

**PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA FOR 2006 – 2008**

VILNIUS, 2006

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SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**RESOLUTION No X-767****of 18 July 2006****on the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania
for 2006–2008**

Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, having considered the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2006–2008 and having regard to paragraph 7 of article 67 and sub-paragraph 5 of Article 92 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, r e s o l v e s:

Article 1

To approve the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2006 – 2008 submitted by Prime Minister Gediminas KIRKILAS.

Article 2

The Resolution shall enter into force from the date of its adoption.

CHAIRMAN OF THE SEIMAS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

VIKTORAS MUNTIANAS

IN THE NAME OF UNITY AND WELLBEING

PROGRAMME OF THE FOURTEENTH GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA FOR 2006 – 2008

The mission of the Confidence Government is to seek national unity and continue to build a state of wellbeing for all, where everyone could lead a dignified, comfortable, safe and healthy life.

In recent years, Lithuania has successfully implemented systematic reforms in the areas of economy and social policy, has overcome the slump in production and has secured fast economic growth. In 2000–2006, production volume and work efficiency have been growing at a much faster rate than in the rest of the European Union. The figures of unemployment have dropped dramatically. The fundamental and strategic goals of joining NATO and the EU have been reached. There has been a successful development of good neighbourhood relations. Nevertheless, certain challenges still remain to be addressed as they create distrust among part of the population towards democracy and aspirations for an open, just and cohesive civic society.

The Confidence Government sees the following challenges as most pressing:

social exclusion giving rise to distrust of political system;

unequal access to health care services;

– inadequate fight against corruption;

– the deteriorating demographic situation in Lithuania: a steadily declining birth rate, a considerably high rate of emigration;

– lack of modernised infrastructure of the trans-European network undermining Lithuania's competitiveness;

– slow progress in science and technology towards achieving the Lisbon goals;

The Government recognizes that in order to attain sustainable national growth it will need:

to ensure economic and fiscal stability, and exercise a strict budget policy;

to ensure that national financial resources are directed towards social inclusion;

to increase and improve investment in innovations, scientific research and knowledge economy;

to encourage the development of national business culture, create a favourable business environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and strengthen the competitive edge of the national industry in world markets;

to encourage treating work as a life-long process, so that each member of the society may engage in the system of life-long learning.

In our opinion, it is vital to continue the implementation of the Lisbon strategy if our country wants to retain the current growth and reduce existing social exclusion. The main goal of Lithuania's economic strategy is to bridge the economic development gap between Lithuania and the EU average as laid down in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Our main focus areas are as follows: ensuring macroeconomic stability through the implementation of labour market reforms, enhanced competitiveness and financial sector reliability. This will guarantee a rapid and smooth convergence with the EU countries as well as a stable macro-economic environment.

Growth sustainability calls for a sustainable use of energy resources and safe environment. The volume of goods and services must grow faster than the use of natural resources and energy needed for their production as well as pollutant emission to the environment. To this end, it is important to apply advanced industrial technologies and promote the utilisation of secondary raw materials. Furthermore, substances causing hazard to humans and environment must be replaced by non-hazardous alternatives; while depletable resources should gradually give way to renewables.

The Government undertakes to pursue a sustainable fiscal policy providing best conditions for growth. The effectiveness of the reform of pensions and health care system as well as financial stability continues to be an important task. The tax reform is undergoing changes and future adjustments to the public expenditure policy will provide for better allocation of resources by ensuring the stability of budget revenue and expenditure as well as for the reduction of taxation gap between labour and capital gains.

The priorities of economic growth and fiscal policy will be closely related to social cohesion goals focusing both on jobs at large as well as positive changes in earnings.

Our long-term goal is to develop an integrated approach towards all areas of public life by adjusting fiscal policy instruments to the social needs of the population, to implement strategic structural reforms, to ensure stability of labour and capital markets, and to maintain vigorousness of new technologies and scientific research.

We seek to build a knowledge society as well as a knowledge-based economy, follow the path of sustainable development and develop a modern, dynamic and competitive economy. The main prerequisite for this ambition is a comprehensive development of national R&D. Social partners (businesses) are invited and encouraged to increase investment in this area. The state policy on innovations will target all the sectors, including production and services; hi-tech and traditional companies alike.

One of the essential preconditions for the development of innovations and the knowledge-based economy is the diffusion of information and communication

technologies. The State will continue to develop necessary infrastructure and facilitate public service provision through coordination and compatibility of the existing sources of public information (registrars, information systems).

In order to achieve internal market development and improvement of business environment, the Lithuanian economic policy will seek to reduce administrative burden for businesses through better regulation, better impact assessment of draft legislation and competitiveness support in the market. Internal market growth will be largely geared by small and medium-sized businesses. Therefore, consultation centres, business incubators and technology parks will continue to grow.

The link between economic and social policies will be ensured by the Lithuanian jobs policy aiming to create more and better jobs and higher efficiency. The essence of this policy is to provide legal conditions for more flexible arrangements with respect to labour relations, to achieve better response to inevitable changes in the market, to facilitate better adaptability of employees in the face of changes, and ensure social and job security.

The Government is convinced that the implementation of this Programme will bring back trust in government institutions; strengthen civic consciousness and consolidate order based on moral values.

Priority tasks of the Confidence Government:

- addressing the most pressing social problems: raising wellbeing, strengthening families, reducing poverty and social exclusion and creating better jobs;
- human investment: increased national and municipal funding for education, culture, science and health care as well as national science and technologies; development of an information and knowledge society; a healthy and safe living environment;
- development and sustainability of political, economic, social and cultural democracy; protection of all human rights and freedoms; and strengthening civic democracy;
- strengthening state and local governance, ensuring public order, providing for good functioning of legal system, and taming corruption;
- ensuring continuity of the Lithuanian foreign policy; conducting foreign policy through inter-institutional coordination with a view to the implementation of the national strategic priorities.

Priority actions of the Confidence Government:

- to use the proceeds received from the sale of the shares of AB Mažeikių Nafta to fulfil State's obligations to the citizens (compensation for the loss in rouble savings, compensation for property redeemed by the State);
- to ensure transparent and efficient utilisation of EU structural funds as well as other financial assistance, while drafting and implementing the strategy of the Financial

Period 2007–2013; first and foremost, to direct EU funds to meet the priority needs of the State and the population;

– to carry out effective economic reforms encouraging production and services; to continue building on the model of social market economy;

– to give adequate attention to demographic policies: to take measures encouraging rise in birth rate and incite integration of new emigrants in the Lithuanian civic society;

– to ensure the fastest possible accession of Lithuania to the Eurozone as well as the Schengen area.

