

After having discussed the Commission Work Programme and taken account of the New Initiatives and REFIT Actions, the specialised committees of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania identified the initiatives and actions that are relevant and very relevant to Lithuania. Having summed up the conclusions of the specialised committees of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania at their joint meeting, the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Committees) approved the Seimas priorities in accordance with the Commission Work Programme.

I would like to inform you that when approving the Seimas priorities in accordance with the Commission Work Programme on 23 January 2015, the Committees *emphasised* the need for strengthening inter-institutional cooperation at the European Union level in order to ensure better and more efficient implementation of initiatives within the framework of the overall EU policy agenda for the next five years. In this context, welcoming the conclusions on multiannual programming and legislative planning endorsed by the General Affairs Council of the European Union on 17 December 2014, the Committees *expect* that the cooperation among the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament will be further strengthened in order to ensure both a more rapid and efficient legislative process and greater benefits for all EU citizens. The Committees *express their belief* that strengthened inter-institutional dialogue when drafting the EU annual and multi-annual programmes will allow not only to coordinate the priorities more efficiently, but will also promote more active and effective involvement of national Parliaments, which play a crucial role in consolidating the link between European citizens and European policy

making, in the EU legislative planning process. When considering the Seimas priorities in accordance with the Commission Work Programme, the Committees *draw attention* to the fact that the initiatives laid down in the Commission Work Programme should contribute to achieving the goals of the social dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy and at the same time ensure reduction of social exclusion and poverty in the EU.

ANNEXES:

1. Priorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Work Programme 2015 of the European Commission, 4 pages.
2. The list of the proposals for the subsidiarity check by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Work Programme 2015 of the European Commission, 3 pages.

Yours sincerely,

Gediminas Kirkilas

Chair of the Committee

Priorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Work Programme 2015 of the European Commission

N ^o	N ^o of the Commission's initiative	Title	Description	Relevance according to the Committee of the Seimas ¹
1.	1.	The Investment Plan for Europe: Legislative Follow-up	The follow-up actions include setting up of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), promoting cooperation with National Promotional Banks and improving access to finance for SMEs	Very relevant (CSALA) Relevant (CE)
2.	2.	Promoting integration and employability in the labour market	A package of measures to support Member States in getting people, especially the longer term unemployed and younger people, into work and developing a skilled workforce. This will include measures to follow up on the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative, a proposal for a Council recommendation on integration of the longterm unemployed, as well as measures to promote skills development	Very relevant (CSAL)
3.	3.	Mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy	Improved and updated Europe 2020 strategy, drawing lessons from the first four years of the strategy and ensuring it acts as an effective post-crisis strategy for growth and jobs in Europe. Follows up on the recent public consultation	Very relevant (CSAL) Very relevant (CHR) Very relevant (CDIS) Very relevant (CE)
4.	4.	Digital Market Package Single (DSM)	The aim is to ensure that consumers enjoy cross-border access to digital services, create a level-playing field for companies and create the conditions for a vibrant digital economy and society. The package will include, among other legislative proposals, the modernisation of copyright	Very relevant (CEA) Relevant (CSALA) Relevant (CESC) Relevant (CDIS)
5.	5.	Strategic Framework for the Energy Union	The Strategy Framework will focus on: energy supply security; integration of national energy markets; reduction in European energy demand; decarbonising the energy mix and promoting research and innovation in the energy field. It will include the revision of the EU Emissions Trading System as part of the legislative framework post-2020	Very relevant (CFA) Very relevant (CEP) Very relevant (CNSD) Very relevant (CE)

¹ After the Seimas receives the work programme of the European Commission, the Secretariat of the Plenary Sitzings of the Seimas forwards it to the committees of the Seimas. The committees of the Seimas, within one month, debate the work programme of the European Commission and submit to the Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs their conclusions regarding the relevance to Lithuania of the proposals presented in this programme. The Committees assign the proposal to one of the following categories: very relevant, relevant, moderately relevant.

