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## Contribution of Lithuania to the International Community Fight against Terrorism: Overview of the Official Position

Because of the unprecedented scope of terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington on 11 September 2001, democratic states began to urgently form a wide international coalition against terrorism. After the acts of terror in the USA, Lithuania faced a new challenge: to determine new objectives of foreign and security policy, review old priorities, adapt them to new realities of the geostrategic environment.

The purpose of the article is to survey and estimate the contribution of Lithuania to the fight of international community against terrorism; discuss the program against terrorism of the Republic of Lithuania; survey the joining of Lithuania to international conventions; discuss and estimate the solidarity of Lithuania with international community in fighting against terrorism.

### Introduction

Never before had mass media reports on individual terrorist attacks, even the most atrocious ones inflicting tens and even hundreds of casualties, caused such an extensive response as then. It was not by chance that heads of different states pointed out that international terrorism had gone beyond all limits and started an open war against the entire civilized world. For the first time the humanity realistically perceived the true aims of terrorist organizations and states supporting them; therefore, the international community did not limit itself to strictly denouncing the criminals or urging to oppose them, but took concrete steps to fight against them.

Having restored its statehood, from the very start Lithuania paid great attention to the prevention of international terrorism and joined international conventions against terrorism. With Lithuania integrating into Euro-Atlantic structures, the threat of international terrorism to our state increased. After its integration into the EU, in the context of free mobility of people and protection of outer borders of the EU, Lithuania also assumed responsibility for the security of Europe, and because of that the threat of terrorism increased again. Drawing on international experience in fighting against international terrorism, Lithuania considers prevention of terrorism a priority. Getting ready to fight against terrorism, government institutions prepared antiterrorist action plans, approved A Long-Term State Security Strengthening Anti-

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Terrorist Programs Development and Implementation Plan. The purpose of the article is to survey and estimate the contribution of Lithuania to the fight of international community against terrorism; discuss the program against terrorism of the Republic of Lithuania; survey the joining of Lithuania to international conventions; discuss and estimate the solidarity of Lithuania with international community in fighting against terrorism.

## 1. Program against Terrorism of the Republic of Lithuania

Implementing the decision of 27 May 1997 by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “*On Measures of the Implementation of 1997-2000 Action Program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania*”<sup>1</sup>, on 21 July 1997, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved *The Long-Term State Security Strengthening Programs Development Plan*; obligated ministries and other institutions which, in the aforementioned plan were designated as responsible for the development and coordination of these programs to develop and submit them to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania at the appointed time.<sup>2</sup> On 8 June 2000, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, following Article 5, Part 1 of the Law on the Basics of National Security of the Republic of Lithuania<sup>3</sup> approved *The Long-Term State Security Strengthening Programs Development and Implementation Plan*.<sup>4</sup>

Based on this program preventive actions on blocking up the penetration of terrorist organizations into the country were carried out. Special antiterrorist measures to be carried out by actions of the administrations of these objects minimally decreasing the probability of terrorist acts were planned and individual action plans for possible terror acts were made up. Also, operational work was carried out in criminological objects, information about conflicts among criminals and attempts to organize terrorist acts was gathered.<sup>5</sup> The fact that foreign capital enterprises pursuing no commercial activities are being established in Lithuania is of great concern. Having established an enterprise, its owner acquires the right to temporary living in Lithuania. For example, in 2000, 855 enterprises (79 per cent) out of 1082 established by Russian citizens, did not function. Similar tendencies can be discerned in the activities of the enterprises established by citizens of China, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Vietnam. Such “commercial” activity serves as a perfect cover for foreign terrorists, secret servicemen and members of organized criminal groups.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On Measures of the Implementation of 1997-2000 Action Program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania” *Válstybės žinios*, 1997, No. 72-1847.

<sup>2</sup> The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Approval of the Long-Term State Security Strengthening Programs Development Plan”, *Válstybės žinios*, 1997, No. 48-1381.

<sup>3</sup> See “Law on the Basics of National Security”, *Válstybės žinios*, 1997, No. 2-16; 1998, No. 55-1520.

<sup>4</sup> The 8 June 2000 Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Long-Term State Security Strengthening Programs Development and Implementation Plan”, *Válstybės žinios*, 2000, No. 48-1381.

<sup>5</sup> The Report of 1998 On the State and Development of the National Security System, <http://www.kam.lt/EasyAdmin/sys/files/Ataskaita1998.zip>, (referred to on 15 September 2004).

<sup>6</sup> The Report of 2000 On the State and Development of the National Security System, Vilnius, 2001, p. 57.

Implementing the UN Security Council resolutions approved in September of 2001, Lithuania planned directions of medium and long-term activity in fighting against terrorism as well as concrete antiterrorist measures. *The significance of prevention in fighting against terrorism is very important.* Review of legal acts and procedures in order to prevent all possibilities to finance terrorist organizations is becoming a priority for Lithuanian and international communities. States should maintain close cooperation in investigating terrorist acts and carrying out other legal procedures. International community should also review conventions approved as early as the 70s and 80s that are no longer in line with contemporary issues.

After the 11 September 2001 terrorist acts in the USA, the concern of international community towards the prevention of terrorism has strengthened. Simultaneously, key problems of Lithuania's preparation to fight against terrorism became more evident. By then Lithuania had not joined all necessary international conventions for fighting against terrorism, lacked adequate legal regulations for fighting against terrorism and its prevention, and functions of state institutions then carrying out prevention of terrorist activities were not clearly regulated. Taking all this into consideration, in 2001, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania supplemented *The Long-term State Security Strengthening Anti-Terrorist Programs Development and Implementation Plan*. In the project of the Program Against Terrorism, prepared in 2001, threats posed to the State by international and national terrorism were listed, directions for fighting against terrorism were determined and a plan of urgent actions against terrorism was supplied. Institutions responsible for the implementation of the program were also appointed.<sup>7</sup> Considering the changes effected by the international community in fighting against terrorism in 2001-2004, the Long-Term State Security Strengthening Programs Development Plan was also amended.<sup>8</sup>

Implementing the decision of 22 January 2002 by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania "*On the Approval of the Program of the Republic of Lithuania Against Terrorism*" (program implementation measure No.39), on 26 June 2003, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved "*The Program for the Liquidation of the Consequences of Crisis Situations Caused by Terrorist Acts*" and ruled that a concrete amount of money for carrying out measures provided for in the above mentioned Program approved by this decision must be set forth while preparing the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania for the respective year, as well as municipality budgets and state investment programs.

The necessity of the program is based on: the possibility and dangerousness of international terrorism manifestations and urgency of fighting against them; probability of terrorist acts involving weapons of mass destruction; the international commitments of the Republic of Lithuania; the awareness of the risk related to terrorist

<sup>7</sup> The 20 September 2001 Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Decision of the Seimas "On the Long-Term State Security Strengthening Programs Development and Implementation Plan", *Válstybės žinios*, 2001, No. 82-2837.

<sup>8</sup> See: The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (13 March 2003) "On the Supplement of the Decision of the Seimas "On the Long-Term State Security Strengthening Programs Development and Implementation Plan, *Válstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 29-1180; the Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (15 July 2004) "On the Approval of the Long-Term State Security Strengthening Programs Development Plan", *Válstybės žinios*, 2004, No. 115-4287.

acts including those using weapons of mass destruction; the estimation of the state of each security link and determination of measures for the specification of plans; insurance of the safety of the population and stable functioning of economy.