– within the next four months to take necessary decisions enabling direct mayor elections; to aim at expanding powers of local self-government, as stipulated in the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and to grant more independence and powers to the elderships (smallest administrative divisions);

– to consistently increase funding in the areas of social security, education, science and health care; make as effective as possible use of financial resources, and ensure that basic public needs are met and the reasons for social exclusion are dealt with;

– to gradually reduce the burden of taxation on the population, in particular, low-income people; to consider the matter within the next four months and, if financial possibilities allow, bring the tax tariff down to 20% while raising minimum non-taxable income to LTL 400;

–to raise the average monthly wage to LTL 1800; the minimum monthly wage - to LTL 800; and the average monthly old age pension – to LTL 650 at least by 2008;

– to implement the Lisbon strategy and increase investment in science until the average level of EU member states has been achieved; to encourage the development of information technologies;

– with EU assistance rearrangement, to focus on regional policy implementation, and develop a state programme aiming to reduce socio-economic disparities in the regions (counties) and encourage their equal development;

– to prevent corruption in government institutions and unfair competition in business, improve public procurement practices, increase responsibility of corrupt officials, and strengthen the prevention of financial crimes.

– achieve a breakthrough in the implementation of major infrastructure projects (power bridge through Poland and the Baltic sea, Via Baltica and Rail Baltica);

– to use best endeavours to promote the construction of a new nuclear power station, so that Lithuania would remain a nuclear power state.

– to complete the land reform by 31 December 2007, and implement land restitution vis-à-vis rightful owners.

- to take an active participation in the activities of the EU and NATO;
- to build strategic partnership relations with Poland and to address the issues of national minorities; support democratic and economic reforms in the countries that have chosen the path of Euro-Atlantic integration; regarding Russia, to develop economic ties complying with the principles of good relations and national interests in the framework of the EU's New Neighbourhood Policy and EU-Russia Strategic Partnership;
- to provide for a modern, well-equipped and trained army capable of rapid response to security threats arising both in Lithuania as well as in the territory of the allies, and ready to take part in international peace keeping missions or crisis response operations;
- to reinforce policing and control over the Lithuanian air-space; develop an optimal radar network and fully integrate in the Integrated NATO Air-Defence System.

The key commitments of the Coalition Government for the 2006–2008 period are as follows:

1. LABOUR, FAMILY, SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY

1.1. To implement an active employment and human resources development policy so that each citizen of our country willing and able to work could find a suitable job in his motherland. To provide conditions for the creation of new and good jobs in the country. To achieve that the unemployment level is brought down to 6 percent and less and reduce the youth and long-term unemployment.

1.2. Keeping abreast of newest labour productivity tendencies, to promote the growth of salaries in the private sector and to increase salaries in the public sector on a consistent basis. To achieve the increase of the average monthly wage to LTL 1800 per month, and the increase of the minimum monthly wage to LTL 800 per month by 2008.

1.3. To improve legislation regulating labour relations; to increase business social responsibility. To promote fair relations between employer and employee, social partnership, and development of collective labour relations.

1.4. In the area of implementation of employment and social security policy measures, to seek social harmony and dialogue; on the regional and national level, to regularly cooperate with social partners such as employers' organisations, trade unions and non-governmental organisations.

1.5. To improve the public sector social insurance system, to increase its coverage. With the steady annual increase of the average old-age pension, to make it at least LTL 650 per month in 2008. To modernise the pension system, to review and optimize the pension entitlement criteria.

1.6. To ensure the successful and financially stable functioning of the cumulative pension system by rational coordination of the present and future pensioners' interests. To create favourable conditions and tax benefits for the development of voluntary pension insurance and cumulative life insurance.

1.7. To motivate senior people to stay in the labour market, to ensure life-long learning opportunities. To develop and introduce a life-long learning system. To improve social security for individuals who have lost their jobs with 3-5 years prior to the retirement age; to streamline mechanisms for the advance pension payment system.

1.8. To consistently implement measures that could guarantee income for living a fully fledged life for those citizens who have completely or temporarily left the labour market due to the old age, disability, parental leave or other important reasons.

1.9. To increase the level of state supported income, basic social benefits and all social allowances related to these indices. To implement the mechanism for wage and social benefit indexation protecting individual earnings from inflation.

1.10. For each disabled individual, to guarantee the necessary means of special support and to provide a better and greater range of social services that would meet their needs, to make the living environment better suit their needs. To create conditions for disabled people willing and able to work to find a job according to their capabilities and remove bureaucratic obstacles precluding integration of the disabled into the labour market.

1.11. To ensure that social and cultural needs of the nationals of the Republic of Lithuania who have made use of the right of free movement are better met abroad. To draft and implement measures encouraging economic migrants to return to their homeland.

1.12. To implement measures that would enable parents who have left the labour market due to the child care to return to it in an easier way, to help them refresh their professional skills, to create conditions for their employment and further a successful balance between their work and family duties. To introduce an efficient service delivery system for children and families.

1.13. To provide social support to families bringing children: from 2009, to implement the payment of allowances for each child until 18 years of age or longer until they go to secondary school; to gradually increase the maternity (paternity) benefits that are paid until the child turns one year old. To achieve a 100 percent benefit of the base monthly salary by 2008.

1.14. To develop a specific social support to large families system. To provide lump-sum benefits to children from socially disadvantaged families for their preparation for school and free of charge meals in education institutions.

1.15. Aiming to reduce the numbers of foster children in child care institutions and to promote their care in families and foster families, to reform the child care system, to improve work with problem families. To improve adoption procedures; first of all, to

take account of the interests of the child. To implement adoption promotion instruments.

1.16. To protect the interests of the child, to strengthen national and municipal organisational systems for protection of children's rights. To ensure the social protection of children's rights, to establish a child maintenance (alimony) fund.

1.17. To establish rehabilitation facilities for children and adolescents with dependency on psychoactive substances, to secure proper funding for institutions thereof. To develop an efficient alcohol prevention and control system.