6.	6.	Communication on the Road to Paris – multilateral response to climate change	The objective is to outline the EU vision and expectations and explain partner ambition in the context of the 2015 Agreement and set out the EU contribution further to the European Council conclusions of 24 October 2014	Relevant (CE) Relevant (CEP)
7.	7.	Internal Market Strategy for goods and services	A strategy for a renewed and integrated approach for the Single Market, to deliver further integration and improve mutual recognition and standardisation in key industrial and services sectors where the economic potential is greatest, eg business services, construction, retail, regulated professions, advanced manufacturing and combined services/goods provision. A particular focus will be on SMEs	Relevant (CE)
8.	8.	Labour Mobility Package	The package aims at supporting labour mobility and tackling abuse by means of better coordination of social security systems, the targeted review of the Posting of Workers Directive and an enhanced EURES	Very relevant (CSAL)
9.	9.	Capital Markets Union	An action plan for improving the financing of the economy through more efficient market-based financing instruments including work towards a framework for high quality securitisation	Relevant (CBF)
10.	12.	Deepening Economic and Monetary Union Package	The package will follow-up on the review of the most recent economic governance measures ('six-pack' and 'two-pack'), provide incentives for structural reforms and address the external representation of the Economic and Monetary Union	Relevant (CSAL) Relevant (CBF)
11.	14.	Action Plan on efforts to combat tax evasion and tax fraud, including a Communication on a renewed approach for corporate taxation in the Single Market in the light of global developments	The Action Plan will, starting from the work done on base erosion and profit sharing at OECD and G20 levels, include measures at EU level in order to move to a system on the basis of which the country where profits are generated is also the country of taxation, including in the digital economy. The Communication will aim at a stabilising corporate tax bases in the EU for a fair taxation environment, including relaunching work towards a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base	Very relevant (CA) Relevant (CBF)
12.	15.	Trade and Investment Strategy for Jobs and Growth	A comprehensive review of the EU's trade policy strategy, and in particular its contribution to jobs, growth and investment. The review will cover all aspects of trade policy, including bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations as well as autonomous measures. It will include policy orientations in all these areas for the next five years	Very relevant (CFA)
13.	16.	Proposals to complete accession to the ECHR	Proposals to allow for signature, conclusion and implementation of the accession agreement, in the light of the pending guidance from the Court	Relevant (CHR) Relevant (CLA)

14.	17.	European Agenda on Security	The Communication will propose a European Agenda on Security for the period 2015-2020 by reviewing the ongoing actions and identifying new actions taking into account emerging threats	Very relevant (CFA) Very relevant (CLA) Very relevant (CNSD)
15.	18.	European Agenda on Migration	The objective is to develop a new approach on legal migration to make the EU an attractive destination for talents and skills, as well as to improve the management of migration by intensifying cooperation with third countries, fostering burden sharing and solidarity and fighting against irregular migration and smuggling. The agenda includes the review of the Blue Card Directive, the EU-wide work permit for highly skilled workers	Very relevant (CSAL) Very relevant (CFA) Very relevant (CHR) Very relevant (CLA)
16.	19.	Communication on European Neighbourhood Policy	The joint High Representative-Commission Communication will present the results of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) review with a view to new policy orientations following a consultation launched together with the annual ENP package	Very relevant (CFA)
17.	20.	Communication on the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals	The Communication aims at establishing EU common position on the Global Partnership to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. It will cover both financial and non-financial implementation, domestic/international and public/private financing, different types of partnerships as well as monitoring, accountability arrangements and review	Relevant (CFA)
18.	21.	Proposal for an inter-institutional agreement on better law-making	A proposal to update and strengthen the common understanding with the European Parliament and the Council in relation to better regulation	Relevant (CSALA) Relevant (CE)
19.	23.	Review of the GMO decision-making process	The review will look at how the rules could be changed to better ensure the majority view of Member States is taken into account	Relevant (CHA) Relevant (CRA) Relevant (CEP)
20.	Annex III (21.)	Information and consultation of workers	Consolidation of three Directives in the area of information and consultation of workers taking into account the results of a consultation of social partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directive 2002/14/EC of 11 March 2002 establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community • Council Directive 98/59/EC of 20 July 1998 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies • Council Directive 2001/23/EC of 12 March 2001 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of undertakings or businesses 	Relevant (CSAL)

