

# Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council: facts and figures

*The Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union comprised six months of intensive work by the Permanent Representatives Committee, working parties and committees, negotiations and discussions at Council meetings – sometimes lasting till dawn, – and efforts to find a consensus among the Member States and with other EU institutions. Issues important for the entire EU were discussed not only in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg but also in the Presidency meetings in Vilnius with the participation of high-ranking guests. Lithuanian culture was extensively presented in Europe and beyond. The most important achievements of the semester, work carried out in public and in the background is summarized in facts and figures about the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council.*

**184** – the number of days (July 1 to December 31) that Lithuania guided the decision-making in the EU Council.

**In 14 years.** Lithuania will hold the second Presidency of the EU Council in or around 2027. However, this date is preliminary as the official EU presidencies line-up so far extends only to 2020.

**Relay.** Lithuania took over the Presidency from Ireland, and handed it over to Greece on January 1, 2014. It is symbolic that in 2003, when Greece last held the Presidency, Lithuania and nine Central and Eastern European countries signed EU accession agreements in Athens and became full-fledged Community members a year later, when Ireland held the previous Presidency.

**EU Agenda.** During the six months the Lithuanian Presidency has reached agreements in the Permanent Representatives Committee on 147 legislative acts, 234 non-legislative acts and 47 EU Council conclusions.

**960 billion euros.** This is the amount of the EU multiannual budget approved for 2014–2020. The Lithuanian Presidency finalized negotiations on more than 60 legal acts related to the EU multiannual budget that will ensure the smooth flow of funds in the new financial period. The Presidency reached the agreement with the European Parliament on the EU budget for 2014.

**39** – the number of meetings of the EU Council chaired by Lithuanian ministers.

**1176** – the number of meetings of the Council's working groups and committees in Brussels.



**45** – the number of times the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) gathered during the six months. COREPER II formation held 23 meetings, COREPER I met 22 times.

**4.5 days of discussions.** Discussions on issues where Lithuanian Presidency representatives addressed the European Parliament on behalf of the EU Council, lasted 111 hours.

**81 debates at the European Parliament.** During this half year Lithuanian ministers participated in 81 debates at the plenary sessions and committee meetings of the European Parliament.

**61.98 million euros.** This was the amount allocated from the state budget for the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council for the period of 2012–2014. According to the preliminary data, in 2012–2013 about EUR 50.39 million were spent and about EUR 8.69 million saved. Another EUR 2.9 million were allocated for the implementation of the concluding measures of the Lithuanian Presidency in 2014.

**Nearly 300** – the number of events organised during the half year in Lithuania, including 22 high-level meetings.

**Guests.** The Presidency meetings attracted 45 thousand guests from Lithuania and abroad.

**World and European leaders.** During these six months Lithuania was visited by the leaders of the European Union (President of the European Union Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton), members of the European Commission, European and world leaders (Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron, President of France François Hollande, Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, and many others).

