

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE 2ND INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
ON BILATERAL COOPERATION

Warsaw, 17 September 2021

In the Year of the Constitution of 3 May 1791 of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Mutual Pledge of the Two Nations and the 30th anniversary of restoring of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania met today in Warsaw for the 2nd Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) and agreed to adopt the joint declaration on bilateral cooperation:

1. The date of the meeting is not accidental. It symbolizes one of the darkest cards of history of the Central and Eastern Europe. Although it directly affects the treacherous soviet invasion of Poland in 1939, it is also a symbol of events of a far wider significance i.e. taking away sovereignty of all nations and fundamental rights of individuals. This was the tragic experience of all nations of the Central and Eastern Europe, and thus Poland and Lithuania.
2. The IGC is the expression of long-lasting friendship and close ties between the two countries, sealed in the Treaty of Friendly Relations and Good-Neighbourly Cooperation in Vilnius in 1994, reliable strategic partners on the European and international arena. Noting that the bilateral political dialogue is at present very dynamic and held at all levels, both governments are pleased to meet again to reinforce the comprehensive cooperation between Poland and Lithuania.
3. With the aim of tightening the relations, the two governments encourage relevant line ministries to intensify their cooperation and dialogue, as well as the promotion of broad interaction between their respective parliaments.
4. Bearing in mind a global struggle with COVID-19, the IGC has dedicated special attention to fight against the pandemic and the lessons learned. Facing such an immense threat Poland and Lithuania have been able to successfully work together, in the spirit of solidarity and mutual understanding. The governments believe that the experiences drawn from the pandemic will strengthen our healthcare systems and emphasise the importance of the health sector to the effective functioning of the countries and societies.
5. In the context of the post-pandemic recovery of economies of both States, Poland and Lithuania also underline the added value of the European Union's (EU) Recovery and Resilience Facility. Both governments will exchange experience and good practices in implementing this instrument at the domestic level in accordance with their relevant national Recovery and Resilience Plans.
6. Drawing experience from the pandemic it is equally crucial to reduce EU reliance on third countries mainly in regard to critical materials and technologies, medicines, (including APIs and intermediate products), medical devices, food, infrastructure and security. Subsidies granted to the enterprises operating in the EU by governments from outside the OECD may distort competition on the Internal Market and generate unequal opportunities. In fact, enterprises financed by third countries are in a privileged position compared to the EU companies which do not receive subsidies. Therefore, Poland and Lithuania support the European Commission's proposal concerning introduction of new instruments targeted to create a level-playing field with regard to entities benefiting from foreign subsidies on functioning of the EU Internal Market.