1.18. To support municipal social housing development. To reimburse heating and other expenses related to housing costs to rural and urban residents on a more rational and flexible basis; to take account of the family property and income level.

2. YOUTH POLICY

2.1. To support young families by guaranteeing a preferential long-term housing credit and compensating interest paid for housing credit.

2.2. To encourage the development of associated youth structures; to support their interaction with local authorities, rural and urban communities.

2.3. To support the efforts of youth organizations by addressing youth problems in the fields of education, science, employment, housing, recreation, culture, social security, health care, sport, crime prevention and others.

2.4. To encourage entrepreneurship. To make every effort to create favourable conditions for as many young people as possible to start up a business.

2.5. To increase allocations for youth organisation projects.

3. EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY

3.1. To implement the Strategic Guidelines for the Development of Education for 2003-2012 by bringing the system of education and science in line with changing public demands. To make education and science accessible to all, encourage life-long learning.

3.2. To achieve universal school attendance by school-age children and target at least a 85% secondary school graduation rate by the youth of the respective age. To foster preschool education.

3.3. To increase substantial education and science-targeted investment, thereby speeding up renovation of schools and the upgrade of teaching facilities. To advance the process of school computerisation.

3.4. To further improve the school network and management through higher decentralisation by delegating more rights to local authorities. To implement measures for municipalities to become founders of professional schools.

- 3.5. To improve school assessment systems, to reduce bureaucracy.
- 3.6. To make allocations for the professional enhancement of teachers and lecturers, to support state-funded qualification raising. To increase salaries for teachers, lecturers and scientists.
- 3.7. To continue implementing the school transportation programme; to seek to arrange for school transportation for the majority of children in rural areas.
- 3.8. To further improve informal education and after-school activities for children, ensure better access to informal teaching and interest-based after-school activities. To this end, to utilise school premises and finance after-school teachers.
- 3.9. To establish and develop child day care centres in all municipalities or day groups at schools.
- 3.10. To guarantee state-supported comprehensive and accessible continuous learning. To provide better conditions for adult learning and make every effort that at least a quarter of adult learning centres cooperate closely with foreign partners.
- 3.11. To promote a healthy life-style, strengthen disease prevention and take measures against child abuse, violence, addiction to tobacco, alcohol and drugs. To this end, to pool the efforts of public institutions, media, academic society and general public. To develop and launch an education programme 'getting ready for family' at school.
- 3.12. To substitute the profiled learning model with the model that ensures basic secondary education and create conditions for individual learning needs. To develop career consulting services at the comprehensive secondary school and gymnasium (high schools) level.
- 3.13. To combine the systems of jobcentre training services and profiled learning. To increase the number of students at vocational schools by expanding activities of vocational schools and reforming vocational learning system. To streamline the curriculum of vocational training.
- 3.14. To foster schools of Lithuanian national minorities, provide basis for better self-expression, resulting in faster acquisition of the official state language. Additionally, to increase the pupil basket grant by 10 percent for the schools of national minorities, thereby compensating expenses incurred in connection with the implementation of broader learning plans, textbook publishing, learning facilities and the raising of the qualification of teachers.
- 3.15. To carry out the vocational training reform that will tailor qualifications achieved to the demands of the labour market, guarantee the transparency, flexibility, recognition and accessibility of qualification awards. To establish the national qualification system. To achieve European recognition of Lithuanian qualifications.
- 3.16. To implement the *Europass* and *Lifelong Learning* programmes and double the international teacher and student exchange.

3.17. To create conditions to maintain the number of enrolments in higher education institutions at the same level. The enrolment of students in state financed places should be based on the public necessity principle. To tailor qualifications of specialists to better meet market demands.

3.18. To improve the funding framework for studies by connecting funding with the number of students. To combine financing with the crediting system of studies.

3.19. To improve educational quality and seek that at least half of the study programmes of higher education institutions are assessed by international experts.

3.20. To provide more support for students, especially from poor families. To carry out a student loan and scholarship reform, enabling the youth to opt for more difficult but also more important professions in terms of national economic development.

3.21. To continue the renovation of student dormitories, improving students' living conditions. To grant more rights to students in the management of dormitories.

3.22. To grant more rights to public higher education institutions in the management of public property. At the same time, to increase the accountability of public higher education institutions to the society, the role of social stakeholders in the management of higher education institutions.

3.23. To address the problem of scope overlap and interaction between the degree and non-degree sector of higher education, ensure better contacts between the above sectors and a smooth transition of students to the higher level of studies.

3.24. To support farmers' education, continuous learning, information, consultation as well as applied scientific studies in the agricultural sector. To place the development of agricultural science, innovation application and technological modernisation among the top priorities in agricultural development.

4. INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT POLICY

4.1. To encourage the development of the IT and telecommunications sector. To put the Lisbon strategy and eAction Plan into practice.

4.2. To achieve computer literacy by the majority of population and to advance a high-speed Internet connection in every school. To establish a network of public Internet access centres throughout the whole country.

4.3. To increase funding for science until the average level of EU member states has been achieved, to provide favourable framework for private business investments in science, development of new technologies and case studies. To utilise national and EU structural funds for the improvement of R&D infrastructure.

4.4. To review the mechanism of money allocation for science and studies by earmarking state commissioned and programme-based funding for science and

studies; to encourage a better quality in scientific research and its relevance in application; to implement long-term investment in fundamental scientific research.

4.5. To facilitate access to full-text databases for researchers and students, and create conditions for regional institutions to use extensive collections of scientific and technical literature.

4.6. To build up the competitiveness of the Lithuanian science; increasingly rely on science in developing new technologies which will contribute to the creation of new and well-paid jobs.

4.7. To support value-added innovative SMEs and increase their international cooperation.

4.8. To establish new scientific priorities in Lithuania and coordinate those priorities between Lithuania and other European countries, to provide conditions for joint action. To pay special attention to social sciences and humanities, extensive research into the Lithuanian language and history.

4.9. To arrange for e-government services to be provided for both private individuals as well as legal entities. To link state registers and information systems into a secure public institution network.

5. CULTURE POLICY

5.1. To allocate more funds for cultural institutions by increasing funds generated through competitive tenders, and encourage sponsorship for cultural events.

