



**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

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission

January 2016, 14
No S-2016- 221

CONCERNING THE PRIORITIES OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2016

Dear Mr President,

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania has analysed very thoroughly the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Commission Work Programme 2016 “No time for business as usual” (COM(2015) 610 final) (hereinafter referred to as the Commission Work Programme).

Having discussed the Commission Work Programme and assessed the planned new initiatives and REFIT actions, the specialised committees of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania have outlined relevant and very relevant initiatives for Lithuania. In a joint meeting after summarising the conclusions of the specialised committees of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Committees) have approved the priorities of the Seimas in accordance with the Commission Work Programme 2016.

Please be informed that the Committees discussed the Commission Work Programme on 16 December 2015 and welcomed the Commission’s objective to enhance the political dialogue with national Parliaments, as it was stressed in your letters of intent of 18 December 2014 and of 8 September 2015. The Committees underscore the importance of the interinstitutional agreement on better regulation and the role of national Parliaments in the EU legislative process. The list of

priorities of the Seimas in accordance with the Commission Work Programme indicates as very relevant those proposals which, while being the main policy factors that ensure the wellbeing of citizens, may have a significant impact on the security and social inclusion of the Lithuanian citizens and the economic growth and strengthening of competitiveness of the country. I hereby attach the priorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Commission Work Programme 2016.

ANNEXES:

1. Priorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Commission Work Programme 2016, 4 pages.
2. The list of the proposals for the subsidiarity check by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Commission Work Programme 2016, 4 pages.

Yours sincerely,

Gediminas Kirkilas

Chair of the Committee



Contact person:

Dainora Asevičienė, tel. +370 5 239 68 61, fax +370 5 239 6409, e-mail: dainora.aseviciene@lrs.lt

Priorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Commission Work Programme 2016

N°	N° of the Commission's initiative	Title	Description	Relevance according to the Committee of the Seimas ¹
1.	1.	New Skills Agenda for Europe	The Agenda aims at promoting skills development, including the mutual recognition of qualifications, supporting vocational training and higher education and reaping the full potential of digital jobs.	Relevant (CESC)
2.	2.	New start for working parents	A set of legislative and non-legislative measures to better address the challenges of work-life balance faced by working parents and support the participation of women in the labour market.	Very relevant (CSAL)
3.	3.	Circular Economy Package	The aim is to address economic and environmental concerns by maximizing efficiency in the use of resources, covering the whole value chain (including sustainable consumption, production, waste management) and through innovation, thereby enabling the development of new markets and business models. The package will consist of a broad action plan, including actions on monitoring effective progress, and a waste proposal with long-term targets.	Very relevant (CEP) Very relevant (CRA)
4.	4.	Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020	The mid-term review of the MFF will address how better to target funding on the priorities the EU faces. The review will also look for ways to further orientate the EU budget towards results and simplify the applicable rules (REFIT) e.g. for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and will explore the scope for further simplification under Horizon 2020 funding.	Very relevant (CA) Very relevant (CBF) Very relevant (CRA) Very relevant (CSALA)
5.	5.	Next steps for a sustainable European future	This initiative will set out a new approach to ensure Europe's economic growth and social and environmental sustainability beyond the 2020 timeframe, taking into account the Europe 2020 review and the internal and external implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.	Relevant (CE) Relevant (CDIS) Very relevant (CSAL) Relevant (CESC) Relevant (CHR)