**Aims of the Program:** to get ready to adequately react and liquidate consequences of crisis situations caused by terrorist acts (particularly in case when weapons of mass destruction are employed), protect the population and the environment from possible adverse consequences; carry out commitments of Lithuania in compliance with the UN conventions for fighting against terrorism, the Convention “*On the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction*” and other international agreements.

**Key tasks of the Program:** to create an effective and reliable mechanism for the liquidation of consequences caused by terrorist acts; expand capabilities of civil security and rescue forces as well as those of state and municipal institutions, pool their efforts to get ready to respond and liquidate consequences of crisis situations caused by terrorist acts; provide conditions for supplying forces of civil security and rescue system with material resources necessary to adequately respond and protect people, assets and the environment in case of terrorist acts; guarantee the implementation of the antiterrorist policy of the UNI, the EU, NATO and the OSCE; create a training system for civil security and rescue forces as well as decision-making officials and achieve standards set for them.

The Program for fight against terrorism comprises: participation in the fight of international community against terrorism; development of common legal anti-terrorist base; protection of potential terrorist targets including important infrastructure; determination of potential contractors and executioners of terrorist acts; determination and cutting of financial sources of terrorist organizations and ways of financing them; creation of clearly defined procedures for investigating terrorist acts; permanent readiness to liquidate crisis situations caused by terrorist acts; strengthening of antiterrorist intelligence and counterintelligence.<sup>9</sup>

The Republic of Lithuania gives preference to concrete actions in fighting against terrorism, corruption, organized crime, trade in people, illegal drug trafficking, illegal migration, smuggling and responding to other modern security challenges, such as crime in the area of information technologies and telecommunications. Alongside other foreign partners and international organizations the Republic of Lithuania prepares, ratifies and implements documents of the international law, paying particular attention to resolutions by the UN Security Council, promotes interagency cooperation of the police force, border control, customs and special purpose services on the basis of bilateral agreements and also through such international organizations as Interpol and Europol.

In order to guarantee an adequate coordination of the activity of state and other institutions in fighting against terrorism and implementation of necessary fighting measures, on 15 February 2002, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania set up *An Interagency Coordinative Commission against Terrorism*. The tasks of the

<sup>9</sup> See: The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Approval of the National Security Strategy”. “National Security Strategy”, *Válstybės žinios*, 2002, No. 56-2233; the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Approval of the Program for the Liquidation of Situational Consequences Caused by Terrorist Acts” (26 June 2003, No. 850), *Válstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 64-2908.

Commission were to consider strategic and, in case of need, urgent issues of fight against terrorism and its prevention, coordinate and control the program of the Republic of Lithuania against terrorism (further- the Program). Carrying out its tasks, the Commission performs these functions: considers organizational issues, envisages urgent measures in case favorable conditions for the emergence of a terrorist threat arise in Lithuania; considers strategic issues of fighting against terrorism and its prevention, submits suggestions to the State Defense Council, the Committee on National Security and Defense of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, other state institutions and establishments; controls how responsible state institutions and establishments implement measures provided for in the Program, discusses reports submitted by them on the implementation of these measures; coordinates exchange of information among state institutions and establishments, associated with the implementation of the Program.<sup>10</sup>

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania took internal preventive measures in order not to become a target for terrorism or its transit corridor. Measures against terrorism provided for in the Program were consistently implemented. Prevention of financing terrorism was one of the most important directions of fight against terrorism; therefore, on 19 June 1997, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania passed *The Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering*.<sup>11</sup> The necessary legal basis for financing the fight against terrorism was further developed – a list of criteria of suspicious monetary transactions was expanded, *The Law Amending the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering*<sup>12</sup> was prepared and passed in the Seimas in 2004.

## 2. Lithuania's Participation in International Conventions

Since the restoration of the State, Lithuania has been firmly supporting the fight of international community against terrorism. Lithuania has been actively participating in international organizations contributing to the efforts of international community to guarantee democracy, human rights, peace and security and expanding economic diplomacy. Alongside other foreign partners and international organizations Lithuania prepares, ratifies and implements documents of international law, paying particular attention to the UN Security Council resolutions. The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Lithuania, acknowledging the regulations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights stating that no man can be subjected to torture or treated and punished in a cruel,

<sup>10</sup> The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Establishment of the Interagency Coordinative Commission against Terrorism and Organization of its Work”, *Valstybės žinios*, 2002, No. 18-734; the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Change of the 15 February 2002 Decision No. 255 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Establishment of the Interagency Coordinative Commission against Terrorism and Organization of its Work”, *Valstybės žinios*, 2004, No. 136-4956.

<sup>11</sup> The Law of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Prevention of Money Laundering”, *Valstybės žinios*, 1997, No. 64-1502.

<sup>12</sup> “The Law Amending the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering” of the Republic of Lithuania, *Valstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 117-5318.

inhuman and humiliating manner, confirming the commitment to protect human rights and basic freedoms laid down in the 12 March 1991 decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Lithuania “*On the Joining of the Republic of Lithuania to the Documents of the International Charter of Human Rights*” decided: to join the 10 December 1984 Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment; obligate the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Lithuania to inform Secretary General of the United Nations Organization about this act of joining and the will of the Republic of Lithuania to deposit the joining documents.<sup>13</sup> On 9 April 1992, following universally acknowledged principles and norms of the international law, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Lithuania decided to join the UN 9 December 1948 Convention On the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the 26 November 1968 Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against the Humanity.<sup>14</sup>

In order to achieve and maintain a high nuclear security level throughout the world, strengthen international measures, including international and also technical cooperation associated with the insurance of security, create and sustain effective means of protection from potential radiological danger in nuclear facilities in order to protect individuals, the community and the environment from hazardous consequences of ionizing radiation, prevent emergencies with radiological consequences and reduce these consequences if any the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania by force of the 17 October 1995 Decision ratified the international *Convention on Nuclear Safety* signed by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in Vienna on 23 March 1995.<sup>15</sup>

Due to more frequent terrorist acts against civil aviation, following Clause 16 of Article 67 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and taking into consideration the 2 October 1995 Decree of the President of the Republic “*On Submitting of International Conventions and Protocols of Civil Aviation to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania for Ratification*” on 14 December 1995 the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania ratified the UN international civil aviation conventions and protocols: *the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft* (14 September 1963, Tokyo); *the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft* (16 December 1970, the Hague); *the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation* (23 September 1971); *the Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation* adopted on 23 September 1971 in Montreal (24 February 1988, Montreal).<sup>16</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Joining of the Republic of Lithuania to the 10 December 1984 Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment”, *Valstybės žinios*, 1991, No. 27-732.

<sup>14</sup> The Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Joining of the Republic of Lithuania to the 9 December 1948 Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the 26 November 1968 Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against the Humanity”, *Valstybės žinios*, 1992, No. 13-341.

<sup>15</sup> The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Ratification of the Convention on Nuclear Safety”. *Valstybės žinios*, 1995, No. 88-1975.

<sup>16</sup> The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Ratification of International Conventions and Protocols of Civil Aviation”, *Valstybės žinios*, 1995, No. 103-2304.

On 10 April 1997, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania ratified the 1972 international UNI *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction*.<sup>17</sup> States, parties to this Convention, made an agreement: each state, a party to this Convention, pledges never and under no circumstances to modernize, produce stockpile or in any other way obtain and possess: microbial or other biological substances or toxins regardless of their origin or method of production and of such types and such quantities that cannot be justified by preventive, protective or other peaceful objectives; armaments, equipment or means of delivery designated for the use of such substances or toxins for adverse purposes or during an armed conflict.<sup>18</sup>

In 1998 Lithuania joined two international conventions: on 24 February the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania ratified *the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction* signed on 13 January 1993 in Paris.<sup>19</sup> By following the regulations of this Convention, any State, a party to this Convention, pledges to destroy any chemical weapon producing objects that it owns or controls, or which are located at any site under its jurisdiction or control. Any State, a party, pledges not to use substances designated for suppressing mass unrest as warfare means.<sup>20</sup> This Convention is the first multilateral agreement prohibiting all kinds of chemical weapon as a class of armament. The term for the implementation of the Convention regulations in reference to chemical weapon is 10 years, i.e. by 2007 chemical weapon must be destroyed.