5.2. While financing culture, to introduce the arm's length principle (ALP) by setting up the National Council of Culture under the Ministry of Culture whose primary function is to allocate budgetary funds and evaluate the efficiency with which those funds are utilised.

5.3. To consolidate the system of criteria, helping to work out priorities of the Culture and Sports Support Foundation and ensuring that the budget allocations earmarked for the development of culture and sports. To draw a clear dividing line between culture and sports in the activities of the Culture and Sports Support Foundation.

5.4. To encourage active involvement of artists as well as public art and culture organizations in the policy-making process.

5.5. To support religious communities in their endeavours to develop and strengthen public morality and spiritual well-being.

5.6. To improve the existing order for support of professional artists. To allocate funds for the debut performances of young artists, and for the implementation of the programme for young artist support. To enhance cultural and artistic education of children and young people.

5.7. To complete the restructuring of the system of protection of cultural heritage, and carry out the preservation projects of cultural values and manor heritage. To increase funding for the protection of cultural heritage.

5.8. To renovate and modernise libraries, cultural centres, museums and upgrade their expositions, to encourage the above institutions to attract more visitors by new forms.

5.9. To support the development of Lithuanian regional and ethnic culture. To contribute to the strengthening of cultural institutions in rural areas. To introduce a municipal and public co-financing principle which provides that municipal allocations are a necessary precondition to be eligible for public financing.

5.10. To encourage cultural initiatives of society. To support and promote creative activities of amateurs. To cherish the tradition of Lithuanian Song Festivals.

5.11. To intensify dissemination of information about all aspects of culture.

5.12. To ensure the Lithuanian language supremacy in all the areas of public life, to advance its application in computer-writing, and introduce the system of machine-aided translation. To promote the publication of the Lithuanian literature and its translations in Lithuania and across the EU.

5.13. To reinforce the protection system of copyright and related rights, to raise public awareness of the intellectual property rights (IPR).

5.14. To coordinate promotion of Lithuanian culture and art abroad, to develop cultural diplomacy. To provide conditions for including Lithuania's cultural products into the international cultural exchange.

5.15. To prepare a long-term strategy on the relations of the state with its nationals living abroad.

5.16. To adopt a long-term policy development strategy for national (ethnic) communities and to enforce its implementation.

6. HEALTH POLICY

6.1. To promote a healthy life-style, strengthen disease prevention and take measures against child abuse, violence, addiction to tobacco, alcohol and drugs. To this end, to pool the efforts of public institutions, media, academic society and public.

6.2. To encourage investment in health promotion and disease prevention, optimization of public health care and ensure accessible and qualitative health care, with focus on rural regions.

6.3. To take regard of health and well-being priorities while drafting national economy regulating legislation.

6.4. To reform the system of public health by bringing it closer to the community and devising tools for rapid response to health hazards and emergencies. To introduce a common public health administration at the national and territorial level.

6.5. To ensure the early detection and effective treatment of the most frequent diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes). To facilitate regular and free-of-charge breast and cervical cancer screening for all women in the 30- to 65-year-old age group and prostate cancer screening for men aged 60 and over. To develop and encourage implementation of patient education programmes at the primary health care level.

6.6. To pay special attention to pregnant women and infants, in terms of health care provision. To give more attention to the preservation and improvement of health of children and youth. To provide free vaccination against the immunisation schedule and ensure free dental services to children. To extend the network of children rehabilitation and spa recuperation services and provide counselling to children and youth at risk.

6.7. To ensure free prosthodontic services for pensioners, and reduce waiting times for endoprosthetic services.

6.8. To strengthen mental health of people, encourage an individual-friendly social environment and foster a sense of communal togetherness and solidarity. To involve various sectors and strengthen their interaction in the fight against HIV and AIDS as well as addiction-related diseases.

6.9. To regularly issue public updates on health services, fees and indicators of institutional performance. To make arrangements for the introduction of e-prescription.

6.10. To seek the implementation of compulsory third party insurance for medical institutions. To cooperate with the social care sector in addressing social and health problems, and reducing social and economic differences in relation to health and health care.

6.11. To promote voluntary health insurance and specify extra services for the people with compulsory third party insurance.

6.12. To increase funding for health care. To accelerate the restructuring of health care institutions, and, to this end, identify the future need for specialists. To further increase salaries and social benefits for doctors and nurses. To arrange for the professional enhancement of health care specialists; to pay more attention to training, re-training and skills development of nursing specialists.

6.13. To separate primary and secondary outpatient services, encourage the establishment of outpatient diagnostic centres. To rearrange the order of payment for primary health services by combining a fee-for-service with a fee for the number of registered patients. To seek for trouble-shooting at outpatient level, and, to this end, provide financial incentive for the most active entities. To support health improvement and education at primary level. To develop community nursing with the

assistance of public health professionals. To arrange for equal conditions for both private and public health care institutions. To pay special attention to the development of infrastructure of a primary health care network in rural areas. To provide financial incentives for general practitioners and other health care specialists in rural and out-metropolitan areas.

6.14. To optimise the number of public health care institutions. To encourage private health care network development, particularly in rural areas. To seek to create equal conditions for private and public health care institutions.

6.15. To create conditions for provision of necessary health services at municipal medical centres in regions. To upgrade the first-aid fleet. To develop nursing and palliative services in regional health care institutions.

6.16. To take advantage offered by the evidence-based medicine in working out new guidelines for disease treatment and diagnostics and elaborating current ones. To keep them updated on a regular basis.

6.17. To review and increase health care service charges by including actual depreciation costs related to medical equipment and premises.

6.18. To prioritise primary health care, irrespective of the ownership type of the service provider in terms of eligibility for the funding from the EU structural funds earmarked for reforming and modernisation of the health system.

6.19. To concentrate complex hi-tech-based health care services. To ensure accessibility of such services an optimum regional network of service providers is to be developed and organisational as well as patient transportation system is to be upgraded.

6.20. To further develop IT-aided diagnosis for instant results and their assessment. To pool medical practitioners, researchers and business entities for the introduction and management of health and pharmacy-related IT systems.

6.21. To improve the pharmaceutical wholesale pricing system and ensure that the price of imports does not exceed the EU level. In the group of therapeutic alternates, to refund on the basis of the lowest priced prescription drug in the group. To set up a framework ensuring that all the products in the pharmaceutical market are of good quality.

