

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINES  
OF LITHUANIA'S  
EUROPEAN UNION  
POLICY FOR 2008 – 2013  
“MORE EUROPE IN  
LITHUANIA AND MORE  
LITHUANIA IN EUROPE!”**

## CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i> .....	3
<i>Positions on the EU Future – Equal Rights in the Strong Institutions</i> .....	4
<i>Strategic Guidelines of Lithuania's EU policy</i> .....	5
<i>Conditions for Successful Implementation of Strategic Guidelines of Lithuania's EU policy</i> .....	7
<i>GUIDELINE 1. OUR EUROPE – STRONG TIES AMONG PEOPLE</i> .....	9
<i>GUIDELINE 2. SOCIAL EUROPE – OPPORTUNITIES AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL</i> .....	10
<i>GUIDELINE 3. COMPETITIVE EUROPE – FREE AND EFFECTIVE INTERNAL MARKET</i> .....	12
<i>GUIDELINE 4. SINGLE CURRENCY – TOWARDS FURTHER INTEGRATION</i> .....	13
<i>GUIDELINE 5. EU BUDGET TO – ADDRESS COMMON PROBLEMS</i> .....	14
<i>GUIDELINE 6. EUROPE OF PROGRESS – INFORMATION SOCIETY, R&amp;D AND NEW IDEAS</i> .....	15
<i>GUIDELINE 7. SAFE EUROPE – INTEGRATED AND EFFICIENT ENERGY</i> ..	17
<i>GUIDELINE 8. SUSTAINABLE EUROPE – CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT</i> .....	19
<i>GUIDELINE 9. EUROPE WITHOUT FRONTIERS – AN AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE</i> .....	21
<i>GUIDELINE 10. UNITED EUROPE – STRONG VOICE IN THE WORLD</i> .....	25

## ***INTRODUCTION***

Lithuania's accession to the European Union (EU) meant the implementation of one of its top goals, i.e. the reinforcement of national statehood. Lithuania's European integration, however, does not end here – it is a continuous process. The firm establishment of the country in the political, institutional, economic and cultural European society is the most relevant and sure way of reinforcing the achievements of the independence period, guaranteeing national security, expanding Lithuania's influence and strengthening national prestige. These set objectives can be met only through active and successful involvement in the EU activities.

While actively involved in the EU decision-making process, Lithuania, guided by the mission of its EU policy, will seek compatibility of those decisions with the national and common EU interests, contribution to the strengthening of security of Lithuanian citizens and their welfare as well as creation of better conditions for the development of the state and society. It is important that, as the country further integrates into the EU, the feeling of community and multifaceted relations between Lithuanian and other EU citizens would constantly grow, and that the state would be governed according to the fundamental European principles of democracy and good governance.

The strategic guidelines of Lithuania's EU policy are a middle-term strategic document which, taking into consideration the common national development priorities and public expectations, outlines the guiding principles of Lithuania's EU policy and establishes the strategic guidelines for the period 2008–2013. The purpose of the strategic guidelines of Lithuania's EU policy can be defined as follows:

*first*, to lay down the key Lithuanian positions on the EU vision, i.e. the ways the EU should develop and the role Lithuania should play in the process;

*second*, to determine the guidelines that would provide a basis for an active, consistent and constructive Lithuania's EU policy and help identify the activity priorities of Lithuanian institutions in the EU;

*third*, to create conditions for Lithuania's EU policy to become even more clear-cut and transparent, thereby encouraging the society at large to get more involved in the EU issue discussion;

*fourth*, to contribute to the preparations for the Lithuanian Presidency over the EU in 2013 by defining the Lithuanian position and priority guidelines in specific areas on the most pressing EU policy issues and improving administrative capacities of public authorities.

The strategic guidelines of Lithuania's EU policy are identified by taking into account the Long-term Development Strategy of the State, the Government Programme, the National Lisbon Strategy Implementation Programme, the Convergence Programme of Lithuania, Government and Seimas decisions on EU matters, and other various national policy strategies and relevant EU documents.

### ***Positions on the EU future – equal rights in the strong institutions***

Lithuania is interested in the strong and unanimous easy-to-approach European Union capable of competing on a global scale in the modern world and securing its common and individual interests in an efficient way. Lithuania supports further deepening of EU integration in the areas such as creation of the EU internal market, energy, and all other areas relevant to Lithuania, and will consistently seek to keep abreast and ahead of these processes. Also, the stronger the EU is, the more successfully Lithuanian national interests can be met.

On the other hand, quality improvement of the EU internal affairs as well as decision-making and implementation process must further remain among the key priorities on the future agenda of the EU:

*first*, it is necessary to reduce the gap between the EU institutions and the citizens. Activities of the EU institutions must become more transparent and clear. Favourable conditions for the citizens to better understand the functioning of the EU and to more actively engage in the EU decision-making process must be created. Il-founded association of national policy issues with the EU must be avoided;

*second*, Lithuania is in favour of strong and influential EU institutions as well as further deepening of integration. Lithuania supports development of the Community method<sup>1</sup> that is the best reflection of dual nature of the EU as a community of states and citizens. The development of the EU must reflect its motto *Unity in Diversity*; therefore it is necessary to cherish the diversity of cultures, languages, customs, and traditions of the EU member states;

*third*, recognising that the powers of the EU are derived from the powers of its member states and are based on the mutual consensus of the member states, Lithuania is in favour of subsidiarity<sup>2</sup> and proportionality<sup>3</sup> to further remain the key principles of competence-sharing between the EU and its member states. On the basis of these principles, the decision-making process must take place as close as possible to the citizens thereby ensuring that it is reasoned and efficient. The role of national parliaments is also to be stressed to follow these principles decisively and coherently;

*fourth*, with a view to ensure unity and solidarity of the EU, it is necessary to ensure equality for all the EU member states and to reduce the weight of various divides on the grounds of geographical location, time-frame of membership in the EU, or other in the EU decision-making process. All of that could promote ever closer and more efficient European integration. The principle of solidarity must be upheld in future as well;

*fifth*, with a view to ensure efficient implementation of the EU decisions and functioning of the internal market, all the EU member states must rigorously honour the commitments they

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<sup>1</sup> Community method is a usual method of decision-making, in which the Commission makes a proposal to the Council and Parliament who then debate it, propose amendments and eventually adopt it as EU legal act.

<sup>2</sup> Subsidiarity is a decision-making principle providing for decisions to be taken at the level where they are most effective. It is the principle whereby the Union does not take action (except in the areas which fall within its exclusive competence) unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level.