At international level, the implementation of the Convention is coordinated by the Organization of Chemical Weapon Prohibition in The Hague; in Lithuania, by the Ministry of Economy. States possessing no chemical weapons must declare the production, export, import and employment of hazardous chemical substances within the country as designated in the Convention.

On 15 May 1998, having ratified the Convention, Lithuania became a member of the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. On 24 September 1998 “The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons”<sup>21</sup> was adopted, which prohibited the production, storage and employment of chemical weapon and regulated the control regime of hazardous chemical substances and their predecessors in Lithuania.

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania also ratified, with stipulations and statements, *The 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and*

<sup>17</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Ratification of the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction”, *Valstybės žinios*, 1997, No. 59-1360.

<sup>18</sup> “The 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction”, *Valstybės žinios*, 1998, No. 59-1370.

<sup>19</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction” (ratified on 24 February 1998), *Valstybės žinios*, 1998, No. 35-932.

<sup>20</sup> The Convention “On the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction”, *Valstybės žinios*, 1998, No. 35-935.

<sup>21</sup> “The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons”, *Valstybės žinios*, 1998, No. 90-2480.

*Psychotropic Substances*.<sup>22</sup> The purpose of this Convention is to help states cooperate more effectively in solving various problems, related to illegal turnover of narcotic and psychotropic substances on an international level. In carrying out their commitments provided for in the Convention, States take necessary measures including legal and administrative ones based on key regulations of the national legal system. States carry out commitments provided for in this Convention following the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity of States and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. On the territory of another State, a State does not exercise jurisdiction and functions that, on the basis of national laws of the State, are within the competence of the bodies of that State.<sup>23</sup>

Approving of the activity of the UN on disarmament and weapons control, in 1999, Lithuania signed the UN Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction with certain conditions concerning the ratification.<sup>24</sup> In 1999, Lithuania ratified the Treaty on Universal Prohibition of Nuclear Tests<sup>25</sup>, signed on 7 October 1996 in New York. Participating in the fight against terrorism alongside the UN, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a Decision on the basis of which commercial banks of Lithuania must freeze the accounts of the Afghanistan Taliban movement. By force of the Decision flights of the aircraft owned by Taliban over the territory of Lithuania are also forbidden.

On 21 November 2000, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania ratified *The International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages*, drawn on 18 December 1979 in New York.<sup>26</sup> States, parties to this Convention, made an agreement: 1) Any person who seizes or detains (further- a hostage) and threatens to kill, to injure or to continue to detain another person (hereinafter referred to as the "hostage") in order to compel a third party, namely, a State, an international intergovernmental organization, a natural or juridical person, or a group of persons, to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the release of the hostage commits the offence of taking of hostages ("hostage-taking") within the meaning of this Convention. 2) Any person who: a) attempts to commit an act of hostage-taking, or b) participates as an accomplice of anyone who commits or attempts to commit an act of hostage-taking likewise commits an offence for the purposes of this Convention.<sup>27</sup>

In 2002, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania ratified four UNI Conven-

<sup>22</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the UN 1998 Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" (ratified on 12 March 1998), *Valstybės žinios*, 1998, No. 38-996.

<sup>23</sup> The UN Convention "Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances", *Valstybės žinios*, 1998, No. 38-1004.

<sup>24</sup> Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (ratified on 25 March 2003), *Valstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 49-2160.

<sup>25</sup> "The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Ratification of the Treaty on Universal Prohibition of Nuclear Tests", 1999, *Valstybės žinios*, No. 100-2888.

<sup>26</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages", *Valstybės žinios*, 2000, No. 108-3423.

<sup>27</sup> The International Convention "Against the Taking of Hostages", *Valstybės žinios*, 2000, No. 108-3430.



tions and one Protocol on the fight against terrorism: *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*<sup>28</sup>, *Convention on the Prevention of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomats and Punishment for them*<sup>29</sup>, *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf*<sup>30</sup>, *the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism*<sup>31</sup>. States, parties to this Convention, are convinced that it is necessary to urgently strengthen international cooperation of States in developing and undertaking effective measures for the prevention of the financing of terrorism and thus fight against it by prosecuting and punishing perpetrators<sup>32</sup>.

In carrying out a long-term State strengthening program against terrorism, on 25 March 2003, Lithuania ratified *The Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the USA on the Prevention of the Proliferation of Mass Destruction Weapons and the Development of Defence and Contingency Relations*<sup>33</sup>. After the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania ratified the UNO Convention "On the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings"<sup>34</sup>, Lithuania became the executor of 12 universal international law acts defining the fight against terrorism.

On 6-7 November 2003, seeking to contribute to the fight of the international community against terrorism, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Security Department of the Republic of Lithuania alongside the UNI Crime and Narcotics Prevention Bureau held the seminar of international experts "Ratification of Universal Anti-Terrorist Legal Acts and their Implementation in the States of the Baltic Sea

<sup>28</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the UNO Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime" (signed in Palermo on 13 December 2000, ratified with stipulations and statements on 19 March 2003), *Valstybės žinios*, 2002, No. 51-1929; "The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime", *Valstybės žinios*, 2002, No. 51-1933.

<sup>29</sup> See: The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Convention on the Prevention of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomats and Punishment for them" (drawn in New York on 14 December 1973, ratified with a stipulation on 19 September 2002), *Valstybės žinios*, 2002, No. 97-4252; "Convention on the Prevention of Crimes Against Internationally Protected persons, Including diplomats and punishment for them", *Valstybės žinios*, 2002, No. 97-4257.

<sup>30</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf" (adopted in Rome on 10 March 1988, ratified on 5 November 2002), *Valstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 8-264.

<sup>31</sup> "The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism" (adopted by the General Assembly of the UN on 15 December 1995, ratified with a stipulation and statements on 3 December 2002), *Valstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 8-265.

<sup>32</sup> The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism", *Valstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 8-268.

<sup>33</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the USA on the Prevention of the Proliferation of Mass Destruction Weapons and on the Development of Defence and Contingency Relations", *Valstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 49-2155.

<sup>34</sup> See: The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the International Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings" (ratified in December 2003), *Valstybės žinios*, 2004, No. 36-1174; The International Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings" (adopted in New York on 15 December 1997), *Valstybės žinios*, 2004, No. 36-1184.

*Region*". Issues discussed at the seminar included the advantages of using regional cooperation possibilities in the fight against terrorism, as well as problems that the countries encounter in implementing universal antiterrorist law acts.

To strengthen security and confidence in the region Lithuania undertook the role of the leader, and in 2003 was the first of the region States to ratify the 1997 Convention On the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

Promotion of the prohibition norms of antipersonnel mines, destruction of mine stocks, measures promoting openness and cooperation became an important direction of Lithuanian foreign policy<sup>35</sup>.

Convinced that cooperation to effectively prevent organized crime and fight against it, particularly against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, terrorism, unlawful transportation of people, vehicles and cargo across the State border and other crimes, is of great significance; concerned about the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the increase of their illicit traffic throughout the world; confirming its common wish to effectively fight against terrorism, in 2001 Lithuania ratified an agreement with Kazakhstan<sup>36</sup>, in 2002 – treaties with Germany<sup>37</sup> and Hungary<sup>38</sup>, in 2004 – an agreement with Turkey<sup>39</sup> *On Cooperation in Fighting against Terrorism, Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Organized Crime and other Crimes*.