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.	Implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy	The Digital Single Market Strategy outlined in May 2015 will be taken forward with three sets of actions: 1) a Communication on copyright and legislative proposal on portability, followed by legislative proposals on copyright and the review of the satellite and cable directive (REFIT), legislative proposals on digital contract rights, geo-blocking, and VAT for electronic commerce (REFIT), and the review of the Regulation on consumer protection cooperation (REFIT); 2) reviews of the telecoms regulatory framework (REFIT) and the audiovisual and media services Directive (REFIT), and 3) a legislative proposal on the free flow of data.	Very relevant (CDIS) Very relevant (CESC) Relevant (CHR)
7.	7.	Energy Package Union	Following up on the Framework Strategy, the Package is composed of: legislative proposals on electricity market design and the regulatory framework, including the review of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), and the revision of the Regulation on security of electricity supply; the revision of the Regulation on security of gas supply and the revision of the Decision on inter-governmental agreements; the effort sharing decision and integration of the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector (LULUCF) into the 2030 climate framework; a renewable energy package (REFIT), including sustainability criteria for biomass, and an energy efficiency package, including energy efficiency for buildings (REFIT).	Very relevant (CEP) Very relevant (CE)
8.	8.	Labour Mobility Package	This initiative consists of a Communication on labour mobility, a targeted revision of the Directive on the posting of workers, and the revision of Regulations on social security coordination.	Very relevant (CSAL) Very relevant (CHR)
9.	9.	Follow-up to Single Market Strategy	The Single Market Strategy will be taken forward through guidance on how EU law applies to collaborative economy business models; action to help SMEs and start-ups grow; initiatives on the regulation of professions; a legislative initiative framing a new approach to business failure and insolvency; legislative initiatives to facilitate cross-border provision of services, tackle regulatory barriers in key business services and construction services, and address discrimination based on nationality or place of residence; review of the EU intellectual property enforcement framework (REFIT); action on standardisation including service standards; proposals for market information tools and an improved notification procedure under the Services Directive; and an action plan to increase awareness of the mutual recognition principles in the goods sector.	Very relevant (CE)
10.	10.	European Defence Action Plan	The aim is a legal and policy framework to ensure that the European market and industrial and skills base will be able to deliver the military capability priorities that Member States may need to meet future security needs.	Relevant (CFA)
11.	11.	Action Plan on VAT	The action plan aims at delivering efficient and fraud-proof VAT regimes and will include initiatives on VAT rates (REFIT) and a proposal on VAT for electronic commerce (REFIT) in the context of the Digital Single Market Strategy, and a Communication setting out the definitive VAT regime (REFIT).	Relevant (CA) Relevant (CBF) Very relevant (CDIS)

12.	12.	Corporate Tax Package	Following up on the Communication on A fair and efficient corporate tax system in the European Union: 5 key areas for action, the package includes a set of measures to enhance transparency of the corporate tax system and fight tax avoidance, including by implementing international standards on base erosion and profit shifting, and a staged approach starting with a mandatory tax base (REFIT) together with withdrawal of the existing CCCTB proposal.	Relevant (CA) Relevant (CBF)
13.	14.	Pillar of Social Rights	The initiative will address gaps in existing legislation and identify common principles and reference benchmarks with a view to a greater convergence of employment and social performance over time.	Very relevant (CSAL)
14.	15.	European Bank Deposit Insurance Scheme / Completion of the Banking Union	Following up to the Five Presidents' Report, the proposal will outline steps towards a European Bank Deposit Insurance Scheme based on a reinsurance mechanism. A Communication will set out further measures to complete the Banking Union.	Relevant (CA) Very relevant (CBF)
15.	16.	Follow-up to the Trade and Investment Strategy	Against the background of the Trade for All strategy for a more effective and transparent trade and investment policy based on values, the Commission will pursue the TTIP negotiations with the US, as well as make progress at WTO, engage strategically with Asia and ensure that EPAs are well implemented.	Very relevant (CE) Very relevant (CFA)
16.	17.	Implementation of European Agenda on Security	Actions to implement the European Agenda on Security including a proposal to amend the Framework Decision on terrorism, improved rules on firearms and a proposal on combatting fraud and counterfeiting on non-cash means of payment.	Very relevant (CLA) Very relevant (CNSD)
17.	18.	Better Migration Management	The initiative has two dimensions: 1) legal migration: a Communication and further legislative measures including extension of the Blue Card approach; 2) asylum and refugees: a proposal for a structured system on resettlement of refugees and revision of the Dublin system on asylum.	Very relevant (CFA) Very relevant (CSAL) Very relevant (CNSD) Very relevant (CLA) Very relevant (CHR)
18.	19.	Border Management Package	The aim is to progress towards a European Border and Coast Guard building on a reinforced Frontex.	Very relevant (CLA) Very relevant (CNSD) Very relevant (CFA) Very relevant (CHR)
19.	21.	Capacity building in the security sector	The package covers security sector reform and a possible new dedicated instrument for capacity building in support of security and development in third countries.	Relevant (CNSD) Relevant (CFA)