<sup>3</sup> Proportionality is a decision-making principle which provides for the EU to take aim-adequate actions. In other words, the extent of the action must be in line with the aim pursued.

had undertaken. It is important to ensure better quality of EU law-making through simplified regulation and thorough impact assessment of EU strategic decisions;

*sixth*, the method of open coordination<sup>4</sup> must continue to be applied as a tool in drafting and implementing the National Lisbon Strategy and its specific economic and social provisions as regards increased competitiveness and employment;

*seventh*, Lithuania advocates consistency, effectiveness and greater visibility of EU external relations. The EU has to speak with one voice. Lithuania is interested in strengthening EU competence to ensure common approach towards external energy policy. Lithuania speaks for a strong, consolidated and influential EU, open for the membership of other countries that comply with the set criteria, eager to further transatlantic co-operation and promote the principles of democracy, free market and better regulation.

### ***Strategic Guidelines of Lithuania's European Union Policy***

The vision of Lithuania's EU policy is a safe, prosperous, active, and responsible Lithuania fully integrated in the European Union. With a view of implementation of this vision, the following strategic guidelines for Lithuania's EU policy for 2008-2013 have been set:

- I. Our Europe – strong ties among people:*** to deepen co-operation with the citizens of other EU member states thereby contributing to the creation of the European public space; to raise awareness about Lithuania in the European Union and awareness about the EU and EU member states in Lithuania by developing professional, cultural, regional, academic, and other types of relations; to comprehensively inform the public about the EU and opportunities arising from Lithuania's membership therein; to encourage citizens to more efficiently exercise their rights established by the EU to protect their interests;
- II. Social Europe – opportunities and well-being for all:*** to support EU employment policy; to aim at the modernisation of social security systems by safeguarding flexible adaptation of social expenditure of the EU member states to the ageing European population and volatile nature of work; in view of the formation and implementation of the EU demographic policy, to aim at setting common inter-generation solidarity principles, with particular focus on development of family-friendly policy; to aim to ensure non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all; to encourage employee mobility and to ensure positive effect of economic migration in pursuance of sustainable labour market;
- III. Competitive Europe – free and effective internal market:*** to aim at creation of the effective EU internal market by abolishing the remaining obstacles in such areas as services, energy, transport, and other relevant sectors; to pursue economic reforms

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<sup>4</sup> On many issues (e.g. education, professional training, pensions, health care, etc) the EU does not have common approach: national governments establish their own national policies. Still, it is beneficial for national governments to share information, best practices as well as tune-in national policies. This method is defined as open coordination method.

in line with the Lisbon Strategy goals and to develop the required infrastructure in order to enhance Lithuania's competitiveness and increase employment and to provide appropriate conditions to make use of the opportunities offered by the internal market more efficiently; to promote application of EU regulations beyond the EU;

- IV. *Single Currency – towards further EU integration:*** to support enlargement of the Euro Area; to ensure high level of sustainable economic convergence, and to become a full member of the Economic and Monetary Union, with a single EU currency;
- V. *EU budget – to address common problems:*** to aim to allocate the EU budget for areas that create the highest added value, thereby avoiding competition distortion and complying with the needs of the contemporary Europe; to absorb the EU financial support thus aiming at the medium level of economic development of the EU member states;
- VI. *Europe of progress – information society, R&D and new ideas:*** to actively participate in refreshing and developing the effectively functioning European Research Area (ERA); to markedly increase investment in scientific research and development; to aim at greater efficiency in co-operation between research and business with a view to create innovation products and develop integrated science, study, and business centres (valleys) as well as to encourage other partnership initiatives; to join the European space activities; to actively participate in the formation of the information society with a view to create common European information area and develop active information society;
- VII. *Safe Europe – integrated and efficient energy:*** to actively participate in development of the EU Common Energy Policy with a view to ensure Lithuania's integration into the EU energy market and strengthen external energy security of the EU member states through the construction of power links, elimination of energy isolation, diversification of energy sources and supply routes as well as reduction of energy dependency from third states; to support creation of the EU internal energy market based on competition; to ensure energy efficiency enhancement and development of renewable energy sources;
- VIII. *Sustainable Europe – clean environment, sustainable transport and rural development:*** to support the EU active global role in reducing the impact of climate change and seek that the burden of implementing ambitious targets in this field be shared between EU member states on the basis of a clear and fair system and the principle of solidarity; support EU initiatives that encourage the development of low-polluting energy production, transport and industrial technologies; aim at competitiveness and flexibility of the agriculture and fisheries sectors in both domestic and external markets, take an active part in shaping and implementing EU

policy aimed at a quality rural development, ensure sustainable development of agricultural and fisheries resources, food safety and quality;

- IX. *Europe without frontiers – an area of freedom, security, and justice:*** to support the creation and fortification of the common area of freedom, security and justice; to ensure proper and efficient management of migration flows and external borders; to support the deepening of the European integration in the field of justice to the extent necessary to ensure the interests of the EU citizens and justice, while preserving different legal traditions of the member states; to seek the evaluation at the EU level of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes; to encourage an active EU role in strengthening freedom, security and justice in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood;
- X. *United Europe – strong voice in the world:*** to seek stronger co-operation with EU Eastern neighbours outside the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP); to support the European aspirations of these states and integration processes; to seek the perspective of further approximation of the countries to the EU and membership in the European Union; to create a single EU policy in relation to third countries; to seek the closest possible transatlantic co-operation; to make an active contribution to the development of security and stability area in the EU neighbourhood.

### ***Conditions for successful implementation of Strategic Guidelines of Lithuania's EU Policy***

*First*, broad public support for Lithuania's EU policy. Lithuania can successfully act in the European Union when there is a broad public agreement on this policy. Therefore it is vital to maintain an open and constant dialogue between the government institutions and the public. Civil society, researchers, and various interest groups have to be engaged in the process of formation of Lithuania's positions represented in the EU institutions;

*Second*, clear political support for Lithuania's EU policy goals. EU affairs must constitute an integral part of the political agenda. On the other hand, national policy issues should not be unreasonably associated with the effect of the EU and its regulations;

*Third*, efficient and transparent coordination of Lithuania's EU affairs with a view to deal with Lithuania's EU policy matters. Active and harmonised participation of state institutions must be ensured in the process of formation of Lithuania's interests and representation thereof in all the steps of the EU decision-making;

*Fourth*, efficient multilateral and bilateral Lithuania's European diplomacy (i. e. representation of Lithuania's interests exercised by various institutions) in the EU institutions and capitals of the EU member states. In this context, it is important to make use of network of Lithuania's diplomatic missions with a view of obtaining support from other states; to participate in the affinity coalitions on the grounds of common interests;

*Fifth*, sufficient administrative capacities and resources of public service aiming at the best preparation of Lithuania's positions on the essential EU policy affairs that matter for

Lithuania, the most efficient representation in the EU institutions thereof, and implementation of the decisions made. Capacity building in public service administration is highly topical for Lithuania in the run-up to the EU Presidency in the second half of 2013.