**1.8 thousand** – the number of journalists covering the high-level meetings in Vilnius.



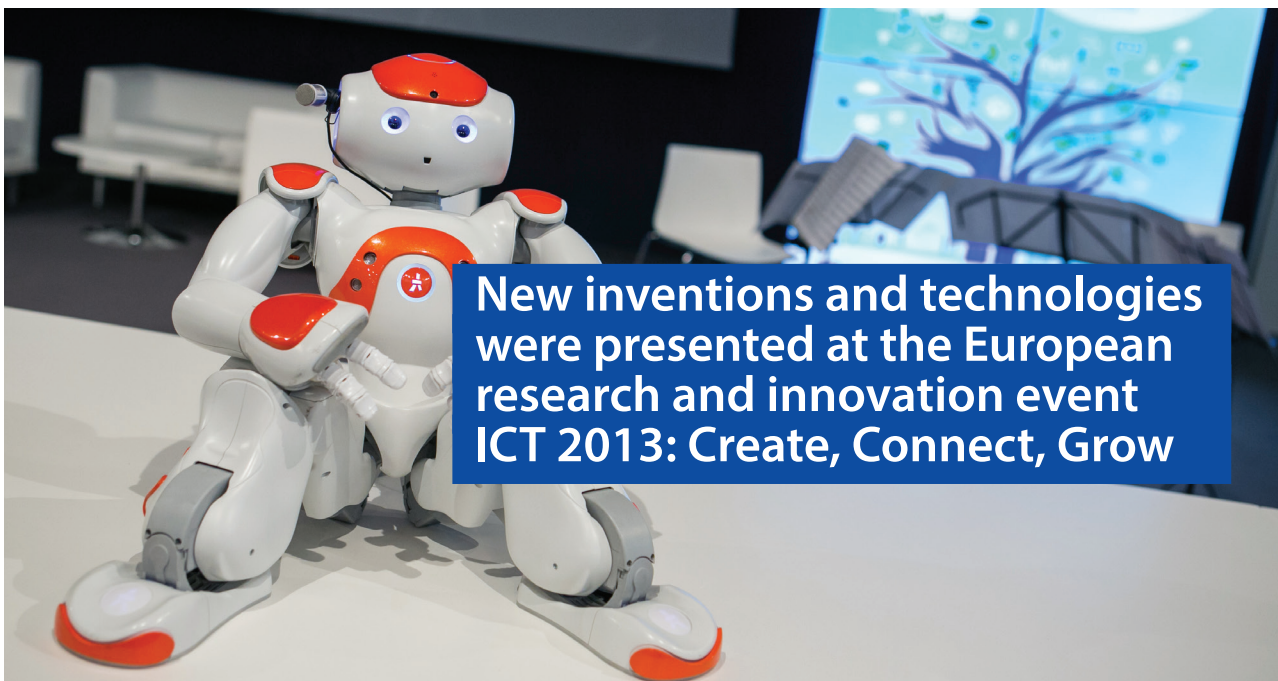
**Sąšauka (Link-up).** The opening ceremony of the Presidency of the EU Council was held on July 5 in the Grand Courtyard of Vilnius University. Lithuania introduced itself with the musical composition Link-up by Kipras Mašanauskas, written specially for this occasion and performed by Lithuanian and European musicians. Lithuanian “sutartinės” (polyphonic folk songs) inspired this composition of 28 musical fragments.

**New impetus for the Eastern Partnership.** 34 Heads of State and Governments, ministers and EU leaders attended the Vilnius Summit on November 28–29. During the summit, the EU Association Agreements with Moldova and Georgia were initialled, progress was achieved in the EU visa liberalisation for the Eastern Partnership countries, agreement with Georgia on its participation in the European Union crisis management operations was signed, and the EU–Ukraine Air Services Agreement was initialled.



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**Robot and ballerina dance, and electro-mobile which fits into an elevator.** These and many other technological innovations were presented at the European research and innovation event ICT 2013: Create, Connect, Grow, held in Vilnius together with the European Commission. This largest event of the Presidency gathered 4.8 thousand participants from 74 countries.



**New inventions and technologies were presented at the European research and innovation event ICT 2013: Create, Connect, Grow**

**Energy projects.** The EU-wide list of projects of common interest was officially presented at the high-level energy conference held in Vilnius on November 4–5, which included 248 projects, of which 15 are from the Baltic States. These projects are eligible for EU funding.

**Sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region.** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was attended by nearly 700 participants. The challenges and opportunities for the implementation of environmental requirements stimulating economic growth, job creation and competitive ability were discussed.

**Every year a year for citizens.** Representatives of non-governmental organizations and European institutions gathered at the final conference of the European Year of Citizens on December 12–13 in Vilnius. Participants discussed the role and future of NGOs in creating Europe, cherishing the rights of EU citizens, new ways that citizens can influence policy makers, and the upcoming 2014 elections of the European Parliament.

**219** – the number of countries and territories whose residents visited the Presidency website eu2013.lt at least once (as recorded by Google Analytics). The majority of visitors were from Lithuania, Belgium, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, USA, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Poland.