6.22. To negotiate special price arrangements with the pharmaceutical manufacturers most heavily funded from the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund on the quantity of refunded medicaments sold to the public according to the universal market principle: big sale, low price. To increase the refunded share in prescription drugs for pensioners and the disabled. To encourage the development of pharmaceutical industry in Lithuania. To ensure easy access to pharmaceuticals throughout the country.

6.23. To encourage the development of a community nursing home network. To legislate nursing service fees: to introduce a higher fee for care of chronically ill

patients, promote voluntary financial contribution, invite to cooperation with the social sector. To develop the range of services delivered at nursing homes.

6.24. To ensure good quality of basic rehabilitation and recuperation services and encourage the development of the network of outpatient rehabilitation services. To increase the refund share for rehabilitation services.

6.25. To ensure the monitoring of the health impact of hazardous substances (asbestos).

6.26. To develop health-related scientific research with regard to health policy implementation and appraisal.

7. SPORT, TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES POLICY

7.1. To support sports contributing to the formation of Lithuania's image and to the improvement of human health; to coordinate state policies and measures promoting both professional and popular sports.

7.2. To organise more sports events, to initiate the adaptation of sports facilities for the needs of health improvement and amateur athletics. To promote mass sports events building up solidarity and activity of a community. To promote sports activities of the youth and to increase funding of sports programmes through attracting private capital and community funding.

7.3. To upgrade sports facilities designed for sports events in accordance with the European standards in order to train highly skilled sportsmen. To set clear criteria and norms for support to highly-skilled national teams and individual athletes of professional sport.

7.4. To improve selection of talented athletes and their training system. To establish professional upgrade centres for physical culture and sports specialists.

7.5. To establish an Alliance for Recreation, Tourism, Health and Sports with the aim of mobilising universities and schools, Government and businesses as well as the public for developing and implementation of a general healthy lifestyle policy.

7.6. To shape the country's touristic image, to found new Lithuanian tourist information centres abroad and to open possibilities for further development of resorts.

7.7. To seek financing for sports projects from the EU structural funds as well. To use financing of the EU structural funds for reconstruction and renovation of the objects of cultural and historical heritage and their adaptation to tourism needs following the principle of balanced regional development.

7.8. To enlarge the network of routes and tourist services infrastructure for national water, bicycle and other types of tourism. To support development of rural tourism. To create favourable conditions for incoming tourism.

8. ECONOMY AND BUSINESS POLICY

8.1. To foster the country's economic growth and bridge the gap between Lithuania and the leading European Union member states. To renew a new long-term economic development strategy by guaranteeing sustainable and methodical allocation of EU structural funds according to the territorial principle.

8.2. To build a socially oriented market economy; to ensure its sustainable development and employment fostering policy. To encourage investment in human resources, knowledge and innovations as well as greenfield investments, investments in public infrastructure projects and the establishment of industrial zones.

8.3. To strengthen the competitive edge of national economy by giving priority to higher value-producing, research- and knowledge-based activity and advanced technologies. To promote co-operation between industry and science for the best use of science potential available.

8.4. To pursue a vigorous policy in the areas of export development and promotion, preservation of present markets and expansion into new markets. To create conditions for those investors in Lithuania who will create and expand production in great demand in the global market.

8.5. To ensure a rational planning and administration of EU structural funds and other financial assistance. To ensure transparent and effective utilization thereof and target them primarily for national and public needs. To steer the activities of institutions toward preparations for the EU programming period 2007–2013.

8.6. To support and encourage small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to improve tax system for companies involved in this sector, abolish business-strangling legislation, provide state support to newly established companies. To develop the entrepreneurial skills of the nation, which provide the foundation for economic growth; to create the most favourable conditions for business start-up and development in Lithuania.

8.7. To introduce new business support forms, including financial assistance (risk capital, microcredits). To implement anti-trust tools ensuring fair competition. To encourage business development in problem regions and rural areas.

8.8. To improve business information, consulting and training quality by making use of the business information centre network. To provide resources for the maintenance of business centres.

8.9. To bridge the economic and social development gap between the country's regions, to draft a national programme for economic and social development gap reduction and regional development, to lay down specific state aid measures therein.

8.10. To legalise equal participation of business-associated structures in drafting laws and other legislation, in management of funds targeted for support of business development, in discussing and deciding on a number of other important economic and business development-related issues.

8.11. To make improving amendments to the Law on Public Procurement, to tighten the procedure of public procurement and increase publicity.

9. FINANCIAL POLICY

9.1. With respect to financial capabilities of the country, to increase funding for social security, education, science, health care and culture on a consistent basis, to use and allocate financial resources in the most effective and targeted way, thereby ensuring that basic public needs are met.

9.2. To plan the national and municipal budgets in accordance with the relevant programmes and in line with the strategic interests of the state; to ensure transparency in the budget drafting and implementation phases. To renounce restrictions on the increase of municipal budgets.

9.3. To create an expedient system for ensuring control and transparency in the use of state property and resources, including the taxpayers' money.

9.4. To encourage honest payment of taxes, to restrict the extent of the shadow economy by eliminating tax avoidance manifestations that hinder fair competition. To seek the transparent, clear, simple and efficient tax administration; to provide every assistance to tax payers, thereby facilitating the implementation of their tax-payment duties and help them exercise the rights stipulated by relevant legislation.

9.5. To improve the tax system thereby ensuring the increase of the Lithuanian business competitiveness in the EU and global markets, to increase the number of tax payers, to promote commercial and entrepreneurial activities and reduce the administration burden. To encourage prompt and honest payment of taxes, to restrict the extent of the shadow economy by enlarging the part of GDP allocations through the budget.

9.6. To significantly decrease the movement of illegal goods by implementing an IT system in customs for mapping the movement of goods and by strengthening border control.

9.7. To seek a maximum shortening of the period for VAT refund.

9.8. To achieve a better balance of labour force and taxable capital gains.

9.9. To gradually reduce the income tax burden of population, especially for low-income people; within the next four months to make an analysis of the present financial situation and, if financial circumstances are favourable, to reduce the income tax tariff to 20 percent and raise the minimum tax-free income to 400 Lt.

9.10. In accordance with the EU provisions, to seek the application of preferential VAT rates to essential food products and medicines

9.11. To ensure the sustainable compliance of Lithuania's economic indicators with convergence criteria; to make every effort that Lithuania would become a full-fledged member of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) in the nearest future.