20.	22.	Commission contribution to the Global Strategy	The Commission will actively contribute to the Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy under the responsibility of the High Representative/Vice-President with a view to a better sense of direction to the EU external action.	Very relevant (CFA)
21.	Annex II (16.)	Occupational Health and Safety Legislation	Follow-up to the REFIT Evaluation of Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work and 23 related Directives with the aim of increasing its effectiveness and efficiency.	Relevant (CHA)

Abbreviations used in the text:

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

The list of the proposals for the subsidiarity check by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Commission Work Programme 2016

N°	N° of the Commission's initiative	Title	Description	subsidiarity check
1.	1.	New Skills Agenda for Europe	The Agenda aims at promoting skills development, including the mutual recognition of qualifications, supporting vocational training and higher education and reaping the full potential of digital jobs.	Yes/No (CESC)
2.	2.	New start for working parents	A set of legislative and non-legislative measures to better address the challenges of work-life balance faced by working parents and support the participation of women in the labour market.	Yes (CSAL)
3.	3.	Circular Economy Package	The aim is to address economic and environmental concerns by maximizing efficiency in the use of resources, covering the whole value chain (including sustainable consumption, production, waste management) and through innovation, thereby enabling the development of new markets and business models. The package will consist of a broad action plan, including actions on monitoring effective progress, and a waste proposal with long-term targets.	Yes (CEP) Yes (CRA)
4.	4.	Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020	The mid-term review of the MFF will address how better to target funding on the priorities the EU faces. The review will also look for ways to further orientate the EU budget towards results and simplify the applicable rules (REFIT) e.g. for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and will explore the scope for further simplification under Horizon 2020 funding.	Yes (CA) No (CBF) Yes (CRA) Yes (CSALA)
5.	5.	Next steps for a sustainable European future	This initiative will set out a new approach to ensure Europe's economic growth and social and environmental sustainability beyond the 2020 timeframe, taking into account the Europe 2020 review and the internal and external implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.	No (CE) Yes (CDIS) Yes/No (CSAL) No (CESC) Yes/No (CHR)

6.	6.	Implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy	The Digital Single Market Strategy outlined in May 2015 will be taken forward with three sets of actions: 1) a Communication on copyright and legislative proposal on portability, followed by legislative proposals on copyright and the review of the satellite and cable directive (REFIT), legislative proposals on digital contract rights, geo-blocking, and VAT for electronic commerce (REFIT), and the review of the Regulation on consumer protection cooperation (REFIT); 2) reviews of the telecoms regulatory framework (REFIT) and the audiovisual and media services Directive (REFIT), and 3) a legislative proposal on the free flow of data.	Yes (CDIS) Yes/No (CESC) Yes/No (CHR)
7.	7.	Energy Package Union	Following up on the Framework Strategy, the Package is composed of: legislative proposals on electricity market design and the regulatory framework, including the review of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), and the revision of the Regulation on security of electricity supply; the revision of the Regulation on security of gas supply and the revision of the Decision on inter-governmental agreements; the effort sharing decision and integration of the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector (LULUCF) into the 2030 climate framework; a renewable energy package (REFIT), including sustainability criteria for biomass, and an energy efficiency package, including energy efficiency for buildings (REFIT).	Yes (CEP) No (CE)
8.	8.	Labour Mobility Package	This initiative consists of a Communication on labour mobility, a targeted revision of the Directive on the posting of workers, and the revision of Regulations on social security coordination.	Yes (CSAL) Yes/No (CHR)
9.	9.	Follow-up to Single Market Strategy	The Single Market Strategy will be taken forward through guidance on how EU law applies to collaborative economy business models; action to help SMEs and start-ups grow; initiatives on the regulation of professions; a legislative initiative framing a new approach to business failure and insolvency; legislative initiatives to facilitate cross-border provision of services, tackle regulatory barriers in key business services and construction services, and address discrimination based on nationality or place of residence; review of the EU intellectual property enforcement framework (REFIT); action on standardisation including service standards; proposals for market information tools and an improved notification procedure under the Services Directive; and an action plan to increase awareness of the mutual recognition principles in the goods sector.	No (CE)
10.	10.	European Defence Action Plan	The aim is a legal and policy framework to ensure that the European market and industrial and skills base will be able to deliver the military capability priorities that Member States may need to meet future security needs.	Yes/No (CFA)
11.	11.	Action Plan on VAT	The action plan aims at delivering efficient and fraud-proof VAT regimes and will include initiatives on VAT rates (REFIT) and a proposal on VAT for electronic commerce (REFIT) in the context of the Digital Single Market Strategy, and a Communication setting out the definitive VAT regime (REFIT).	Yes (CA) Yes (CBF) Yes (CDIS)