Membership in the Council of Europe guarantees national security for Lithuania by indirect means. States ratify treaties form the treaty system of the Council of Europe. This guarantees that having signed the treaties, States acknowledge the same legal principles and norms. The Council of Europe is an organization possessing an effective mechanism for securing human rights. The Joint Court of Human Rights has been in effect since November 1998 and includes a Lithuanian representative. Participating in the activity of the Council of Europe, Lithuania establishes common democratic values, the State of law and makes a commitment to guarantee the protection of human rights.

<sup>35</sup> The Report for 2003 on the State and Development of National Security, [http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w3\\_viewer.ViewDoc?p\\_int\\_tekst\\_id=32820&p\\_int\\_tv\\_id=733&p\\_org=0](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w3_viewer.ViewDoc?p_int_tekst_id=32820&p_int_tv_id=733&p_org=0), (referred to on 14 June 2004).

<sup>36</sup> The Law "On the Ratification of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Suppression of Organized Crime, Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Terrorism and other Crimes" (signed in Astana on 11 May 2000, ratified on 10 July 2001), *Valstybės žinios*, 2001, No. 75-2630.

<sup>37</sup> The Law "On the Ratification of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the Suppression of Organized Crime, Terrorism and other Serious Crimes" (signed in Vilnius on 23 February 2001, ratified on 7 May 2002) *Valstybės žinios*, 2002, No. 57-2295.

<sup>38</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Hungary for the Suppression of Terrorism, Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Organized Crime and other Serious Crimes" (signed in Vilnius on 4 March 1997, ratified on 1 October 2002), *Valstybės žinios*, 2002, No.104-4612.

<sup>39</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the Suppression of Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and other Serious Crimes" (signed on 2 June 1997, ratified on 29 June 2004), *Valstybės žinios*, 2004, No. 122-4459.

On 22 December 1994, on the basis of Article 138 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania ratified with stipulations *The European 1990 Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime*<sup>40</sup>, signed on 3 June 1994; on 4 April 1995 – *The Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters*<sup>41</sup>; on 14 January 1997 – *The European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism*, signed in Strasbourg on 7 June 1996. States, signatories of this Convention, members of the Council of Europe, considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members; aware of the growing concern caused by the increase in acts of terrorism; wishing to take effective measures to ensure that the perpetrators of such acts do not escape prosecution and punishment; convinced that extradition is a particularly effective measure for achieving this result, have agreed as follows: for the purpose of extradition between Contracting States, none of the following offences shall be regarded as a political offence or as an offence connected with a political offence or as an offence inspired by political motives: a) an offence within the scope of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at the Hague on 16 December 1970; b) offences within the scope of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed in Montreal on 23 September 1971; c) serious offences involving an attack against the life, physical integrity or liberty of internationally protected persons, including diplomatic agents; d) offences involving kidnapping, the taking of a hostage or serious unlawful detention; e) offences involving the use of bombs, grenades, rockets, automatic firearms or letter or parcel bombs if this use endangers persons; f) an attempt to commit any of the foregoing offences or participation as an accomplice of a person who commits or attempts to commit such an offence<sup>42</sup>. On 23 December 1997, Lithuania ratified the European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters<sup>43</sup>, signed in Strasbourg on 17 April 1997. Joining to these Conventions provides Lithuania with a wide arsenal of measures for fighting against international criminal structures.

In 2001, Lithuania began its presidency in the Committee of Ministers at the Council of Europe<sup>44</sup>, actively contributed to the strengthening of the inside and outside security not only of the State but also of the entire Europe. The priorities of Lithuania's presidency at the Council of Europe are fight against terrorism, support

<sup>40</sup> The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of 1990 European Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime", *Valstybės žinios*, 1995, No. 12-263.

<sup>41</sup> The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the Supplementary Protocol of the 20 April 1959 European Convention "On Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters" and the 17 March 1978 European Convention "On Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters" (ratified on 4 April 1995), *Valstybės žinios*, 1995, No. 33-762.

<sup>42</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the 1997 European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism", *The European Convention "For the Suppression of Terrorism"*, *Valstybės žinios*, 1997, No. 7-116.

<sup>43</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Ratification of the 1972 European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters" (signed in Strasbourg on 17 April 1997, ratified on 23 December 1997), *Valstybės žinios*, 1998, No. 10-238.

<sup>44</sup> The presidency of Lithuania was from 8 November 2001 to 3 May 2002.

for the development process of the Council of Europe, promotion of regional cooperation, enhancement of the activity of the Council of Europe. The foregoing priorities comply with the aims of inside and outside national security of Lithuania. During its presidency, Lithuania emphasized the importance of legal measures in fighting against corruption, organized crime, economic crimes and international terrorism. For the purpose of the fight against international terrorism, the international community was urged to sign and ratify key documents of the Council of Europe on the fight against terrorism.

Alongside the international community attempts were made to establish democratic values, the State of law as well as guarantee the protection of human rights. It was during the presidency of Lithuania that Protocol 13 of the European Human Rights Convention on the Abolishment of Capital Punishment was signed in Vilnius during the circuit session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. During its presidency at the Council of Europe, Lithuania succeeded in implementing its priorities – the importance of the influence of regional cooperation on democratic stability, expansion of the cooperation with the Council of Europe and other international organizations (OSCE, UNI, the EU), increase in the number of participants of the Council of Europe were emphasized.

Having set the objective to create a modern society uniting Europe, Lithuania was seeking to establish the European identity and urged the Council of Europe members to share their experience with other organizations (OSCE, UNI).

Lithuania emphasized its interest in stability, adherence to the principles of the state of law and human rights in the Caucasus, the Balkans, states of other regions and countries seeking membership of the Council of Europe. To that end, in 2001, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania visited Ukraine, Moldova and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.<sup>45</sup>

The emerging new phenomena, such as “*Internet terrorism*”, promotion of terrorism ideology, force to look for new means of preventing and eliminating these phenomena. Therefore, seeking to put an end to actions directed against confidentiality, integrity and accessibility of computer systems, networks and computer databases and with the purpose of not permitting improper use of such systems, networks and data, in 2004 Lithuania ratified the Council of Europe *Convention on Cybercrime*<sup>46</sup> and *The International Convention against Money Forgery and its Protocols*.<sup>47</sup>

Lithuania took an active part in the activity of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) based on the principle of strengthening cooperation and dialog. For example, in 2001, Lithuania made an agreement with Russia and Belarus on additional bilateral measures to build confidence and security,<sup>48</sup> increasing transparency and predictability in the military area. Lithuania remained an active participant of OSCE

<sup>45</sup> See: Report on the State and Development of the National Security System for 2001, <http://www.kam.lt/catalog/ministerija> ; Report on the State and Development of the National Security System for 2002, [http://www.kam.lt/catalog/ministerija/NSSBP Ataskaita 2002.doc](http://www.kam.lt/catalog/ministerija/NSSBP_Ataskaita_2002.doc), (referred to on 10 05 2004).

<sup>46</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania “On Ratification of the Convention on Cybercrime” (adopted on 23 November 2001 in Budapest, ratified on 22 01 2004), *Valstybės žinios*, 2004, No. 36-1178.

<sup>47</sup> The Law of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Ratification of the International Convention on Fight against Money Forgery and its Protocols” (signed in Geneva on 20 04 1929, ratified on 27 012004), *Valstybės žinios*, 2004, No. 40-1290.