9.12. To promote finance sector development, stability, and integration into the EU financial markets.

9.13. To use the proceeds received from the sale of the shares of AB Mažeikių Nafta to restore the savings of citizens and cover related expenses as well as expenses related with the Reserve (Stabilisation) Fund to be established by government's decision and other expenses stipulated in the Law on the Privatisation of State-Owned and Municipal Property. To complete restitution for rouble deposits in 2008.

10. RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY

10.1. To draft the National Rural Development Strategy and Programme for the 2007 – 2013 period.

10.2. To strengthen the economic and manufacturing potential of the agricultural sector by investments and other effective structural instruments, to foster and promote the competitiveness of producers in domestic and foreign markets.

10.3. Together with other new EU member states to seek a speedier means of becoming equal with the old EU member states in terms of receiving the EU direct payments and rural development support (per hectare, production unit or economic entity).

10.4. To seek higher agricultural production quotas in the most promising sectors, thereby providing opportunities for farmers to increase production and income generated from agricultural business.

10.5. To introduce the EU market regulation mechanisms in Lithuania, thereby facilitating the rise of purchase prices of agricultural production with respect to the EU average purchase price levels.

10.6. To encourage the domestic consumption of the Lithuanian origin food products as well as their export and establishment of special export agencies in other countries with the aim of more efficient use of present markets and expansion into new markets; to maintain and increase a positive trade balance of agricultural products and food products.

10.7. To strengthen and maintain an effective crediting system of agricultural entities by promoting and supporting the sustainable development of credit unions.

10.8. To develop ecological farming, to significantly increase the certified land plots for that purpose, to support the production of high-quality and healthy food products ('from field to table'), to help farmers produce raw material for fuel resources.

10.9. To implement measures that help solve socio-economic problems of small and uncompetitive farmers by rational use of the EU funds.

10.10. To increase employment in rural areas; to this end, to provide support for the development of alternative activities, small businesses, crafts, tourism, and other services sector, to support and develop production of raw materials for biofuels.

10.11. To pursue rural regional policy in a more efficient way, to aim to faster reduce regional and urban-rural disparities in terms of income, living standards and access to services.

10.12. To provide the best possible conditions for the youth to settle in rural areas, to support the young farmers from the EU structural funds, thus ensuring the continuity of farming or other business activity from generation to generation and reducing the migration of young people from rural areas.

10.13. Aiming to contribute to more sustainable regional development, to pay additional direct annual payments from relevant EU funds to farmers working on poor soils and less favoured areas as well as areas with environmental restrictions.

10.14. To promote and financially support the development of rural cooperation in every possible way by more involving the Chamber of Agriculture, rural communities and other social partners in the process.

10.15. To effectively use the EU structural funds for the renovation of land reclamation and hydrotechnic structures in order to provide normal farming conditions for the owners of reclaimed lands.

10.16. To allocate programme budget funds for the improvement of technical conditions of the state-owned land reclamation and hydrotechnic structures.

10.17. To provide state financial support (up to 85 percent of the projects' value) for the timely renovation of land reclamation structures and the treatment of acid soils by liming.

10.18. To seek to implement EU-funded means for the rehabilitation of unutilized land for agricultural purpose and abandoned buildings.

10.19. To create preconditions for the formation of agricultural holdings of the competitive farms, to provide state support to agricultural entities for the acquisition of agricultural land, and to allocate the EU funds for the consolidation of land plots. To work out a national land consolidation strategy.

10.20. To complete restitution of land and other real property, to complete payment of compensations for land, forest and waters redeemed by the state.

10.21. To provide support to entities for the afforestation of lands with low agricultural productivity.

10.22. To aim that the EU fisheries policy would ensure sustainable and viable development of this sector in the maritime and inland waters, to seek improvement of preservation of fishery resources and breeding of valuable fish species in ponds,

modernisation of processing enterprises, increase of the stock and export of fisheries products.

10.23. To ensure the EU and state support to the solution of water management problems in rural areas; to give adequate attention to the development and renovation of cultural, educational, health care and other facilities so that the establishment of the advantages of the system infrastructure meets the quality-of-life requirements of rural population.

10.24. To review the financing of the Road Maintenance and Development Programme by allocating not less than 30 percent of funds for the development of the local road and street network with corresponding constructions and improvement thereof.

10.25. To promote and support the establishment of rural communities and the implementation of the projects they have drafted to address local social and cultural problems and to foster rural community traditions.

10.26. To further increase the role of farmers' self-governance and rural non-governmental organisations in the agrarian sector, to support their activities, to strengthen cooperation between public authorities and local government organisations.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND FORESTRY POLICY

11. 1. To widely implement and economically promote the clean production methods based on modern technologies.

11.2. To create an effective hazardous waste management system and capacities thereof. To prepare an asbestos phase-out programme and to plan for its gradual implementation.

11.3. To construct new landfills, to close down majority of the old landfills and to clean up the affected territories.

11.4. To improve waste collection, sorting and recycling of secondary materials by implementing the EU targets on recycling of packaging materials. To promote sorting, collection, recycling of waste as well as its use for energy recovery.

11.5. To modernise the water management sector, to establish an efficient system of administrative institutions on the regional basis. In order to ensure the proper quality of drinking water, to draft and commence a programme for the evaluation of ground water resources and their use for drinking water supply, to complete the stocktaking of the hot spots of potential geological environment pollution, to set conservation targets for ground waterbodies.

11.6. To prepare programmes for the reduction of atmospheric pollution that would ensure compliance with the EU air quality requirements and cut the greenhouse gas emissions.

11.7. To apply economic measures for the promotion of the production and use of less polluting fuels and biofuel.

11.8. To strengthen control of the market of genetically modified organisms, to create a system for the safe use and handling of hazardous chemical substances.

11.9. Together with other states, to prevent pollution and risk of accidents in the Baltic Sea. To improve water quality in the Nemunas River and the Curonian Lagoon.

11.10. To implement the Coastline and the Nemunas River Delta Management Programme.

11.11. To develop and finance measures aimed at avoiding negative impact of karst process on the engineering structures and buildings in the towns and districts of Biržai and Pasvalys, to assess the country's territory from the perspective of other hazardous geological phenomena.