**0.5 million visitors.** This number of visits of the eu2013.lt website was reached in mid-December, and it continues to grow. The number of viewed pages is 1.4 million.

**5 news pieces daily.** During the half year, 920 press releases, speeches and articles were published on the internet website – five a day on average.

**4.9 thousand** – the numbers of followers of the official account of the Lithuanian Presidency on Twitter, where 1.8 thousand messages were posted.

**4.4 thousand** – the number of fans of the official account of the Lithuanian Presidency on Facebook.

**39 thousand** – the number of times that 226 video recordings of the Presidency were watched on YouTube. Visitors spent 84.6 thousand minutes (58 days and 18 hours) watching them.

**Photographs.** The official photographer took over 6 thousand photos at Presidency events in Lithuania. Photographs capturing the most interesting moments of the Presidency have been selected for an exhibition which will be opened in January at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**50 live hours.** Live broadcasts of Presidency events lasted over 50 hours and were later edited into 422 recordings.

**19 partners.** 19 companies became partners of the Presidency, and their assistance amounted to EUR 580 thousand.



**Connection.** During the Lithuanian Presidency, the interactive programme VIALITHUANIA that revealed Lithuania's historical and cultural links with the 27 EU Member States was created. A special version of the programme adopted for regular internet browsers is available at vialithuania.eu. The mobile version of VIALITHUANIA can be downloaded for free from the official digital distribution platforms for applications for Android and iPhone – Google Play and iTunes.

**257** – the number of interpreters assisting during the visit of the European Commission and informal ministerial meetings, simultaneously interpreting from 24 to 7 languages.

**26** – the number of press conferences organised during high-level events in Vilnius.

**More than 4 times around the Earth.** The cars transporting guests drove nearly 179 thousand kilometres, 4.5 times the distance around the Equator.

**751** – the number of delegations arriving through the VIP hall at Vilnius Airport.

**Highest number of planes.** When leaders of the EU and other countries were gathering for the Eastern Partnership Summit, 83 planes landed in Vilnius in one day. On a regular day, the airport receives about 40 flights.

**More than 8.7 thousand** – the number of accreditation badges printed for high-level participants and organisers of Presidency events. 80 ink cartridges were used for this purpose.

**Mittens.** Some 2 thousand pairs of woollen mittens were knitted not only by folk artists, but also by people with limited abilities, visitors of social centres and convicted persons. Most mittens were given to the guests of Presidency events, and 500 were sent to Ukraine, where they kept supporters of European integration warm during the protests in Kiev.



**Nearly 2.2 thousand greetings from Lithuania.** Special postcards with greetings from Lithuania issued for the Presidency, which participants of high-level meetings could send for free, went mainly to France, Norway, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the United Kingdom, and Lithuania, as well as Australia, the United Arab Emirates, Mexico, Taiwan, Chile, South Korea, Japan and Brazil.

**500** – the numbers of events organised abroad to present Lithuanian culture.

**Lithuania in Belgium.** During the Presidency, the official cultural programme in Belgium presented nearly fifty events of music, fine arts, cinema, theatre, literature, poetry and interdisciplinary arts, the partners of which were the prestigious cultural and arts institutions BOZAR, Flagey, CINEMATEK, the Museum of Fine Arts in Gent, Klara and Flandria music festivals and EU institutions.



**Personalities** – the extensive cultural programme gave the opportunity to learn more about the Lithuanian artists: Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, Jonas Mekas, Oskaras Koršunovas, Šarūnas Bartas, Violeta Urmana and others.

**15** – the number of countries toured by the Presidency exhibitions that introduced the Lithuanian photography, cinema, fine arts, architecture and nature. They were displayed in the town hall in Berlin (Germany), Parc de l'Orangerie (Strasbourg, France), Belém Tower (Lisbon, Portugal), Nová Scena exposition hall of the National Theatre in Prague (Czech Republic) and elsewhere.