21.	Annex III (23.)	Integrating Social Statistics	Consolidation and integration of statistical legislation on the production of European statistics relating to persons and households. The objective is to make best possible use of the information provided by private households and individuals to meet current and future needs for European statistics while keeping the response burden at the present level	Relevant (CSAL)
22.	Annex III (27.)	Fishing Authorisation Regulation	Proposal for a Regulation replacing Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008 on fishing authorisations. Recast of the current Fishing Authorisation Regulation (FAR) to simplify the current system, harmonise highly variable data requirements from Member States and improve the efficiency of sanctions	Relevant (CRA)
23.	Annex III (30.)	Common Fisheries Policy	Evaluation of the impact of the Fisheries Control Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with rules of the common fisheries policy) on the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy rules and objectives, since its entering into force on 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2014. Results expected for 2015	Relevant (CRA)
24.	Annex III (43.)	Food Law	Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety. The objective of the Fitness check is to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance, EU added value of the main tools used in food law (in particular science based legislation, use of precautionary principle, prevention of frauds and information of consumers, requirements that operators perform auto-controls and trace food, tools for the management of alerts, emergency/ crisis, EFSA). Results expected for 2015	Relevant (CHA)

Abbreviations used in the text:

CEP – Seimas Committee on Environment Protection	CA – Seimas Committee on Audit
CBF – Seimas Committee on Budget and Finance	CE – Seimas Committee on Economics
CEA – Seimas Committee on European Affairs	CDIS – Seimas Committee of the Development of Information Society
CRA – Seimas Committee on Rural Affairs	CNSD – Seimas Committee on National Security and Defence
CSAL – Seimas Committee on Social Affairs and Labour	CHA – Seimas Committee on Health Affairs
CESC – Seimas Committee on Education, Science and Culture	CLA – Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs
CFA – Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs	CSALA – Seimas Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities
CHR – Seimas Committee on Human Rights	

The list of the proposals for the subsidiarity check by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Work Programme 2015 of the European Commission

N°	N° of the Commission's initiative	Title of the proposal	Description	Subsidiarity check
1.	1.	The Investment Plan for Europe: Legislative Follow-up	The follow-up actions include setting up of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), promoting cooperation with National Promotional Banks and improving access to finance for SMEs	Yes (CSALA)
2.	2.	Promoting integration and employability in the labour market	A package of measures to support Member States in getting people, especially the longer term unemployed and younger people, into work and developing a skilled workforce. This will include measures to follow up on the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative, a proposal for a Council recommendation on integration of the longterm unemployed, as well as measures to promote skills development	Yes (CSAL)
3.	3.	Mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy	Improved and updated Europe 2020 strategy, drawing lessons from the first four years of the strategy and ensuring it acts as an effective post-crisis strategy for growth and jobs in Europe. Follows up on the recent public consultation	Yes (CDIS)
4.	4.	Digital Single Market (DSM) Package	The aim is to ensure that consumers enjoy cross-border access to digital services, create a level-playing field for companies and create the conditions for a vibrant digital economy and society. The package will include, among other legislative proposals, the modernisation of copyright.	Yes (CDIS) Yes/No (CESC) Yes (CSALA)
5.	7.	Internal Market Strategy for goods and services	A strategy for a renewed and integrated approach for the Single Market, to deliver further integration and improve mutual recognition and standardisation in key industrial and services sectors where the economic potential is greatest, eg business services, construction, retail, regulated professions, advanced manufacturing and combined services/goods provision. A particular focus will be on SMEs	Yes (CEA)
6.	8.	Labour Mobility Package	The package aims at supporting labour mobility and tackling abuse by means of better coordination of social security systems, the targeted review of the Posting of Workers Directive and an enhanced EURES	Yes (CSAL)
7.	9.	Capital Markets Union	An action plan for improving the financing of the economy through more efficient market-based financing instruments including work towards a framework for high quality securitisation	Yes (CBF)
8.	12.	Deepening Economic and Monetary Union Package	The package will follow-up on the review of the most recent economic governance measures ('six-pack' and 'two-pack'), provide incentives for structural reforms and address the external representation of the Economic and Monetary Union	Yes (CBF)

