LT Partnerships

NOVEMBER

6

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, J.Tumo-Vaižganto g. 2, Vilnius | 5 Hall (Kino salė)

08:00-09:00 **REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE**

09:00-10:00 **OPENING and 1ST SESSION: ADVANCING RESILIENCE THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

Welcome remarks **Mr. Kęstutis BUDRYS** | Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania,

Keynote speech **Mr. Jozef SÍKELA** | European Commissioner for International Partnerships

1ST SESSION: ADVANCING RESILIENCE THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

As geopolitical competition intensifies and pressure on the international rules-based order grows, the European Union faces a strategic challenge: how to strengthen its own resilience while remaining an open, competitive and globally engaged actor. Europe's future prosperity, security and influence will increasingly depend on its ability to build trusted partnerships, mobilise investment and shape international cooperation around shared interests and values.

The panel will explore how the EU can turn resilience into a source of global influence, strengthen mutually beneficial partnerships through initiatives such as Global Gateway, and position itself in view of geopolitical and economic competition. At a time when decisions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework will shape the scale and ambition of the EU's external action for years to come, the discussion will consider how Europe can maintain its global engagement, project its interests and values, and remain a credible partner in an increasingly contested international environment.

It will also consider how European cooperation can better respond to partner-country priorities while reinforcing the EU's role as a trusted and influential global actor.

As Lithuania prepares for its Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2027, the discussion will provide an opportunity to reflect on how Lithuania can contribute to shaping a stronger European approach to international partnerships, external action and sustainable development.

Mr. Jozef SÍKELA | European Commissioner for International Partnerships

Mr. Kęstutis BUDRYS Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Ms.Eloise TODD | Executive Director and Founder of RANI (Resilience Action Network International)

Mr. Andrius ROMANOVSKIS | The President of LBC (Lithuanian Business Confederation)

Moderator: **Ms. Margarita Šešelgytė** | Director of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science (IIRPS), Vilnius University

10:00- 10:15 **PRE-PANEL ANALYTICAL INPUT- INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND POLICY CONSULTING (IER) STUDY PRESENTATION**

Study presentation by Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER) study presentation on key findings from an analytical study (commissioned by the Lithuanian MFA) on Ukraine's potential as a future development cooperation partner and donor. The presentation frames Ukraine not only as a recipient of support, but also as a source of expertise and practical solutions.

Ms. Oleksandra BETLIY, Leading Research Fellow and Project Coordinator at Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER)

10:15-11:15 **2ND SESSION: RECOVERY STARTS WITH PEOPLE: INVESTING IN UKRAINE'S HUMAN RESILIENCE**

Ukraine's recovery will depend on its ability to retain, restore and mobilise human capital during and after the war. This means supporting veterans' transition from rehabilitation to civilian and economic life, creating credible pathways for highly qualified Ukrainians abroad to return and stay and ensuring that public institutions and communities have the people and skills to deliver recovery and reforms. The panel will discuss how development cooperation can move from individual projects to scalable models that strengthen Ukraine's long-term resilience and how successful approaches can be expanded through EU and wider international partnerships.

Mr. Kristupas VAITIEKŪNAS | Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Ms. Roksolana SMERECHYNSKA | Gender and Economic Inclusion Analyst at EBRD (Kyiv), alumna of the first Create Ukraine cohort

Ms. Kira SPYRYDONOVA | Director General Department General for Economic Diplomacy and Recovery, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Ms. Elena VIŠNAR MALINOVSKÁ | Head of Unit – Reconstruction and Accession, Ukraine Service, DG ENEST;

Ms. Cat DAVISON | NATO HQ Medical Lead CAP Ukraine

***Moderator*:** **Ms. Dovilė Paužaitė** | Deputy director of the International Partnerships Department of the MInistry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

11:15-12:15 **CLOSING SESSION: Looking Ahead: LT PARTNERSHIPS PRIORITIES AND NEXT STEPS**

The session will conclude the conference by highlighting the key insights, recommendations and takeaways emerging from the discussions throughout the day. It will also set out Lithuania's priorities and objectives for the coming year, outlining the path towards the next Lithuanian International Partnerships Day and reaffirming the importance of partnerships in delivering sustainable impact.

*The conference will close with the presentation of the **2026 Lithuanian International Partnerships Awards**, recognising outstanding initiatives, achievements and collaborations that have made a significant contribution to advancing Lithuania's international partnerships.*

Mr. Sigitas MITKUS | Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Mr. Julius JANULEVIČIUS | Advisor to the Minister at the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania

Ms. Indrė ŠUOLIENĖ | Director of the Central Project Management Agency (CPVA)

***Moderator*:** **Ms. Aistė Bertulytė-Žikevičienė** | Director of the International Partnerships Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

12:30-13:30 **NETWORKING LUNCH**

Venue: Hilton Garden Inn Vilnius City Centre, Gediminas av. 44B, Vilnius.