Aiming to build administrative capacities, the following is of special importance:

- to improve EU affairs coordination system and promote co-operation between state institutions, socio-economic partners, and researchers; to aim at early and active engagement into the EU decision-making process and making an impact thereupon, to shape national positions having examined the impact of decisions for Lithuania, to form coalitions based on Lithuania's interests;
- to improve public servant motivation system and to reduce turnover of public servants; to provide appropriate training conditions making use of trainings organised in Lithuania and abroad; to ensure that the highest possible number of Lithuania's public servants who take part in the EU decision-making process mastered at least two official EU languages;
- to encourage more active co-operation and exchange in the best administrative practices between the EU member states, to support development of various mechanisms and measures to ensure efficient management of public administration process and adequate dissemination of information.

## **GUIDELINE 1. OUR EUROPE: STRONG TIES AMONG PEOPLE**

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to deepen co-operation with the citizens of other EU member states thereby contributing to the creation of the European public space; to raise awareness about Lithuania in the European Union and awareness about the EU and EU member states in Lithuania by developing professional, cultural, regional, academic, and other types of relations; to comprehensively inform the public about the EU and opportunities arising from Lithuania's membership therein; to encourage citizens to more efficiently exercise their rights established by the EU to protect their interests.*

- Understanding that full European integration is possible only with strong ties among people, Lithuania will encourage active participation of its citizens in various EU programmes that develop professional, cultural, regional, academic, and other types of relations. Lithuania will support engagement of social partners and nongovernmental organisations into the appropriate European networks, development of inter-parliamentary and party relations with the EU member states, co-operation between Lithuanian and EU secondary schools, higher education establishments, research institutions, and cities.
- Lithuania will actively support development initiatives of *Lifelong Learning Programme* and other EU exchange programmes. Real opportunities will be sought to be created for the students of all tiers of Lithuania's higher education establishments to pursue part of their study programme at the EU higher education establishments. In recognition of the importance of two-way approach, efforts will be made to raise the number of students arriving to study in Lithuania from other EU member states. Lithuania will also support initiatives for the co-operation and mobility of students, teachers, researchers, and various experts in the EU member states.
- To support the EU language policy, Lithuania will promote the EU language learning and will seek to ensure that upon graduation secondary education programme students mastered (i. e. understood well and spoke fluently) at least one language of another EU member state.
- Lithuania will aim to ensure that thorough and impartial information on EU and Lithuania's membership in it was further provided to the public with a view to better make use of the opportunities provided by the membership to protect one's rights and to actively participate in the policy-making process. Lithuania will encourage active participation of Lithuania's citizens in the elections to the European Parliament in 2009.
- To encourage development of relations between the Lithuanian and EU citizens, Lithuania will make efforts to raise country's awareness and create positive image of Lithuania in the other EU member states. To contribute to the development of the

common European culture, Lithuania will foster its identity and cultural heritage; it will follow the programme of *Vilnius – European Capital of Culture 2009* as well as other significant culture and art projects.

**SUCCESS INDICATOR:**

- *The number of those participating in the professional, cultural, regional, academic, and other types of exchange on the basis of the EU programmes increased by 50% by 2013 (as compared to 2008).*

**GUIDELINE 2. SOCIAL EUROPE: OPPORTUNITIES AND WELL-BEING  
FOR ALL**

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to support EU employment policy; to aim at the modernisation of social security systems by safeguarding flexible adaptation of social expenditure of the EU member states to the ageing European population and volatile nature of work; in view of the formation and implementation of the EU demographic policy, to aim at setting common inter-generation solidarity principles, with particular focus on development of family-friendly policy; to aim to ensure non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all; to encourage employee mobility and to ensure positive effect of economic migration in pursuance of sustainable labour market.*

- Lithuania is committed to pursue the following aims of the renewed European Social Agenda: creating opportunities, enforcing the principles of universal accessibility and solidarity, taking into account the following Agenda priorities: youth, human capital, longer and healthier life, mobility, social inclusion, non-discrimination, and equal opportunities, participation and social dialogue.
- Lithuania will support the EU employment policy and increased investment goals as regards human resources, with a view of developing better employee adjustment to changes, raising job quality, encouraging geographic and career mobility; and will be closely involved in shaping and enforcement of EU policy on labour market flexibility and job security policy.
- Lithuania will be attributing more attention to economic migration trying to buffer its negative impact; it will monitor and analyse EU labour market (in particular, high qualification labour force) developments, as well as the scope and reasons for emigration. Lithuania will work to achieve equal treatment for its citizens in terms of free movement and employment across the EU.
- Lithuania will seek to maintain labour market balance through the promotion of internal mobility and stronger links with those who have left Lithuania abroad for work; it will look for better ways to raise awareness on migration problems and come-back possibilities; it will regulate labour force immigration in relation to return flows, and it will work out measures for social and labour integration of the immigrant.

- Lithuania will look for the improvement of measures aimed to address EU demographic problems and modernisation of family policy in the face of ageing-caused financial and social challenges, with particular focus on possibilities for families to easier combine work and child rearing; it will encourage adjustment to demographic changes, in particular the ones caused by ageing, it will support the attempts of solidarity-based Europe to combat poverty and social exclusion, and promote active social inclusion. Lithuania will seek for an adequate, accessible, effective, financially feasible and stable policy of inclusion and social protection, to prevent from poverty and discrimination socially vulnerable groups, particularly children.
- Lithuania encourages integrating the goals of equal opportunities (including gender equality) as a fundamental value, in all the areas; it supports the development of EU policy on non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all, with a view of ensuring EU social, economic and cultural diversity. Considering the decision of establishing the European Institute for Gender Equality recognition of conducted policies, Lithuania is committed to further contribute to the promotion of major goals of gender equality policy across the EU.
- With a view to improving public health and welfare, Lithuania will seek for health system sustainability and integration of health aspects into other policies; it will support co-operation between EU members and international organisations, promote prevention and health improvement measures, as well as application of the latest technologies, research development and best practice exchange in the area of health.
- With a view of ensuring adequate and safe health services, equally accessible for all EU citizens, Lithuania stands for a clear system of safe, effective and high quality health care across the Community, as well as for patient mobility, and freedom to provide health care services and ensure high level health care, at the same time maintaining national responsibility.

**SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- *70% total employment rate by 2010;*
- *European Institute for Gender Equality opened up and efficiently operates in Vilnius;*
- *Poverty risk rate not exceeding the EU average;*
- *Emigration in 2012 not exceeding 10 thousand inhabitants.*

**GUIDELINE 3. COMPETITIVE EUROPE: FREE AND EFFECTIVE  
INTERNAL MARKET**

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to aim at creation of the effective EU internal market by abolishing the remaining obstacles in such areas as services, energy, transport, and other relevant sectors; to pursue economic reforms in line with the Lisbon Strategy goals and to develop the required infrastructure in order to enhance Lithuania's competitiveness and increase employment and to provide appropriate conditions to make use of the opportunities offered by the internal market more efficiently; to promote application of EU regulations beyond the EU.*

- Lithuania has been consistent in supporting an effectively operating and more liberal EU internal market by eliminating the remaining obstacles to free movement of goods, services, people and a capital, also providing preconditions for the “fifth freedom”: free movement of knowledge; it also supports an effective application of the “mutual recognition principle”<sup>5</sup>; seeks for cross-sectoral policy compatibility between Lithuania and the EU in terms of goals and principles of the EU internal market.
- Lithuania believes that an access to energy sources and networks is a basic prerequisite for a long-term economic growth, as well as EU and Lithuania's economic security. Lithuania (just like other Baltic states) could fully participate in the internal market only if their energy isolation is eliminated and adequate transportation links with the EU are ensured. For this reason, it is essential to step up bridging power and gas pipeline networks with the EU energy markets, and carry out the projects *Rail Baltica* and *Via Baltica*. In this context, Lithuania is for more active policy coordination at the EU level as well as the development of adequate EU support instruments.
- Lithuania emphasizes the importance of an effective application of the Services Directive by the end of 2009 for Lithuanian and EU business development. At the same time, it is believed that due to the specifics and complexity of the services of general interest (e.g. health care), a new horizontal legal regulation at the EU level is not required.
- Lithuania seeks to ensure a consistent implementation of the EU better regulation policy through a reduced administrative burden, regular review of current legal acts, improvement of legislation measures, such as impact assessment and public consultations. Lithuania is also for stronger monitoring of the quality of the transposition and enforcement of the EU internal market regulations.
- Lithuania supports measures aimed at improving operating conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises, which are most affected by still existing internal market obstacles. It is particularly important to step up activities of risk funds owned by public

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<sup>5</sup> The European Court of Justice' formulation applicable for the free movement of goods establishes that a product sold lawfully in one member state may not be prohibited in another member state. The internal market could also be enhanced through coordination of legal aspects.

and private capital with a view of directing investment to promising companies with high growth potential.

- Lithuania does not support harmonization in the area of direct taxes, as it believes that in many cases a more effective functioning of the EU internal market could be achieved through coordination of actions in the area of direct taxation<sup>6</sup>, at the same time ensuring implementation of national competence in this area. Indirect tax-related initiatives at the EU level are acceptable to Lithuania given they have a positive effect on the EU internal market and have no negative impact on Lithuania's economic and social environment.

**SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- *As of 2013, Rail Baltica put to operation (regular train speed: 120 – 160 km/h);*
- *By 2013, 25% reduction of administrative burden for businesses in selected priority areas<sup>7</sup>;*
- *National transposition performance of EU internal market directives measuring below 1% ; Lithuania is among the leaders in transposing and enforcing EU directives.*

**GUIDELINE 4. SINGLE CURRENCY: TOWARDS FURTHER EU  
INTEGRATION**

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to support enlargement of the Euro Area; to ensure high level of sustainable economic convergence, and to become a full member of the Economic and Monetary Union, with a single EU currency.*

- Underlining essential importance of the Economic and Monetary Union for overall EU integration, Lithuania is committed to actively participate in the discussions regarding further enlargement and future operation of the Euro Area.
- Lithuania will do its utmost to achieve the compliance with Maastricht criteria as early as possible and it will enforce a strict fiscal discipline which is in line with the provisions of the Stability and Growth Pact and which ensures macro-economic stability and Lithuania's sustainable economic development and convergence.
- Lithuania will carry out structural reforms and economic policy ensuring financial stability of prices and government sector.
- In pursuance with the National Plan for the Introduction of the Euro, Lithuania will seek to ensure the smoothest possible practical preparations for the introduction of the Euro in order not to damage economic interests of the consumer and to have timely adjustment of

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<sup>6</sup> The goal of EU-coordinated approach towards taxation is to achieve the compliance of national direct taxation systems with Community law which would ensure smooth interaction without replacing them by a unified EU taxation system (which would happen in case of harmonization). These measures aim to eliminate discrimination of tax payers (natural and legal entities), avoid double taxation, prevent tax evasion, and preserve national tax basis.

<sup>7</sup> These areas as well as specific quantitative aims as regards the reduction of an administrative burden will be determined based on the results of the study: *Simplification of information requirements raising administrative burden for businesses in the context of Better Regulation.*

relevant national legislation. In the framework of the Public Information and Communication Strategy on the Introduction of the Euro, awareness will be raised among the public as regards its potential impact on the economy, European integration as well as the details of the introduction procedure.

**SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- *High level of sustainable economic convergence;*
- *High level of public awareness on Euro introduction and other pertinent factors;*
- *Lithuania: a member of the Euro Area.*

**GUIDELINE 5. EU BUDGET – TO ADDRESS COMMON PROBLEMS**

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to aim to allocate the EU budget for areas that create the highest added value, thereby avoiding competition distortion and complying with the needs of the contemporary Europe; to absorb the EU financial support thus aiming at the medium level of economic development of the EU member states.*

- Lithuania speaks in favour of the EU budget focusing on areas generating largest amount of added value, being aware, however of potential dangers of competition distortion. The EU budget must be up to date, and ready to respond to emerging challenges for the European Union and its member states. EU funded policies must be inter-balanced.
- In the discussions on the EU budget, Lithuania emphasizes the importance of increased competitiveness, stronger solidarity and reinforced security. These common priorities should be taken into account in the EU common policy development and funding.
- Seeking to enhance EU competitiveness by financial measures, Lithuania will primarily welcome a special focus on research and innovations as well as implementation of the common EU energy policy goals and creation of a fully integrated interior EU energy market. It is important to assure that EU support to research and their infrastructure would contribute to the development of the scientific potential of all EU member states. Proper attention should also be paid to the balanced transport infrastructure, development of cleaner energy technologies and research in this area.
- Referring to the EU solidarity, Lithuanian welcomes the idea that the EU cohesion should remain as one of key areas of the EU policy in terms of financing, with less developed regions being treated on a priority basis. Lithuania supports the interplay between the cohesion policy and the Lisbon Strategy, but does not forget to emphasize the differences between the development priorities of the EU member states' and individual regions. As for Lithuania, there still exists a considerable need for investment into health care, education and social infrastructure and other important areas, funding of which does not fall under the renewed Lisbon Strategy goals.
- Guaranteeing EU security, Lithuania highlights common EU financial responsibility for the protection of the exterior border and development of efficient migration policy.