<sup>48</sup> Confidence and Security Building Measures.

international forums on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament and continued the process of joining to multilateral weapons control programs. In 2002, it submitted an application to join the Treaty on Open Skies which, together with the OSCE 1999 Vienna Document and the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty, provides a basis for multilateral measures for arms control and confidence. Lithuania, a signatory of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, supported its provisions: in 2002, it was the first in the Baltic region to voluntarily provide information according to Article 7 of this Convention; multilateral confidence and security building measures following the OSCE 1999 Vienna Document as well as bilateral additional measures with Russia, Belarus, Finland and Sweden are implemented. Lithuania actively participates in UNI and OSCE missions, thus testifying to the fact that it is not only a user but also a provider of security.

### 3. Solidarity of Lithuania with International Coalition against Terrorism

In the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 terror acts in the USA, Lithuania was among the states which came closer to the USA. It came closer not physically but psychologically by offering not only moral but also practical support to the victims of terror. Shortly after the acts of terror in the USA, on 12 September 2001, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania adopted *The Statement on the Acts of Terror against the United States of America* which said: “Expressing its sincere sympathy to the American nation, to the families of the deceased, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania condemns the horrendous acts of terror committed in the USA. There is no and cannot be any justification for terrorism, destruction of culture and people. At this hard for the United States of America hour we express our solidarity.

The world has not yet experienced a tragedy of this scope at peacetime. There is no doubt that it is a challenge to the entire civilized and democratic world, freedom, human community, to the principles of coexistence and humanism. It is one more horrible crime against mankind.

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania declares that the State of Lithuania will join anti-terrorist international and necessary decisions to punish terrorists and neutralize their hotbeds.

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania is convinced that everything possible must be done so that this never and nowhere reoccurs.

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania hopes that the democratic society of the world will further strive for progress, international security and welfare necessary for all nations, all people. Lithuania will also seek that all potential problems between states could be solved in civilized ways and will render possible humanitarian assistance.

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and political forces represented in it express their solidarity with such position of Lithuania and call on citizens for calm, understanding and support of the necessary actions of the authorities within the country and beyond its borders.”<sup>49</sup>

<sup>49</sup>The Statement of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Acts of Terror against the United States of America”, *Válstybės žinios*, 2001, No. 79-2752.

When on 7 October 2001, the military forces of the USA and Great Britain, supported by a wide international anti-terrorist coalition, launched attacks against terrorist bases, their key concentration sites in Afghanistan and forces supporting them, on 9 October 2001, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania adopted the Statement “*On the Military Actions of the USA and its Allies against Terrorists*” which claimed that “the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, having in memory the tragic experience of Lithuania 10 years ago and being aware of the threat that terrorism and forces supporting it pose to the people of the whole world, supports military operations of the USA allies which seek to eliminate key terrorism hotbeds. The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania expects that these operations, avoiding casualties of innocent people, will achieve the objective to destroy the foundation of international terrorism, thus providing conditions for peace and civilized contacts between states.

Seeking to relieve the situation of the Afghan people and reinforce stability in the region, Lithuania is also going to participate in international humanitarian missions of the anti-terrorist coalition.”<sup>50</sup>

The USA had discussions with the allies of the North Atlantic Alliance and other states. Lithuania was also actively involved in this dialog and offered the USA humanitarian assistance and issued permission for USA military aircraft to cross Lithuanian air space and land at Lithuanian airports until the completion of anti-terrorist actions. It was the first time that NATO countries made a decision to apply Article 5 of the Washington Treaty that an attack against one country of the Alliance is an attack against all NATO countries.

On 6 November 2001, at the conference “*Fight against Terrorism*” held in Warsaw on the initiative of Poland, the President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus said:

Indeed, it is highly important that our region can speak in one voice and act as an effective ally in the ongoing counter-terrorist campaign. Our countries already share an invaluable experience of cooperation that helped us to effectively address other security challenges. We must build on this experience - starting from bilateral efforts to regional cooperation and to larger international formats such as the Vilnius group.

This process already started at NATO headquarters on September 13 and was continued at a conference of Vilnius-10 democracies in Sofia a month ago. Now, I believe, time has come to launch an effective action plan that will spell out what we as a region can do as we move forward.

Our regional action also involves an important moral dimension. In times of need our nations have always looked to America for support. Now America needs our support and they must get it - lasting and unwavering.

We understand that in the ongoing campaign our democracies are facing specific threats and thus should focus on specific targets. Central and Eastern Europe is first of all a transit region. Therefore, our cooperation can be especially effective in shutting down the channels that feed terrorist networks.

Corruption, drug trafficking, money laundering, illegal migration, organized crime are just a few areas in which our countries have been working hard but rather ineffectively. A new mechanism should be developed that would allow our countries to expand cooperation in all formats and on permanent basis. Our efforts should be

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<sup>50</sup> The Statement of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Military Actions of the USA and its Allies against Terrorists”, *Valstybės žinios*, 2001, No. 87-3034.

institutionalized and follow the principles laid down in the legal instruments of the European Union, Council of Europe and other international bodies. I believe that these are the major tasks that stand before this particular conference.

The experience gained here is going to be very helpful to my country which in a few days will take over the presidency in the Council of Europe. In this capacity we are determined, among other goals, to further facilitate cooperation in our region and thus contribute to the global campaign against terrorism.

The President of the Republic of Lithuania pointed out three main objectives:

First of all, the counter-terrorist action has to be rationalized and made more effective. A number of European and international institutions are already involved in the development of various, often overlapping antiterrorism strategies. Thus, functions and responsibilities have to be streamlined to ensure a lasting support for the counter-terrorist campaign. Second, the existing legal framework should be upgraded to promote cooperation among the European countries in combating terrorist threats. Third, the dialogue and understanding among cultures and religions should be advanced and expanded. And last but not least, I would like to briefly highlight the human dimension of the counter-terrorist campaign. We can only welcome the initiative, put forward in the action plan of this conference, to establish the Aid Foundation for victims of terror. Those who have suffered should be supported materially as well as morally, through the solidarity of the world democracies.

However, in my view, it is no less essential to ensure that our own citizens keep faith in the victory against terrorism. We the leaders can bring down the remaining barriers and work harder together to combat the emerging threats. In fact, it is our leadership that should reinforce our people's belief in the intrinsic value of cooperation that the free and democratic world shares.<sup>51</sup>

In the Declaration "*On the Solidarity of the Baltic States with the International Antiterrorist Coalition*" (13-15 December 2001, Tallinn), the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Baltic Assembly stated that after the terrorist acts of 11 September 2001, the world has changed. In this new situation, the three Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, express their solidarity with the international anti-terrorist coalition. The Baltic States wish to make their contribution to the strengthening of peace and security in the Baltic Sea region and all over the world. In this connection, the Baltic Assembly once again expresses the will and readiness of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to accede to international security organizations, first of all, to the North Atlantic Alliance. "Standing up for democratic values, as well as for human rights and the right of nations to self-determination, the Baltic Assembly expresses the conviction that no nation or religion can be considered terroristic because of its individual representatives. At the same time, one has to consistently combat terrorism and organized crime and condemn the political regimes, which favor the activities of terrorist organizations, harbour criminals and refuse to participate in the international and law enforcement cooperation. To root out terrorism, the efforts of the entire democratic world must be combined."<sup>52</sup>

<sup>51</sup> The Speech of the President of the Republic of Lithuania V.Adamkus at the conference "Fight against Terrorism" held in Warsaw on 06 November 2001, <http://www.President.lt/one.phtml?id=2484> (referred to on 08 11 2001).