7. The governments also commit to support cooperation in the area of scientific research and innovation likewise to promote direct cooperation between higher education institutions and public research institutes. They will take actions towards increasing academic mobility via various European, regional and domestic programmes.
8. Both governments also stress the importance of efficient implementation of the cross-border cooperation programme INTERREG Lithuania-Poland 2021-2027.
9. Being fully aware of the security challenges both globally and regionally both governments declare to continue common efforts and implement projects leading towards strengthening bilateral defence cooperation and interoperability of Polish and Lithuanian Armed Forces. They also declare continuing close cooperation in the field of enhanced deterrence and defence of NATO by practical military cooperation covering allied commands, forces, plans and abilities as well as coordination of national positions aimed at further development of the NATO initiatives. Poland and Lithuania express the need to develop EU Member States' defence capabilities in full synergy with the NATO efforts. The governments will also encourage a more intense EU involvement in the security with the Eastern partners according to the approach of 360 degree.
10. Recognising the importance of cybersecurity for building a resilient and digital Europe as well as our both countries, Poland and Lithuania acknowledge the risks and potential implications of the cross-border and cross-sectoral nature of cyber-attacks. Therefore, both governments agree that it is of utmost importance to ensure effective information sharing and close cooperation while dealing with such attacks.
11. Both governments attach great importance to continuous deepening of the partnership in the area of home affairs, especially concerning migration and migration-related issues. Recent events related to the influx of irregular migrants and the mutual solidarity and support shown in these circumstances have further strengthened bilateral relations. Poland and Lithuania are determined to continue, by all necessary means, their efforts to effectively protect their borders, which are also the external borders of the EU, including by preventing and consistently combating their irregular crossing. However, measures at national level alone are no longer sufficient, new common solutions are needed at EU level. Poland and Lithuania underline the need to adapt the EU legislation and to create legal preconditions for EU Member States to respond appropriately to the deliberate instrumentalization of irregular migration by third countries and to apply efficient, clearly defined measures that would allow Member States to act swiftly and protect both national and EU-wide security. Poland and Lithuania, faced with hybrid actions on the border taken by Belarus authoritarian regime in retaliation for the sanctions adopted by the EU and support for the Belarusian civil society, stand in solidarity in response to these actions and jointly thank the European Commission and EU Member States for their support in this situation.
12. Both governments declare to support the transition towards climate neutrality, at a pace reflecting domestic particularities. Europe needs the industry and SMEs sector to become more green and digital as well as to a greater extent based on circular economy while maintaining its global competitiveness. We also need the right tools to help European industry meet the challenges of transformation.
13. We need effective solutions that will allow EU Member States to design a just transition that is socially acceptable and supported by bottom-up processes as well as supported by relevant EU's financial resources. More emphasis should be placed on the job balance and the chances of support for bridging solutions that ensure a just transition for workers. We need to tackle the increase of the cost of living and we cannot allow the costly green transition to be financed mainly by consumers. Twin transformation should contribute to reducing inequalities between Member States, while leaving no one behind.
14. Poland and Lithuania assure to continue the exchange of experiences in the field of labour market, conditions for families, as well as issues related to the inclusion of people with disabilities.

15. Poland and Lithuania declare their further cooperation in the implementation of the project of synchronizing the energy systems of the Baltic States with the continental Europe's energy system by the year 2025. It is a good example of European energy solidarity and a significant step towards increasing the energy security of the Baltic States. Based on the achievements of the cooperation so far, with a view to the near completion of works related to the implementation of the Poland-Lithuania gas interconnection that will start functioning in 2022, the parties declare their willingness to continue their efforts to develop a liquid natural gas market in the region. Both countries share a vision to unlock, to the fullest extent possible, potential of cooperation in renewable energy. Furthermore, the governments will continue to implement the provisions of the Baltic Sea Offshore Wind Joint Declaration of Intent by sharing knowledge and experience in the field of offshore wind energy. Both governments agree on the common position regarding the need to ensure a level playing field for local relevant energy producers vis-à-vis third countries producers using unfair advantages of lower climate, environmental and safety standards.
16. Both governments declare the necessity to continue cooperation in the field of development of key transport interconnection between Poland and Lithuania and declare to finalize Via Carpatia, Via Baltica and Rail Baltica as soon as possible. To ensure seamless cross-border Rail Baltica railway line operations on the North Sea – Baltic Corridor cooperation between the responsible stakeholders in the Baltic States and Poland shall be enhanced. In this regard, both countries rely on the intensifying cooperation between infrastructure managers aimed at timely development and effective management of the necessary infrastructure. Also it is essential to make every effort to establish in due time railway connection for passengers between both capitals - Warsaw and Vilnius.
17. Poland and Lithuania support initiatives and measures aiming at combating tax fraud, evasion and avoidance by further spreading and strengthening the practical implementation of the principles of tax good governance. The enhancement of the administrative cooperation in the tax area, in the spirit of tax solidarity, especially with respect to exchange of information, knowledge, new technologies and best practices is crucial in this respect.
18. Poland and Lithuania are also willing to continue cooperation at the EU fora in respect to the issues of common interest and in particular regarding the Mobility Package I and the revision of TEN-T network and strengthening border infrastructure linked to Suwalki corridor to ensure the security of the region.
19. Appreciating political will for a dialogue and comprehensive cooperation in various areas of common interests both governments encourage to continue regular mutual contacts and seek to meet in this format on an annual basis.

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of the Republic of Poland

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