Moreover, with the aim of strengthening the global EU role sufficient financial mechanisms should be applied for the European Neighbourhood Policy, thereby maintaining the proper balance between the eastern and southern EU neighbours.

- Lithuania advocates the idea that the EU Common Agricultural Policy should remain a common EU policy that is funded from the EU budget. It is important that support provided for agriculture would determine sustainable development of the sector in the EU member states; Lithuania will seek unification of competition conditions for all EU member states farmers in the common market by reviewing the methodology and principles of direct financial support. Lithuania will also seek that a bigger part of the EU Common Agricultural Policy expenditure is to be allocated for rural development programmes.
- Lithuania seeks transparent, efficient and timely absorption of EU financial support. Lithuania takes the view that the EU financial support mechanism could be simplified by reviewing its administrative control and audit requirements. Also, more emphasis should be placed on the impact analysis of provided financial support.

**SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- *A final agreement on the EU budget review reflects the principled Lithuanian position on the EU budget and cohesion policy reforms and guarantees adequate financing for EU policy areas that are relevant to Lithuania;*
- *Absorption of targeted EU financial support to Lithuania and achievement of strategic goals of provided funds.*

***GUIDELINE 6. A EUROPE OF PROGRESS – INFORMATION SOCIETY,  
R&D AND NEW IDEAS***

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to actively participate in refreshing and developing the effectively functioning European Research Area (ERA); to markedly increase investment in scientific research and development; to aim at greater efficiency in co-operation between research and business with a view to create innovation products and develop integrated science, study, and business centres (valleys) as well as to encourage other partnership initiatives; to join the European space activities; to actively participate in the formation of the information society with a view to create common European information area and develop active information society.*

- Lithuania will actively contribute to the creation of the efficiently operating ERA and consolidation of the free movement of knowledge as a *fifth freedom* adding a new dimension to the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital that serves as a basis for the functioning of the EU internal market.
- Taking into consideration that the efficient operation of the ERA would not only enhance Europe's competitiveness but also open a new perspective for European integration, Lithuania, while vigorously involved in the discussions on the renewal of the ERA

concept, will seek active participation in the ERA by creating a national modern infrastructure in the most promising research areas. Moreover, Lithuania will establish institutions that will help get involved into the activities of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)<sup>8</sup>, Joint Technological Initiatives and others.

- With the aim of giving a stronger impetus to research and studies on a national level, Lithuania will strengthen its scientific infrastructure, facilitate the international exchange of scientists, basically implement the Bologna process<sup>9</sup>, the reform of Lithuanian science and studies and will pay proper attention to the strengthening of co-operation between Lithuanian and European universities.
- Lithuania will make every effort to assure that the further development of research and innovation policy at the EU level would not widen the gap between the more and less advanced EU member states. To this end, Lithuania speaks in favour of relevant EU legal and financial instruments. Also, Lithuania will seek the enhancement of opportunities for its scientists to participate in the EU Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development, which is the instrument for funding research over the period 2007 to 2013 through the EU structural funds programmes.
- With the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, more emphasis will be placed on the improvement of the functioning of the science and studies system, development of research and innovation. Also, public investments into R&D will be increased and incentives for private sector investment in the field will be provided. The implementation of these goals implies a close partnership between science and business.
- Taking over experience from the other EU member states and effectively utilising EU financial support, Lithuania will establish a competitive system of science, studies and innovations at the EU level, will seek growing business innovativeness, more efficient co-operation between science and business in creating and developing integrated science, studies and business centres (valleys), will also make preparations to launch a co-operation plan with the European Space Agency and set up an Advanced Research Institution that will focus on the development of social and humanitarian sciences in Lithuania and abroad.
- Lithuania, by promoting open and competitive digital economy and stressing the importance of information and communications technologies (ICT), will seek creation of a single European Information Space, and will facilitate the development of the internal market for open and competitive information society.

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<sup>8</sup> The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a flagship research university for excellence in European higher education, research and innovation. The leading feature of the EIT is Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). The first stage should see the establishment of 2 or 3 above communities in the most topical areas, i.e. climate change, renewable energy or information technologies. The EIT is a network combining the best infrastructures of pre-existent universities and research institutions in the EU.

<sup>9</sup> The purpose of the Bologna process is to create the European higher education area by enhancing the employment and mobility of citizens and making European higher education more compatible and competitive on an international level. It is named after the place it was proposed, the University of Bologna in the Italian city of Bologna, with the signing in 1999 of the Bologna declaration.

- Lithuania will vigorously pursue the goals defined in the European i2010 e-Inclusion. The actions under the priority of i2010 aim to ensure that the benefits of the information society can be enjoyed by everyone, to encourage provision of better public services, and to improve effectiveness of public services. Lithuania also supports EU initiatives facilitating transition to an information-based economy and society under the guiding principle of *lifelong learning*.

**SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- *Achievement of an investment level of 2% of GDP into R&D;*
- *Implementation of priorities for research and compatibility with ERA priorities;*
- *Increased involvement of Lithuanian researchers and scientists and increase in funds from the Seventh Framework Programme, Eureka and COST by 2013;*
- *Establishment of a competitive system for research, studies and business valleys by 2013; preparation to start carrying out the national co-operation plan with the European Space Agency and establishment of the Advanced Research Institution;*
- *Full involvement of Lithuanian research, studies and business representatives in new common EU initiatives in the area of R&D (e.g. initiatives of Article 169 of the Treaty, Joint Technology Initiatives or Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology);*
- *Establishment of virtual research centres in co-operation with foreign research.*

***GUIDELINE 7. SAFE EUROPE – INTEGRATED AND EFFICIENT ENERGY***

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to actively participate in development of the EU Common Energy Policy with a view to ensure Lithuania's integration into the EU energy market and strengthen external energy security of the EU member states through the construction of power links, elimination of energy isolation, diversification of energy sources and supply routes as well as reduction of energy dependency from third states; to support creation of the EU internal energy market based on competition; to ensure energy efficiency enhancement and development of renewable energy sources.*

- Lithuania will favour the establishment of an efficient, competitive and integrated EU internal market, especially by accelerating the building of missing interconnections to power grids and relevant infrastructure. Lithuania fully welcomes the third energy liberalisation package proposed by the European Commission and its strategic goals for the creation of the EU energy market.
- Lithuania supports EU measures in the area of energy guided by the principles of reciprocity, free market, equal conditions for competition and transparency. Lithuania seeks the application of the principle of reciprocity in the relations with vertical monopolies of third countries as well as limitation of the negative impact of energy monopolies of third countries by the internal market levers in the EU.