9.	14.	Action Plan on efforts to combat tax evasion and tax fraud, including a Communication on a renewed approach for corporate taxation in the Single Market in the light of global developments	The Action Plan will, starting from the work done on base erosion and profit sharing at OECD and G20 levels, include measures at EU level in order to move to a system on the basis of which the country where profits are generated is also the country of taxation, including in the digital economy. The Communication will aim at a stabilising corporate tax bases in the EU for a fair taxation environment, including relaunching work towards a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base	Yes (CBF)
10.	16.	Proposals to complete EU accession to the ECHR	Proposals to allow for signature, conclusion and implementation of the accession agreement, in the light of the pending guidance from the Court	Yes (CLA) Yes (CHR)
11.	18.	European Agenda on Migration	The objective is to develop a new approach on legal migration to make the EU an attractive destination for talents and skills, as well as to improve the management of migration by intensifying cooperation with third countries, fostering burden sharing and solidarity and fighting against irregular migration and smuggling. The agenda includes the review of the Blue Card Directive, the EU-wide work permit for highly skilled workers	Yes/No (CLA) Yes/No (CHR) Yes (CFA)
12.	23.	Review of the GMO decision-making process	The review will look at how the rules could be changed to better ensure the majority view of Member States is taken into account	Yes (CEP) Yes (CRA) Yes (SHA)
13.	Annex III (21.)	Information and consultation of workers	Consolidation of three Directives in the area of information and consultation of workers taking into account the results of a consultation of social partners: • Directive 2002/14/EC of 11 March 2002 establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community • Council Directive 98/59/EC of 20 July 1998 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies • Council Directive 2001/23/EC of 12 March 2001 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of undertakings or businesses	Yes (CSAL)
14.	Annex III (23.)	Integrating Social Statistics	Consolidation and integration of statistical legislation on the production of European statistics relating to persons and households. The objective is to make best possible use of the information provided by private households and individuals to meet current and future needs for European statistics while keeping the response burden at the present level	Yes (CSAL)

15.	Annex III (27.)	Fishing Authorisation Regulation	Proposal for a Regulation replacing Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008 on fishing authorisations. Recast of the current Fishing Authorisation Regulation (FAR) to simplify the current system, harmonise highly variable data requirements from Member States and improve the efficiency of sanctions	Yes (CRA)
16.	Annex III (28.)	Simplification of technical measures for the protection of marine organisms	Proposal for a simplified framework of technical measures amending Regulation (EC) No 850/98 for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of juveniles of marine organisms	Yes (CRA)

Abbreviations used in the text:

CEP – Seimas Committee on Environment Protection	CA – Seimas Committee on Audit
CBF – Seimas Committee on Budget and Finance	CE – Seimas Committee on Economics
CEA – Seimas Committee on European Affairs	CDIS – Seimas Committee of the Development of Information Society
CRA – Seimas Committee on Rural Affairs	CNSD – Seimas Committee on National Security and Defence
CSAL – Seimas Committee on Social Affairs and Labour	CHA – Seimas Committee on Health Affairs
CESC – Seimas Committee on Education, Science and Culture	CLA – Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs
CFA – Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs	CSALA – Seimas Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities
CHR – Seimas Committee on Human Rights	