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No (1.3.2.1)-13.4.5-355

The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania presents its compliments to the Folketing of the Kingdom of Denmark and has the honor to request to forward the enclosed invitation of the Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania H.E. Mrs. Irena Degutiene and MP President of the Parliamentary Forum Community of Democracies Mr. Emanuelis Zingeris to Mr. Thor Pedersen, the Speaker of the Folketing of the Kingdom of Denmark, with a kind request to convey the invitation to the high addressee.

The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Folketing of the Kingdom of Denmark the assurances of its highest consideration.

16 May 2011



Folketing of the Kingdom of Denmark COPENHAGEN



Thor Pedersen Speaker of the Folketing Parliament of Denmark

Vilnius, 12 May 2011

Dear colleague,

Lithuania completes its biennial chairmanship of the Community of Democracies uniting over 100 countries and the Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum this year.

The Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum was established in Vilnius in March 2010 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence. The Parliamentary Forum was established by 43 parliamentarians from Lithuania, Europe, USA, Latin America, and Asia. The Convening Meeting in Vilnius attended by parliamentarians from 18 countries seeking to pursue the ideas of democracy and human rights and freedoms signed the Vilnius Declaration, whereby undertaking to work together to strengthen democracy where it is weak and invigorate it where it is longstanding, to promote peace, development of human rights and freedoms, gender equality and equal opportunities in their respective countries and around the world.

The Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum complements the existing cooperation among governmental and non-governmental bodies of the Community of Democracies. Members of the Forum seek to strengthen the role of the parliament, as a supreme state institution, in ensuring democratic governance.

The events in Vilnius on 30 June to 1 July 2011 will mark the completion of Lithuania's chairmanship of the Community of Democracies, and the noble right to chairmanship of the Community will be handed over to Mongolia. The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania organises the meeting of the



Parliamentary Forum *The Road to Democracy: Role of the Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum* on 30 June 2011. The participants of the Parliamentary Meeting will also be invited to attend the Ministerial Conference to be held in Vilnius on 1 July 2011.

We kindly invite you or delegates from your Parliament to attend the meeting of the Parliamentary Forum in Vilnius on 30 June 2011. Please find attached the programmes of the two events.

Registration for the event is open on the website of the Community of Democracies at: www.vilnius2011.mfa.lt until 3 June. The working languages of the Forum will be English and Russian. For further details please contact the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Forum by e-mail: vilnius@parliamentary-forum.org or telephone: +370 5 2396010.

We are looking forward to welcoming you personally to Vilnius.

Sincerely,

Irena Degutienė Speaker of the Seimas Republic of Lithuania

Emanuelis Zingeris, MP

President of the Parliamentary Forum

Community of Democracies

In . Luges



High Level Democracy Meeting

THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY: ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Vilnius, 29 June - 1 July 2011

DRAFT PROGRAMME

29 June 2011

Arrival of the participants

19:00 – 21:00 Welcoming reception hosted by Mrs Irena Degutienė, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

30 June 2011

Parliamentary Forum Meeting

Venue: Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania, March 11 Hall

09:00 - 10:00 Opening of the Parliamentary Forum

Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, President of the Parliamentary Forum

H.E. Mrs Irena Degutienė, Speaker of the Seimas, Republic of Lithuania

Ms Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State, founder of the Community of Democracies (*TBC*)

H.E. Prof. Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament (*TBC*) H.E. Mr Audronius Ažubalis, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Lithuania

Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs (*TBC*)

10.00 – 11.00 Session I: "On the Road to Democracy: Eastern European

Experience and Current Developments" Moderated by: TBC

Panelists: TBC

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

Press Conference (main speakers of the PF meeting)

11.30 – 12.30 Session II: "Role of the Parliamentary Forum: Encouraging

Effective Democracy Assistance"

Report of the World Movement for Democracy

Moderated by: Ms Kim Campbell, Chair of the World Movement for

Democracy Steering Committee



Panelists: TBC

12.30 – 14.00	Lunch hosted by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, and President of the CoD Parliamentary Forum
14.00 – 14.45	Session III: "PF Vision: Defining the Global Mission and Future Activities"
14.45 - 16.00	Meetings of the working groups
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 - 17.30	Reports of the working groups
18.00 - 20.00	Cultural programme
20.00	Reception hosted by H.E. Mr Audronius Ažubalis , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Lithuania
<u>1 July 2010</u>	

High Level Ministerial Conference

Venue: Exhibition Center "Litexpo"

8.30 - 10:00	Informal meeting of the Convening Group. Final debate on the reform of the CoD and the Vilnius Declaration
10:00 - 11:00	Official opening of the Vilnius Ministerial Meeting
11.00 – 11:30	Information on the activities of the Parliamentary Forum, Corporate Democracy Forum, Youth Forum. Reports of the working groups
11:30 – 12:30	Ministerial session. General debate "Community of Democracies: Empowered, Energized, Engaged". Special emphasis on emerging democracies
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch break. Press conference
14:00 - 17:00	Ministerial session. General debate "Community of Democracies: Empowered, Energized, Engaged". Special emphasis on engaging society
17:00 - 17:30	Adoption of the Vilnius Declaration. Closing remarks
18:30	Reception