11.12. To draft programmes and measures for the planning of protected areas, management of the most valuable heritage sites and restoration of the damaged areas in parks and nature reserves. To create conditions for the public to visit protected areas, to produce planning documents for the protected areas, management programmes for the most valuable heritage sites and restoration programmes for the damaged territories in parks and reserves, and to implement the measures adopted therein. To complete the formation of the protected areas network.

11.13. To improve the environmental protection management, to strengthen the system of institutions administrating the use of the EU funds, to ensure openness and publicity in the preparation and implementation of environmental projects as well as investment efficiency; to create conditions for active public participation in the decision-making process.

11.14. To improve the utilisation of public and private forests by ensuring sustainable forestry and hunting industry, consistent and integrated protection, and quality registration of forest management activities, forests and timber stocks.

11.15. To increase country's forest coverage, to stimulate the afforestation of poor soils, to carry out a long-term programme for the development of forests and the forestry sector.

11.17. To draft a programme for the development of the forestry sector and wood industry, to promote wood processing and export of wood products. To orient research towards the application of cutting-edge technological developments and technologies in the area of wood processing.

11.18. To ensure that reliable information on the environment is collected and made public.

12. ENERGY POLICY

12.1. To secure that energy needs of the Lithuanian people and business entities are met in full and at affordable prices.

12.2. In pursuing this goal, to encourage competition in the energy sector in combination with the state regulation of energy services and prices so that the pricing is based on the necessary costs, and that both the sector development and continuous power supply to the consumers can be secured.

12.3. To promote electricity production, including the use of renewable energy and alternative energy sources.

12.4. To seek that Lithuania becomes a part of the EU single energy market with the future prospect of linking-up Lithuanian and Polish power grids, Lithuanian and Latvian gas supply systems, and construction of a liquid gas terminal.

12.5. To provide for the implementation of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant decommissioning projects and to attract investments for the construction of new nuclear units. To seek that Lithuania remains a state with nuclear power generating facilities.

13. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

13.1. To increase the attractiveness of Lithuania as a transit country, to simplify customs transit procedures as regulated by a series of EU legislation provisions.

13.2. To ensure equal competition and tax conditions for different means of transport, i.e. road, railway, air and maritime transport, and business entities involved therein according to their respective areas of activities.

13.3. To reorganise the railway transport sector of Lithuania. To liberalise the railway transport services market in respect of EU legislation provisions stipulating the strengthening of railway market regulation institutions. To continue with ongoing Trans-European Network (TEN) projects in Lithuania and draft new ones.

13.4. To achieve full integration of the Lithuanian roadway sector into the EU road transport system, to modernize international roadway sections in the territory of Lithuania, to develop the regional (local) road infrastructure and its links with motorways. To promote the development of the service market of cargo and passenger carriers and establishment of logistics centres.

13.5. To establish a rational safe traffic structure that would determine the concatenations and interaction of all links, to encourage introduction of information and telecommunications technologies to ensure road safety in Lithuania.

3.6. To develop maritime transport, to increase competitiveness, capacity and safety of Klaipėda State Seaport, to continue its modernisation, to take a flexible approach in response to international market changes. To improve legislation regulating the functioning of Šventoji State Seaport. To start the renovation works of Šventoji State Seaport.

13.7. To modernise the airport infrastructure in compliance with the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) and Schengen Convention regulations by

introducing modern aviation safety and security systems and improving quality of services available for passengers. To start the development works of Karmėlava Airport.

13.8. To promote modernisation of the Lithuanian vehicle fleet by economic and legal measures.

14. CONSTRUCTION POLICY

14.1. To establish conditions for the further increase of construction potential, to modernise the above sector, to ensure transparent competitive climate therein and encourage real property development and investment.

14.2. To ensure sustainable construction and housing sector development, to enact the Housing Strategy on a consistent basis, to make improvements in housing, housing fund and quality of the environment for population; to upgrade housing crediting system, create conditions for housing modernisation and introduce relevant financial mechanisms for that purpose.

14.3 To give particular attention to the renovation of tower blocks (blocks of flats); within the next four months to pass decision on the increase of state support for significant renovation of tower blocks (blocks of flats).

14.4. To improve the state control of territory planning, building project and construction, to simplify building permit issuance procedures and procedures for change of the purpose of land use, to make use of a relevant information system to this end. To launch a telecommunications-run information system for the provision of services.

14.5. To improve landscape protection, to demolish or renovate any landscape eyesores.

15. LAW AND LEGAL SYSTEM POLICY

15.1. To ensure constitutional rights of an individual and security of private life; to improve human rights protection mechanisms in Lithuania, including the obligation to take into consideration decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice. To create suitable conditions at courts to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of nationality, gender, beliefs, to defend defending their rights and legitimate interests or seek justice.

15.2. To amend the Law on Courts of the Republic of Lithuania, to ensure a strict selection procedure of judges, a periodic performance evaluation, accessibility of information on the infraction of the law committed by judges and to strengthen responsibility of the judiciary. To increase independence of courts and encourage active participation of the general public in the selection process of judges.

15.3. To ensure reliable protection of citizen's life, health and property. To create a single national emergency service capable to undertake all kinds of rescue action.

15.4. To make the police more accessible to the concerns of the public. To set priority on social services and prevention rather than on administrative and punitive measures. To ameliorate legal education of police officers. To enhance the motivation and responsibility of law enforcement personnel to the public, to improve the professional qualification raising and re-training system.

15.5. To ensure not only respect of human rights and freedoms at the custodies and penal institutions executing sentences imposed by the court, but also an adequate funding of these institutions for implementation of programmes on resocialisation of convicts.

15.6. To create and implement a model of probational postponement of the sentence and conditional discharge that would be in compliance with the provisions of international legislation and would serve as a deterrent against repetitive offence.

15.7. To create an efficient system of loss compensation to the victims of violent crime. To compensate for the losses inflicted by unlawful actions of public institutions.

15.8. To provide better access to the lawyer's services for crime victims – and, with this in mind, to improve the activities of the Victim Support Foundation. To provide an opportunity for any individual to benefit efficiently from the legal support system guaranteed by the State – all Lithuanian residents are eligible to get primary legal support free of charge and at their convenience.