- Lithuania will seek that the strengthening of energy security will be highlighted as one of the top European energy policy priorities, with a special emphasis on the “energy islands” and the challenges faced by very vulnerable EU regions. To this end, Lithuania will support the review of the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E) and Priority Interconnection Plan, with a special focus on the vulnerable markets which grow increasingly dependent on the sole exterior provider. In this context, Lithuania is interested in the review of the TEN-E budget; however, it implies not only the increase of the budget but also the reallocation of relatively more funds earmarked for energy security-enhancing, but commercially unattractive projects.
- Aiming to secure the diversification of energy resources and energy supply lines, Lithuania will seek that the EU will especially focus on the following projects: underground gas storage facility, liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal, Lithuania-Poland power bridge, incentives for speedier integration of Baltic States into the Union for the Co-ordination of Transmission of Electricity (UCTE) as well as measures applicable at the EU level for the acceleration of the implementation of the above projects.
- Lithuania will increase the use of energy from renewable resources and energy efficiency, especially in housing and transport sectors, and will also speak in favour of the idea that the development of a safe nuclear energy, as a competitive and environmentally-friendly energy choice and a factor that might contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, would become one of the key common EU energy policy priorities. Therefore, Lithuania will seek to ensure a timely implementation of the project for a new regional nuclear power plant in Ignalina.
- Lithuania calls for effective measures to speed up the development of the Common EU External Energy Policy and ensure the actual implementation of the principle of solidarity in the field of energy. Lithuania regards the creation of the EU Network of Energy Security Correspondents (Nesco) and the early warning mechanism with Russia as an important step to ensure the monitoring of threats to supply security. Lithuania calls for the inclusion of the states of the South Caucasus in the energy community and supports the EU actions aimed at ensuring the application of the provisions of the Energy Charter, in particular regarding Russia and other external energy suppliers.

**SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- *Connection of Lithuania's and Poland's electricity grids by 2012; substantial progress in implementing the project for the connection of Lithuania's and Sweden's electricity transmission systems;*
- *Beginning of the project for connecting the gas supply systems of the Baltic States and Poland by 2013;*
- *Increased co-ordination of the EU actions during energy supply crises, also in the field of EU external energy policy and ensured political monitoring (in the Council of EU) of EU strategic energy priorities and the implementation of the projects;*

- *Renewable energy resources account for up to 12% of the primary energy balance, while production of electricity from the said resources equate to 7% of the total electricity consumed;*
- *Final energy costs reduced by 5.25% (as compared to 2005) after the implementation of energy saving measures for industries by 2013.*

***GUIDELINE 8. SUSTAINABLE EUROPE: CLEAN ENVIRONMENT,  
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT***

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to support the EU active global role in reducing the impact of climate change and seek that the burden of implementing ambitious targets in this field be shared between EU member states on the basis of a clear and fair system and the principle of solidarity; support EU initiatives that encourage the development of low-polluting energy production, transport and industrial technologies; aim at competitiveness and flexibility of the agriculture and fisheries sectors in both domestic and external markets, take an active part in shaping and implementing EU policy aimed at a quality rural development, ensure sustainable development of agricultural and fisheries resources, food safety and quality.*

- Lithuania approves the ambitious targets of the EU climate change policy and supports the EU global leadership in this field. Lithuania will take an active part in the negotiations on burden sharing between EU member states after 2012 concerning implementation of these targets with a view to reaching a fair and clear agreement based on the principle of solidarity, and also securing that commitments are shared among EU member states not only with regard to the countries' economic development, but also with regard to specific national, regional situation as well as the progress already made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Lithuania will seek the improvement of a general environmental situation of the Baltic Sea by joint efforts of the EU member states. Lithuania holds the opinion that any infrastructure projects that are being carried out on the bottom of the Baltic Sea must fully comply with the international environmental standards. Lithuania underlines the necessity to create an ambitious Baltic Sea Strategy at the EU level which would pay due attention to dealing with environmental and energy problems of the region.
- Taking into account the needs for coordination between urban economic development and the assurance of mobility, improvement of the quality of life and protection of the environment, Lithuania will seek to implement a sustainable transport development policy through modernizing the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), enhancing the effectiveness of the transport system and its separate elements, developing environmentally-friendly public transport systems in cities, promoting railway transport, creating conditions for the development of intermodal transport and the application of innovative passenger traffic solutions.

- Lithuania will strive for a competitive and flexible agricultural sector, responsive to market needs, will seek its restructuring (in the direction of optimization of farms) and modernization by making use of EU structural funds support. Lithuania will further advocate the rationalization of the instruments of agricultural market regulation. Lithuania supports the essential aim of the EU Common Agricultural Policy – to ensure the supply of high-quality agricultural production at fair prices. Lithuania will seek to ensure that proper attention of the EU is given to securing the safety and quality of agricultural products in the EU market.
- Being aware of the need to halt climate change, preserve balance in Europe, Lithuania will strive to ensure a balanced development of agriculture. By preserving and protecting the environment and landscape, Lithuania will support favourable methods of land management at the EU level, promote the necessity to reduce the intensity of farming activities in the areas of high nature and landscape value and preserve biodiversity. Taking into account the contribution of the agricultural sector in reducing the impact of climate change, Lithuania will urge the EU to pay more attention to integrated research in that field by encouraging a more effective use of water, biodiversity and bioenergy.
- Making use of EU structural funds support to rural development, Lithuania will take steps to ensure the protection of landscape and cultural heritage in rural areas, support of the areas less favourable for farming, creation of the infrastructure that is crucial for sustainable development and the provision of high-quality recreational services. Lithuania will aim at optimization of the mechanism of support of the areas less favourable for farming and will seek uniform criteria at the EU level. Lithuania will also strive to ensure the growth of rural development by encouraging the creation of alternative jobs in rural areas.
- Lithuania will encourage the adoption and improvement of biofuel production technologies; will promote the efficient use of land resources without competing with food production, will seek to ensure sustainable development of forestry and the wise increase of biofuel crop areas.
- Lithuania will seek to assure that risk and crises management instruments of the agricultural sector are in place and the efforts of economic agents to manage losses arising from the possible negative impacts of business risks or natural phenomena on agriculture are encouraged.
- Lithuania promotes the simplification of the Common Fisheries Policy, review and rationalization of the measures currently in force, the development of favourable legal and economic conditions for fishing. Lithuania will promote an optimal management of fisheries resources (including sustainable use, preservation and replenishment of EU fish stock), as well as the development of fishing, aquaculture and fish processing business.

**SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- *In 2012, the emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere stay within the national ceiling set at the EU level; an agreement on burden sharing among the EU member states implementing the climate change and energy package took account of the specific situation in Lithuania;*
- *By 2010 biofuels account for at least 5.75% of the total volume of petrol and diesel for transport purposes on the country's market;*
- *The need for funds for the instruments of agricultural market regulation decreased by 50%;*
- *The number of people engaged in activities alternative to agriculture increased by 15%;*
- *Depletion of the fish stocks in the Baltic Sea halted;*
- *Provision of high-quality food products to EU market.*

**GUIDELINE 9. EUROPE WITHOUT FRONTIERS: AN AREA OF  
FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE**

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to support the creation and fortification of the common area of freedom, security and justice, to ensure proper and efficient management of migration flows and external borders; to support the deepening of the European integration in the field of justice to the extent necessary to ensure the interests of the EU citizens and justice, while preserving different legal traditions of the member states; to seek the evaluation at the EU level of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes; to encourage an active EU role in strengthening freedom, security and justice in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood.*

- Lithuania favours further implementation of the goals defined in the Hague Programme and will seek to be actively involved in the development of a new multi-annual programme in the field of justice and home affairs.
- Conscious of the importance of the freedom of movement of persons for the European integration, Lithuania will seek to ensure a smooth transition to the new generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) and a timely implementation of the Visa Information System (VIS).
- Lithuania encourages the development of the comprehensive EU migration policy which would pay equal attention to both the fight against illegal migration and the measures ensuring the management of legal migration and facilitating the movement of border area residents. Lithuania promotes the strengthening of the relationship between migration, competitiveness, trade, social security and educational policies, development co-operation and the European Neighbourhood Policy. Lithuania will take an active part in the co-operation projects with priority countries and regions in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood.
- Lithuania will seek the simplification of the visa regime for Georgia and Belarus, and also a further liberalization of the visa regime for the citizens of other EU Eastern

Neighbourhood states. Lithuania will also seek the application of the principle of visa mutuality in the EU relations with third countries, including the application of US visa-free regime to Lithuanian citizens in the nearest time possible.

- Lithuania advocates that in shaping the common EU immigration policy account should be taken of the different economic conditions, demographic situation and the needs of job market in member states as well as the priority of the Eastern dimension of the EU Neighbourhood Policy by differentiating migration policy instruments in the Southern and Eastern strategic directions. Lithuania supports the implementation of measures to facilitate the integration of migrants in member states at the EU level. Lithuania recognizes the need for collection and analysis of reliable and comparable statistical data on migration.
- Lithuania supports the development of the Common European Asylum System through establishing a common asylum procedure. Meanwhile, Lithuania will strive to ensure that the Common European Asylum System would not result in additional burdens for member states in the field of asylum (such as, for example, quota-based acceptance of spontaneous asylum applicants under compulsory programmes of redistribution of asylum seekers).
- Controlling a segment of the EU external land border, Lithuania promotes the strengthening of the integrated management of the EU external borders by making use of modern technologies. Also, Lithuania promotes the application of the financial solidarity principle in respect of the protection of the EU external borders, and will work towards effective implementation of the measures of the External Borders Fund Programme 2007 – 2013.
- Lithuania will try to ensure that the strengthening of *FRONTEX* activities and a further development of the system of the integrated border management would not undermine the national competence of the member states. Lithuania also holds the view that whilst implementing the measures aimed at a more efficient control of the EU external borders and illegal migration flows, it is also important to simplify the procedures of legal border crossing.
- Lithuania recognizes the value of the model for a more efficient functioning of law enforcement institutions offered by the Prüm Treaty<sup>10</sup> and will make intensive preparations for implementing the commitments under the Prüm Treaty, such as initiation of the necessary amendments to national legislative acts and the implementation of the required technical solutions. Thus, Lithuania will contribute to ensuring the efficiency of information exchange and the implementation of the principle of information availability in the EU.

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<sup>10</sup> On 25 May 2005, a convention was signed in the German town of Prüm providing for the strengthening of the co-operation between the member states in fighting the threats of terrorism and international crime. On 12-13 June 2007, the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council adopted a decision to incorporate the Prüm Convention into the EU legal framework.

- Lithuania promotes an effective practical co-operation between the police and other law enforcement institutions through establishing joint crime investigation teams, more efficient use of information systems for fighting organized crime and other forms of crime, terrorism and other threats to national security. Moreover, Lithuania will make an active contribution to ensuring security and human rights and freedoms in conflict regions through participation in EU-led civil crisis management missions and will also co-operate efficiently with EUROPOL, OLAF and EUROJUST.
- Lithuania will endeavour to develop crises, civil protection and rescue systems in order to make them capable of responding to national and international disasters. Lithuania will also seek to ensure that a particular attention is given to cyber security issues at the EU level, in particular to the following aspects: strengthening of legal framework and harmonization of the legislative acts of member states, use of modern technologies, enhancement of institutional capacities, professional training of officers, information exchange, strengthening of the co-operation between member states in the investigation of electronic crimes, education of the public (users of computers and of other means of electronic communication), strengthening of EU-NATO co-operation in the fight against cyber crime and terrorism.
- Lithuania holds the view that the process of evaluation of the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes should at the EU level not only continue, but also ensure an equal treatment of the crimes committed by both the Nazi and Stalinist regimes. Lithuania finds that there is a need to have a legislative act in this field.
- Lithuania seeks to ensure that the prevention and control of terrorism and other grave crimes at the EU level is carried out in full respect of the universally recognized fundamental human rights and freedoms and that the high standards of personal data protection are guaranteed. Furthermore, Lithuania will take all necessary measures for controlling any manifestations of racism and xenophobia and the effective prevention of these acts.
- Lithuania promotes the approximation of member states' legislation on criminal procedures, if this is necessary for ensuring an efficient implementation of mutual recognition principle as well as effective prosecution and prevention of certain crimes.
- Lithuania is of the view that the European Commission should carry out a systematic assessment of the international judicial co-operation in criminal matters (i.e. legal framework, scope, forms and procedures) under the EU *acquis communautaire* and make proposals regarding its improvement, when necessary. Lithuania advocates that in this area an EU legislative act has to be adopted for regulating the transfer of proceedings in criminal matters from one EU state to another.
- Lithuania promotes the need to pursue a more efficient co-operation between EU member states at the EU level in order to create appropriate conditions for the nationals of EU member states to seek adoption of decisions and their enforcement in civil matters, and also by promoting the legalization of an appropriate peaceful out-of-court dispute

settlement mechanism. Lithuania advocates that legal certainty in the European area of justice is secured through setting common rules on the conflict of jurisdiction and of applicable law, as well as implementation of the recognition and enforcement of decisions.