<sup>52</sup> The Declaration of the Baltic Assembly "On the Solidarity of the Baltic States with the International Coalition against Terrorism", <http://www3.lrs.lt/cgi-bin/preps2?Condition1=156468&Condition2=>, (referred to on 10 09 2004).

At the meeting of Defense Ministers of the NATO Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in Brussels on 19 December 2001 (Defense Ministers of 46 states, including the Minister of National Defense of Lithuania, participated), the issues of the international anti-terrorist campaign as well as the importance of the contribution of each country and their collective effort were discussed.

In his speech the Minister of National Defense of Lithuania emphasized that Lithuania worked out a national program of the fight against terrorism and put forth a proposal to participate in the US-led operation. Two teams of military medics provided with necessary equipment and medications were ready to join Czech Republic military medics going on a humanitarian mission to the region of Afghanistan.

In compliance with Resolution 1373 of the UN Security Council, the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee was established. The Resolution obligated all 189 UN members to adopt respective laws and take action to prevent financing, supporting and harbouring of terrorists. It is also required that countries exchange respective information.

As far back as October 2001, the Committee sent an address to the governments of all countries requesting to inform about actions and measures taken or intended to be taken to fight against terrorism. The governments were also asked to indicate the actions taken to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against terrorism in the world. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania submitted a report on the activity of Lithuanian institutions in fighting against terrorism to the UN Security Council Committee.<sup>53</sup>

Taking into account the 12 September 2001 Statement of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “*On the Acts of Terror against the United States of America*”, the 9 October 2001 Statement of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “*On the Military Actions of USA and its Allies against Terrorists*” and following Part 1 of Article 5 and Part 1 of Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on International Operations, Military Exercises and other Events, on 21 December 2001, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania made a decision to send up to 12 military medics from Lithuania to take part in the international operation “Enduring Freedom” in the region of Central and Southern Asia for the period of six months from the day the invitation from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or its members is received.<sup>54</sup>

In the beginning of 2002, Denmark, as a member of NATO, invited Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to send to Kirghizstan ten servicemen from each country to a joint unit under the command of Danish officers. With this purpose, in the middle of March, Denmark started trainings of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian military personnel participating in the anti-terrorist campaign. Servicemen from the Kaunas Vytautas the Great Jaeger Battalion and other special-purpose units were selected on a voluntary basis. Approximately 300 servicemen had applied to take part in the operation. Not individual servicemen but a whole team was selected for the mission

<sup>53</sup> Grumadaitė R. In *Fight against Terrorism – Contribution of Each Country and Common Efforts are Important, Krašto apsauga*. An informational publication of the Ministry of National Defense (further – *KA KAMIL*), 11 01 2002, No. 1(4), p. 11.

<sup>54</sup> The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Participation of Military Medics from Lithuania in the International Operation “Enduring Freedom” in the Region of Central and Southern Asia”, *Válstybės žinios*, 2001, No. 110-4001, p. 48.



because it is very important to retain esprit de corps. During the selection, previous experience in missions and service in mountainous regions were taken into account by Lithuanians that have gone to Afghanistan to act as part of a US special-purpose unit and carry out special reconnaissance. This is the first international mission in which Lithuania participates independently covering expenses related to the maintenance of its military personnel.<sup>55</sup>

From 15 October 2002 to 10 August 2003, 4 medics from Lithuania as part of the Czech 6<sup>th</sup> military field hospital team and 2 medics as part of German hospital personnel participated in the peace implementation mission in Afghanistan within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Since 11 August 2003, the operation has been led by NATO: by 10 July 2004, 10 military medics participated in the ISAF peace implementation mission in Afghanistan (8 – within the German hospital team, 2 – within the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), 2 cargo loading specialists, 2 logisticians, 1 traffic navigator (in the International Airport of Kabul)).<sup>56</sup>

In June 2002, the USA put forth a concrete proposal to Lithuania to take part in the operation “Enduring Freedom” by sending Special Forces to Afghanistan. Accepting the proposal, the Ministry of National Defense sent a liaison officer to the Chief Staff Headquarters in Tampa (Florida, USA) where the above-mentioned operation was coordinated. Lithuania provided a possibility to the USA and other NATO allies to use Lithuanian airspace and airports in case of need.

On 1 October 2002, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, following Part 1 of Article 142 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, Parts 2 and 5 of Article 6 of the Law on International Operations, Exercises and other Military Cooperation Events, and in compliance with Decree No. 1884 of 6 September 2002 by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, the 12 September 2002 Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Acts of Terror against the United States of America”, the 9 October 2001 Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Military Actions of the USA and its Allies against Terrorists”, decided: to send from Lithuania up to 40 military personnel selected on a voluntary basis to take part in the US-led international operation “Enduring Freedom” in the region of Central and Southern Asia for a period not longer than 6 months from the end of the preparation for the mission.<sup>57</sup> From November 2002 to July 2004, 120 Lithuanian Special Forces military personnel and 2 medics participated in the US-led anti-terrorist operation “Enduring Freedom”.

By this action Lithuania demonstrated to the world that its verbal commitments to join the fight against international terrorism do not differ from real actions and the country is ready to keep its promises. The decision of the Seimas to send troops to take part in the operation “Enduring Freedom” confirmed the position declared by Lithuania to take concrete actions to join anti-terrorist efforts. It was then that Lithuania began to act as an ally of NATO and the USA without waiting for the moment to become a

<sup>55</sup> Lithuanian Military Personnel Take Part in the Operation “Enduring Freedom”, *KA KAMIL*, 21 12 2002 – 13 01 2003, No. 25(28), p. 9-10.

<sup>56</sup> Lithuanian Military Personnel in International Operations, <http://www.kam.lt/index.php?ItemId=21773>, (referred to on 15 09 2004).

<sup>57</sup> The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On the Participation of Lithuanian Military Personnel in the International Operation “Enduring Freedom” in the Region of Central and Southern Asia”, *Válstybés žinios*, 2002, No. 98-4313.

true member of the Alliance because Lithuania's opinion will be valued not through a symbolic but real participation in the activity of NATO and its allies.

Lithuania's decision to join the anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan drew the attention of high-ranking NATO officials. On October 2002, at the Brookings Institution, an independent political research organization in Washington, NATO Secretary General George Robertson mentioned Lithuania and Romania as an example how non-allied countries can act in concert with NATO by sending their forces to Afghanistan.<sup>58</sup>

Participation in this international operation not only proved that the Lithuanian Army was ready for challenging operations, but this was also a very important step towards ensuring effective cooperation with the United States of America in the military area and was in compliance with the 1998 Partnership Charter of the USA and the three Baltic countries. In total, about 20 states take part in the operation "Enduring Freedom".

*The Vilnius Group* including the invited NATO members and the Alliance membership seeking candidates urged the UN Security Council to take all necessary measures to stop the threat that Iraq poses to security and peace of the international community. The joint statement issued by Ministers of Foreign Affairs of *the Vilnius Ten* in Washington on 5 February 2003 declares:

Our countries understand the dangers posed by tyranny and the special responsibility of democracies to defend our shared values. The transatlantic community, of which we are a part, must stand together to face the threat posed by the nexus of terrorism and dictators with weapons of mass destruction.

We have actively supported the international efforts to achieve a peaceful disarmament of Iraq. However, it has now become clear that Iraq is in material breach of UN Security Council Resolutions, including UN Resolution 1441, passed unanimously on November 8, 2002. As our governments said on the occasion of the NATO Summit in Prague: "We support the goal of the international community for full disarmament of Iraq as stipulated in the UN Security Council Resolution 1441. In the event of non-compliance with the terms of this resolution, we are prepared to contribute to an international coalition to enforce its provisions and the disarmament of Iraq."