15.9. To prevent corruption in the public sector, unfair competition in business, to amend the public procurement practices. To tighten penalties imposed on corrupt officials and to strengthen prevention of corruption-related crimes. To revise the application of limitation periods for such offences. To fight against smuggling and bribery and apply strict penalties for these offences.

15.10. In combating organised crime, to achieve elimination of crime generating factors as well.

15.11. To improve the fight against financial offences, especially against infringements related with the attraction and use of EU funds and other foreign aid.

15.12. To strengthen the prevention and control system targeting drugs-related violent crime and juvenile offences.

15.13. To create the necessary infrastructure at EU external frontiers and ensure an appropriate service level for individuals crossing the border. To make preparations for accession to the Schengen area. To improve the unified nation-wide system for migration management.

15.14. To endeavour to achieve stability of the acting legislation, to avoid its frequent amendments and to ensure full publicity of all legal acts.

15.15. To introduce new services providing convenient access to data of various registers (the Register of Immovable Property, the Register of Legal Persons, etc.)

15.16. To implement a system of popular legal education which would enable every pupil, as early as the secondary school level, to choose an introductory course on the principles of law providing basic legal knowledge on family relations, labour relations and relations with various authorities.

15.17. To establish that legislation should be passed with public needs and opinion considered, while the effects of newly drafted and current legislation on society should be evaluated by experts, research institutions, relevant business entities and local authorities.

15.18. To change the procedures of funding of political parties so as to establish clear and transparent rules preventing illegal acquisition and use of funding.

16. GOVERNANCE OF THE STATE POLICY

16.1. To optimise the system of public administration based on professional public service and development of the knowledge and information society. To eliminate negative phenomena related to corruption and red-tape.

16.2. To establish an optimal framework of state institutions, clearly reflecting administrative relations between institutions, their hierarchy, subordination and distribution of functions, and serving the interest of people.

16.3. Within the next four months to take necessary decisions enabling the direct election of mayors; to increase operational and financial independence of local authorities, to expand their functions on a continuous and methodical basis.

16.4. To form the budgets of elderships, acting as appropriation managers, for implementation of their assigned duties out of municipal budget funds, to increase the influence of local communities in addressing local issues, to provide financial support for local community movement.

16.5. Within the next four months to pass decisions relevant to the reform of county administrations by leaving them the duties of preparation, implementation and coordination of regional projects. To delegate to municipalities responsibility and functions related with the needs of municipality residents in the fields of agriculture, land management, social security, health care, education, culture, public order, etc., except for the objects of regional importance.

16.6. To improve the selection of public officials and their performance assessment procedures. To rule out protectionist practice (cronyism) in the public administration sector. To prevent the person from holding any public office if he/she fails to substantiate his/her property by proof of income. To eliminate all privileges of public servants.

16.7. To adopt the Public Servant's and Judge's Code stipulating legal and moral responsibility.

16.8. To strengthen political parties by guaranteeing budgetary allocations for their activities.

17. NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY

17.1. To ensure security and democratic development of Lithuania in the context of new opportunities and threats. To cherish Euro-Atlantic cooperation as a basic prerequisite of national security, while NATO and the EU – as the key organisations of such cooperation.

17.2. To establish a firm position within NATO and the EU, to develop partnerships with NATO and EU member states. To seek for support of these countries while adopting collective decisions. To rely actively on regional cooperation structures and initiatives and to make Lithuania a centre of inter-regional cooperation. To support further integration of the EU Member States with consideration of the national interests of Lithuania. To develop and start implementing the concept of the Presidency of the EU.

17.3. To promote expansion of stability and democracy eastwards as a necessary prerequisite to the success of Lithuania's long term development. To support the "open door policy" of NATO and the EU. To support democratic reforms in Ukraine, Russia, Moldova and South Caucasus states. To develop good neighbourly relations and to establish Lithuania as an expert of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

17.4. To participate in international missions and operations, to strengthen solidarity of NATO and EU Member States. To support actively the efforts of international community to combat terrorism.

17.5. To develop further Lithuania's multilateral relations paying more attention to the issue of human rights. To seek for better efficiency of international organisations.

17.6. To strengthen international authority of Lithuania. To endeavour to develop Lithuania as a centre for international conferences and initiatives as well as a hosting country for various international organisations or their representative offices.

17.7. To develop international economic cooperation and to increase stability to the international economic environment. To promote Lithuania's integration into the European network of transport and energy infrastructure. To participate actively in the regulation of trade policy of the European Union and to use its advantages. To strengthen the role of economic diplomacy, to seek trade and investment conditions favourable for Lithuanian business, and to attract foreign investment.

17.8. To invigorate the policy of development and aid to the third countries, to increase the funding thereof. To contribute to the achievement of goals set forth in the UN Millennium Declaration.

17.9. To encourage and support the establishment of Lithuanian schools and cultural centres abroad. To invigorate cooperation of public institutions with Lithuanian communities in other countries.

17.10. To strengthen analytical and forecasting capacities of public institutions. To expand the national system of crisis prevention and management involving all public institutions. To participate actively in the regional, European and international crisis management frameworks.

17.11. To continue the reform of national defence with the aim of creating a modern, well-equipped army with full interoperability with our NATO and EU allies. To this end, to gradually increase the percentage of GDP appropriated for the national defence purposes. To focus efforts on the update of legal basis, training of soldiers and improvement of their service conditions, development of international military cooperation, improvement of management system, infrastructure development and targeted acquisitions.

17.12. To cut by half the number of conscript servicemen by gradually increasing the number of professionals. To reorganise the army reserve, to define the involvement of the reserve forces in international operations and their functions in receiving allied forces and helping civil authorities.

17.13. To make sure that Lithuanian servicemen are properly provided for, have good service conditions and possibilities for personal and professional upgrade.

17.14. To improve the management of the Voluntary National Defence Service by separating strategic, operational and tactical levels, to reorganise the staffs and to eliminate overlapping and duplicating units.

17.15. To increase cooperation with Lithuania's education and science institutions as well as the public at large. To promote cooperation of the non-governmental sector with foreign partners. To seek active public participation in shaping and implementing national security and defence policy.

17.16. To implement other provisions of the agreement between Lithuanian parliamentary parties on the defence policy in 2005-2008 and the agreement between Lithuanian political parties on the key goals and objectives of national foreign policy in 2004-2008.