- Lithuania promotes the necessity of a more effective protection of consumer rights at the EU level in order to secure the quality and coherence of the European Communities legislation in the area of contract law.
- Lithuania will aim to ensure that the EU initiatives in the area of civil law and civil proceedings as well as criminal law and criminal proceedings should be consistent, systematic and should create an additional value. Lithuania holds the opinion that EU initiatives in the said areas should not be in conflict with either the fundamental principles of the national law or the systems of civil law and civil proceedings or criminal law and criminal proceedings, and also should allow member states to preserve the specific features of their national legal systems.
- Lithuania promotes the improvement of the judicial co-operation concerning family law through establishment of such procedures on legal jurisdiction and recognition and enforcement of decisions, which would ensure prompt enforcement of court judgements in the area of family law. With regard to co-operation in the family law, Lithuania holds the view that the child's best interests must be a priority.
- Lithuania promotes the need for achieving a more precise and fair application of EU legislation in EU member states at the EU level by paying greater attention to professional training of judges and other civil servants (prosecutors, pre-trial investigators, etc.), which would be partially financed from EU structural funds. Lithuania feels the need to discuss the issue of the strengthening of the existing institutions or the establishment of a special EU institution, which would coordinate the activities of national institutions in organizing the training of judges and other civil servants on the issues of the application of EU law and the exchange of good practice among the EU member states.

**SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- *Introduction of the new generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) and Visa Information System;*
- *Simplification of the EU visa regime for the nationals of the EU Eastern Neighbourhood countries;*
- *Implementation of the principle of mutuality of visa regime in EU-US relations;*
- *Implementation of the national measures on the preparation for the application of the provisions of the Prüm Treaty;*
- *Efficient prevention of terrorism, racism and xenophobia related crimes ensured;*
- *Continuity of the process of evaluation at the EU level of the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, including the discussion on the contents of the possible new EU legislative act in this area ensured;*
- *Adoption of the EU legislative act regulating the transfer of criminal prosecution (proceedings) from one EU state to another;*

- *All Lithuanian judges and prosecutors will have taken part, at least once, in professional training courses on the issues of the application of EU legislation.*

***GUIDELINE 10. UNITED EUROPE: STRONG VOICE IN THE WORLD***

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINE:** *to seek stronger co-operation with EU Eastern neighbours outside the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP); to support the European aspirations of these states and integration processes; to seek the perspective of further approximation of the countries to the EU and membership in the European Union; to create a single EU policy in relation to third countries; to seek the closest possible transatlantic co-operation; to make an active contribution to the development of security and stability area in the EU neighbourhood.*

- With a view to developing security and stability in the neighbouring states, Lithuania takes an active participation in the areas of ENP, the EU enlargement, Common EU Trade Policy, Development Co-operation, Common Foreign and Security and European Security and Defence Policy.
- Lithuania promotes the EU enlargement policy based on already established and objective criteria, supports further pursuit of the EU policy of “open doors” in relation to all European countries taking into account their will and preparedness. Lithuania is ready to provide assistance to the states aspiring for the EU membership by sharing its EU integration experience.
- Lithuania promotes a balanced EU member states’ policy in relation to the Eastern and Southern ENP neighbours. Taking into account the security situation in the South Caucasus region, it is especially important to encourage closer EU relations with the Eastern neighbours. Lithuania takes an active part in the discussion on establishing a new regional co-operation framework for the Eastern ENP countries and seeks more active support from EU member states to achieve this.
- Lithuania seeks immediate conclusion of a more ambitious new agreement with the ENP Eastern neighbours, takes an active part in the process of the extension of the main trans-European highways to EU neighbouring countries and shaping the Common EU Trade Policy in relation to ENP states by advocating a further encouragement of free trade and the expansion of EU domestic market in the Eastern direction. Lithuania also proposes to facilitate EU visa regime for the Eastern ENP countries thereby encouraging their nationals’ mobility. Lithuania actively urges the EU to find ways to resolve the “frozen conflicts” in Moldova and South Caucasus by making use of the instruments for EU conflict resolution and crisis management.
- Lithuania seeks the involvement of Belarus in the ENP after genuine political change is achieved in this country. Lithuania notes the importance to encourage Belarus to implement recommendations with a view to re-applying the EU Generalised System of Preferences in the area of trade to this country in the future. Lithuania fully supports the

activities of the European Humanitarian University which strengthens the cultural and intellectual potential of the neighbouring country.

- Lithuania promotes a strong transatlantic relation as an important factor for creating and developing an area of security and stability in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood, addressing the issues of strategic significance concerning the EU and Lithuania's energy security, strengthening economic EU-US integration, establishing the transatlantic market and securing free and equal movement of EU nationals in the transatlantic area.
- Lithuania will continue to share the experience of integration, administrative capacities, support of democracy and human rights in the course of its development co-operation activities.
- Lithuania supports the objectives of deepening the EU and Russia's co-operation based on mutual interests and commitments as well as respect of the principle of legal precedence. Lithuania also notes that, concerning relations with Russia, it is of vital importance for the EU to maintain solidarity. Lithuania also supports the Northern dimension policy by developing relations with Northwestern Russia and stresses the necessity to maintain relations with the Kaliningrad Area, including the facilitation of the visa regime for the area's residents.
- Lithuania pays great attention to the EU participation in the multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organization. Lithuania attaches great importance to achieving a balanced result between different negotiating areas. Lithuania supports the objective of these negotiations, i.e. to increase the openness of the markets of industrial and agricultural goods in order to create new access to the markets of economically advanced developing countries.

**SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- *A balanced EU member states policy in relation to the Eastern and Southern ENP neighbours ensured;*
- *Establishment of a multilateral framework for political co-operation with the Eastern ENP countries;*
- *Facilitation of the EU visa regime for the residents of the Eastern ENP countries and Kaliningrad Area;*
- *EU instruments for conflict resolution and crisis management used for resolving the "frozen conflicts" in Moldova and South Caucasus.*