12.	12.	Corporate Tax Package	Following up on the Communication on A fair and efficient corporate tax system in the European Union: 5 key areas for action, the package includes a set of measures to enhance transparency of the corporate tax system and fight tax avoidance, including by implementing international standards on base erosion and profit shifting, and a staged approach starting with a mandatory tax base (REFIT) together with withdrawal of the existing CCCTB proposal.	Yes (CA) Yes (CBF)
13.	14.	Pillar of Social Rights	The initiative will address gaps in existing legislation and identify common principles and reference benchmarks with a view to a greater convergence of employment and social performance over time.	Yes (CSAL)
14.	15.	European Bank Deposit Insurance Scheme / Completion of the Banking Union	Following up to the Five Presidents' Report, the proposal will outline steps towards a European Bank Deposit Insurance Scheme based on a reinsurance mechanism. A Communication will set out further measures to complete the Banking Union.	Yes (CA) Yes (CBF)
15.	16.	Follow-up to the Trade and Investment Strategy	Against the background of the Trade for All strategy for a more effective and transparent trade and investment policy based on values, the Commission will pursue the TTIP negotiations with the US, as well as make progress at WTO, engage strategically with Asia and ensure that EPAs are well implemented.	Yes (CE) No (CFA)
16.	17.	Implementation of European Agenda on Security	Actions to implement the European Agenda on Security including a proposal to amend the Framework Decision on terrorism, improved rules on firearms and a proposal on combatting fraud and counterfeiting on non-cash means of payment.	Yes/No (CLA) Yes (CNSD)
17.	18.	Better Migration Management	The initiative has two dimensions: 1) legal migration: a Communication and further legislative measures including extension of the Blue Card approach; 2) asylum and refugees: a proposal for a structured system on resettlement of refugees and revision of the Dublin system on asylum.	Yes (CFA) Yes (CSAL) Yes (CNSD) Yes/No (CLA) Yes/No (CHR)
18.	19.	Border Management Package	The aim is to progress towards a European Border and Coast Guard building on a reinforced Frontex.	Yes/No (CLA) Yes (CNSD) Yes (CFA) Yes/No (CHR)
19.	21.	Capacity building in the security sector	The package covers security sector reform and a possible new dedicated instrument for capacity building in support of security and development in third countries.	Yes (CNSD) Yes (CFA)

20.	22.	Commission contribution to the Global Strategy	The Commission will actively contribute to the Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy under the responsibility of the High Representative/Vice-President with a view to a better sense of direction to the EU external action.	No (CFA)
21.	Annex II (16.)	Occupational Health and Safety Legislation	Follow-up to the REFIT Evaluation of Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work and 23 related Directives with the aim of increasing its effectiveness and efficiency.	No (CHA)

Abbreviations used in the text:

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