The clear and present danger posed by the Saddam Hussein's regime requires a united response from the community of democracies. We call upon the UN Security Council to take the necessary and appropriate action in response to Iraq's continuing threat to international peace and security.<sup>59</sup>

The statement was issued after the US Secretary of State Collin Powell in New York on 5 February submitted to the UN Security Council evidence detailing Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs and Baghdad's efforts to deceive UN weapons inspectors.

<sup>58</sup> The Head of NATO Singled out Lithuania from the Partners of the Anti-terrorist Coalition, *KA KAMIL*, 04 01 2002 – 18 24, No. 22, p. 1.

<sup>59</sup> The Statement of *the Vilnius Ten* countries which is a response to the Statement of the US Secretary of State to the United Nations Security Council, *KA KAMIL*, 25 03 2003 – 07 04 2003, No. 5(33), p. 3.

*The Vilnius group states* demonstrated their support to the USA after a similar statement was issued on 30 January by eight NATO countries in Europe. Meanwhile, the Alliance members France and Germany categorically opposed the military action in Iraq without the approval from the UN Security Council.

Lithuania had already confirmed that it was ready to contribute to the international military operation against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq in case it were carried out. Over the last decade, being under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, Iraq was a cause for concern for the world because of its mass destruction weapons programs.<sup>60</sup>

On 3 April 2003, at NATO Headquarters in Brussels the US Secretary of State Collin Powell met with the ambassadors of the Vilnius Group states and thanked these countries for the support of the USA position on the solution of the Iraq crisis. The Secretary of State pointed out that "nobody wants war", however, in this case it was inevitable. He noted that no region of the world could feel safe in the face of this threat. The US official expressed his conviction that the military operation in Iraq would be a fast success, whereas humanitarian assistance and country restoration work would have widespread support. On behalf of the President of the USA, Colin Powell once again thanked for the 5 February Statement of *The Vilnius Ten*. The US Secretary of State assured that the political support that Washington received at tense time was very important and it would never be forgotten.<sup>61</sup>

On March 2003, after a heated debate and taking into account an official appeal of the USA for a contribution of the Republic of Lithuania towards the US-led international operation in the region of the Persian Gulf; complying with the 17 March 2003 Decision of the State Defense Council; following the 20 March 2003 Decree No. 21 by the President of the Republic of Lithuania; approving of the 20 March 2003 the European Heads of State Council Statement on Iraq; acting in accordance with the provisions of Parts 2 and 5 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania On International Operations, Exercises and other Military Cooperation Events, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania decided: to send a humanitarian mission of Lithuanian servicemen to the US-led international operation in the region of the Persian Gulf for the period of 6 months where, on a voluntary basis, up to 10 cargo transportation specialists and up to 6 military medics would take part. The military personnel participating in the mission must have experience and skills in working in military conflict zones. The objective of the mission was to support the international operation and provide assistance for the victims.<sup>62</sup> From 9 April to 28 October 2003, 4 military medics and 8 logisticians participated in the humanitarian mission in the US-led military operation in Iraq.

When the US-led military operation in Iraq was completed, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, following Part 1 of Article 142 of the Constitution of the

<sup>60</sup> "The Vilnius Ten" Urged the International Community to Disarm Saddam Hussein's Regime, *KA KAMIL*, 20 01 2003 – 10 02 2003, No. 2(30), p. 11.

<sup>61</sup> The Message of Thanks to the Group of "The Vilnius Ten", *KA KAMIL*, 08 04 2003 – 22 04 2003, No. 6(34), p. 3.

<sup>62</sup> The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (25 03 2003) "On the Participation of Lithuanian Servicemen in the US-led International Operation in the Region of the Persian Gulf", *Valstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 54-2379.

Republic of Lithuania, Part 2 of Article 4, Parts 2 and 5 of Article 6 of the Law on International Operations, Exercises and Other Military Cooperation Events and taking into consideration the 26 May 2003 Decree No. 89 by the President of the Republic as well as the 22 May UN Security Council Resolution No. 1483, decided to send, on a voluntary basis, for the period of up to 18 months up to 130 servicemen from Lithuania to take part in the US-led international operation in the region of the Persian Gulf. According to the provisions set forth in Article 1 of this Decision, the deployed military units can be transferred under the operational command and control of UNI or NATO states or institutions provided these states or institutions take over the command of the international operation in the region of the Persian Gulf.<sup>63</sup>

When the situation in Iraq became more critical, considerations concerning the legitimacy of the participation of Lithuanian troops in the international military mission in Iraq were voiced. On 14 April 2004, at an informal meeting of the State Defense Council all members of the Council supported the opinion that Lithuania should honorably carry out its mission to the end.<sup>64</sup>

The results of the public opinion poll conducted by the “Sprinter tyrimai” Company and published in the Delfi portal on 10 May showed that the majority of the citizens of Lithuania supported the participation of Lithuanian troops in the international mission in Iraq. 41 per cent of the polled citizens approved, almost 33 per cent disapproved of Lithuanian troops presence in Iraq and about 26 per cent had no opinion or did not answer the question. The majority of the respondents (79 per cent) said that service in “hot spots” should be based on a voluntary principle and conditions must be provided to all servicemen willing to return to Lithuania. The survey also showed that the majority (56.7 per cent) of Lithuanian people expressed but a little interest in the Iraq problem and had as much information about it as media provided. About 19 per cent were not interested in the developments in Iraq, whereas those who showed great interest in them amounted to 15 per cent. The Iraq crisis caused greater interest among residents of Vilnius and regional centers as well as senior people. The poll was conducted on 27-30 April. 1005 permanent residents of Lithuania in the age between 18 and 75 took part in the survey.<sup>65</sup>

324 servicemen from Lithuania participated in the coalition-led post-war operation in Iraq during the period from 9 June 2003 to July 2004: 43 in LITCON-1, 54 in LITCON-2, 54 in LITCON-3 within the Danish contingent in the sector under the UN command, 45 in LITDET-1, 54 in LITDET-2, 49 in LITDET-3 within the Polish contingent in the sector under the Polish command, 2 in CJTF Headquarters, 2 in MNF-1 Headquarters, 10 in the Multinational Division (South-East) Headquarters under the command of the UK, 11 in the Multinational Division Headquarters under the command of Poland.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>63</sup> The Decision of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (29 05 2003) “On the Participation of Lithuanian Military Personnel in the International Operation in the Region of the Persian Gulf”, *Válstybės žinios*, 2003, No. 54-2379.

<sup>64</sup> See: Lithuania is not Going to Recall its Troops from Iraq, *KA KAMIL*, 27 04 2004 – 11 05 2004, No. 8(58), p. 9; Žalimas D. There is no Need to Doubt the Legitimacy of the Mission of Lithuanian Troops in Iraq, *KA KAMIL*, 11 05 2004 – 25 05 2004, No. 9(59), p. 1-2.

<sup>65</sup> Lithuanian People Support the Mission of the Country’s Military Personnel in Iraq, *KA KAMIL*, 11 05 2004 – 25 05 2004, No. 9(59), p. 21.

<sup>66</sup> Lithuanian Troops in International Operations, <http://www.kam.lt/index.php?ItemId=21773>, (referred to on 15 09 2004).

The task of Lithuanian troops in Iraq is to ensure safety of the local population, prevent criminal activities, smuggling of weapons and drugs. Lithuanians help local police with guarding important administration, health care, educational and cultural buildings, industrial objects and they are involved in training local police to carry out their functions. Besides, Lithuanian servicemen ensure safe transportation of humanitarian assistance to remote villages which are in the area of their responsibility and take part in joint operations with coalition partners.<sup>67</sup>

In his letter to the Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas received on 19 April 2004, the President of the USA George W. Bush thanks for Lithuania's unwavering support and determination in the pursuit of the peaceful and democratic goal. "Our common ceaseless efforts by which we are seeking to strengthen security have been successful. The Lithuanian Army has proved its skill and courage and we are grateful for these efforts", says the letter of the USA President.

According to George W. Bush, democracy does not leave place for those who want to establish power by using force or instigating disturbances, therefore, it is indispensable to detain those who are guilty for the recently committed violence.<sup>68</sup>

On 28 June 2004, 26 Heads of State and Government of the 26 states of the Atlantic Alliance met in Istanbul and declared total support for the independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and for strengthening freedom, democracy, human rights, legitimate power and security of all Iraqi people.<sup>69</sup>

On 22 September 2004, speaking at the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, President of the Republic of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus stated that

the risks and challenges of the new millennium affect us all and can only be tackled by common efforts. Threats like terrorism recognize no borders, no differentiation by race, religion, or ethnicity. The horror, devastation and fear terrorism brings are the same whether in Casablanca, Madrid, New York, Jerusalem or Beslan. Terrorism cannot be justified. And there can be no excuses and no leniency in confronting it. The fight against terrorism must remain one of the priority tasks of individual member states and of the United Nations. <...> The United Nations, for all its criticism, remains the only organization capable of embodying the principles of a truly global and effective multilateralism. The UN can offer a global reach and legitimacy necessary to bring the international community to action.

<...> Today more than ever before the United Nations has to play the leading role in building societies that follow the path of good governance, respect human rights and the rule of law. We must be able to intervene and prevent situations of massive human rights violations.

We must also be firm in our struggle against all attempts to encroach at human dignity, against all forms and manifestations of intolerance, anti-Semitism, racism, or islamophobia." The President stressed that "Lithuania is ready to contribute bilate-

<sup>67</sup> Two Platoons of Lithuanian Servicemen Seen off to Iraq, *KA KAMIL*, 16 01 2004 – 30 01 2004, No. 1(51), p. 3.

<sup>68</sup> Lithuania is not Going to Recall its Troops from Iraq, *KA KAMIL*, 27 04 2004 – 11 05 2004, No. 8(58), p. 9.

<sup>69</sup> See: The Decision on Iraq signed by Heads of State and Government who participated at the summit of the North Atlantic Council in Istanbul on 28 June 2004, *KA KAMIL*, 09 07 2004 – 23 07 2004, No. 11(61), p. 20.

rally and multilaterally to the implementation of the Millennium Goals, also by sharing our experience of national reform process. Our membership in the enlarged European Union and North Atlantic Alliance enables us to play a more active role by embracing the principles of development policy and adopting the role of a donor.<sup>70</sup>

Lithuania takes an active part in UNI and OSCE missions, thus testifying that it is not only a user, but also a provider of security. Commitments of Lithuania, as a member of NATO, to ensuring collective security indicate that the military is increasingly becoming a major means for the implementation of foreign and security policy. The ability of the state to contribute to international commitments in reducing tension, maintaining international peace and stability has been proven - military personnel of Lithuania have been taking part in international operations for a decade already.

Over the period from 1994 to 2004, more than 1,700 military personnel of Lithuania participated in 13 international operations. During the ten years, the greatest number of servicemen was deployed in the Balkans (1,152). At present, most of Lithuanian military personnel are in Iraq (120). Lithuanian peacekeepers operated within the armed forces of other states. This allowed increasing interoperability, getting knowledge, and gaining useful experience. During the process of its integration into NATO, Lithuania was involved not only in the Alliance-led peace implementation and international security safeguarding operations, but also in OSCE, UNI missions, US-led operations, thus testifying to the continuing interest in the stability of the international system as a condition for safeguarding the security of the Baltic region as well. In 2003, Lithuania participated in four NATO, two USA, one EU and one OSCE operations. The number of international operations in which Lithuanian military personnel took part corresponds to the number of operations in which other NATO member states (e.g. Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Holland) participated.

As compared with the number of military personnel of NATO member states taking part in international operations, military capabilities of Lithuania so far have been moderate. The number of NATO member states' troops deployed abroad usually amounts to or even exceeds the number of Lithuanian military personnel that have participated in international operations since 1994. Nevertheless, every year our country increases its contribution to international operations. In 2003, 389 servicemen went on mission abroad. In November 2003, the greatest numbers of Lithuanian peacekeepers (289), i.e. 2.5 per cent of the Lithuanian Army, were abroad. According to this ratio, Lithuania surpassed many of NATO candidate states but was behind the Alliance member states whose ratio of the total number of military personnel and the number deployed abroad amounts to the average of 5 per cent. Lithuanian peacekeepers serve in missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia. One officer from Lithuania acts as an OSCE observer in Georgia. Lithuania consistently and purposefully supports security and territorial integrity of Georgia, cooperates in the areas of strengthening security and democracy. In the summer of 2004, on the initiative of Lithuania, the European Union Mission on the Prevalence of Law started its activity in Georgia. In the future, Lithuania will seek to be ready to maintain abroad up to 1,000 military personnel, i.e. 10 per cent of its regular forces.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>70</sup> The Speech of the President of the Republic of Lithuania at the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 22 September 2004, New York, <http://www.president.lt/lt/news.full/5266>, (referred to on 23 09 2004).

<sup>71</sup> See: Lithuanian Military Personnel in International Operations, *KA KAMIL*, 29 03 2004 – 13 04 2004, No. 6(56), p. 11; A Delegation of Heads of State of the OSCE Visited Georgia, *KA KAMIL*, 23 08 2004 – 16 09 2004, No. 14(64), p. 9; Lithuanian Military Personnel in International Operations, <http://www.kam.lt/index.php?ItemId=21773>, (referred to on 15 09 2004).

## Conclusion

As all states of the Western world recognize, terrorism today is a new type of threat; therefore, it requires new type measures and methods of fight as well as close cooperation between states. In the aftermath of the terror acts in the USA, Lithuania faced a new challenge: to set forth new objectives of foreign and security policy, review old priorities, adapt them to the new realities of the geostrategic environment.

Strengthening its national security in all areas of state governance, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania has pursued long-term state security strengthening programs which are among key means of safeguarding national security. The implementation of long-term state security strengthening programs was manifested in building security environment, reinforcing defensive capabilities, developing the crisis management system, strengthening the inside security of the state and its welfare. National security was also strengthened by the ways provided for in the National Security Strategy, the Long-term State Development Strategy, the Program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2001-2004 and the Plan of the Implementation Measures of the Program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2001-2004.

Working actively through international organizations, Lithuania contributed to the efforts of the international community to ensure democracy, human rights, peace and stability in the region and the world, was actively involved in the fight of the international community against international terrorism. Participation in the fight of the international community against international terrorism and against proliferation of mass destruction weapons is a priority of the national security of Lithuania.

Lithuania took an active part in UNI, NATO and OSCE missions and thus testified to being not only a user but also a provider of security. Its participation in international operations not only proved the readiness of the Lithuanian Army for challenging operations, but was also a significant step in ensuring effective cooperation with the USA and other states in the military area.

The terrorist attacks against the USA and their consequences turned into a possibility for Lithuania to seek a faster integration into the transatlantic security area, into NATO, and, alongside other Central and Eastern European states, to prove its readiness and capability to contribute to the maintenance of security.