

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Vilnius, 1 October 2013

**Invitation to the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Environment
Protection and the Committees on State Administration and Local Authorities
on 24–25 November 2013**

Dear Colleague,

In our position as Chairs of the Committee on Environment Protection and the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, we are honoured to extend our sincere invitation to you to the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Environment Protection and the Committees on State Administration and Local Authorities to be held on 24–25 November 2013 in the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, in Vilnius.

The meeting will be dedicated to the topic *Macro-Regional Strategies: Development and Prospects*. The environmental dimension of macro-regional strategies will also be at the focus of our attention. We will consider the ways of boosting economic growth while protecting environment and possibilities to integrate the environmental dimension into such policies as transport, energy and agriculture. We will discuss how to use the opportunities offered by EU financial instruments in a more efficient way and how to achieve the best results through joint efforts of the Member States.

On 24 November 2013, you are kindly invited to attend the dinner with a cultural programme.

Please find enclosed the draft programme of the meeting, general information and hotel booking forms. For more information, please visit the website of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union at www.eu2013.lrs.lt. On the website, you can also find an online registration form for the meeting.

You are kindly requested to register **no later than 8 November 2013**.

We look forward to welcoming you to Vilnius.

Yours faithfully,

Algimantas Salamakinas

Chair of the Committee on Environment
Protection

Virginija Baltraitienė

Chair of the Committee on State
Administration and Local Authorities

1 October 2013

**MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION AND THE COMMITTEES ON STATE ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL
AUTHORITIES**

Macro-Regional Strategies: Development and Prospects

Vilnius, 24–25 November 2013

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Sunday, 24 November

- Arrival of the delegations
- 14.00–18.30 Registration at the hotels
- 18.30–19.00 Departure by bus from the hotels for The Old Arsenal, National Museum of Lithuania
- 19.00 Dinner hosted by Mr Algimantas SALAMAKINAS, Chair of the Committee on Environment Protection, and Ms Virginija BALTRAITIENĖ, Chair of the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
Venue: The Old Arsenal, National Museum of Lithuania, Arsenalo g. 3, Vilnius
- 22.00 Return to the hotels by bus

Monday, 25 November

- 8.15 Departure for the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania by bus
Gedimino pr. 53, Vilnius
- 8.30–9.00 Registration in the Seimas (for those not registered yet)
Venue: Lobby, Building II of the Seimas

OPENING SESSION

Venue: Plenary Hall of the Seimas, Building II of the Seimas

- 9.00 Introductory remarks by Mr Algimantas SALAMAKINAS, Chair of the Committee on Environment Protection, and Ms Virginija BALTRAITIENĖ, Chair of the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Welcome speech by Dr Vydas GEDVILAS, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Adoption of the agenda

SESSION I: SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

- 9.15 **Integration of climate policy into regional development strategies**
Ms Connie HEDEGAARD, European Commissioner for Climate Action

Debate

Results of the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
Mr Linas LINKEVIČIUS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Debate

- 11.00–11.30 Family photo
Venue: Stained Glass Gallery, Building I of the Seimas

Coffee break
Venue: Stained Glass Gallery, Building I of the Seimas

SESSION II: ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES

- 11.30 **The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region *vis-à-vis* other forms of cooperation in environmental protection of the Baltic Sea Region**
Mr Valentinas MAZURONIS, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Environmental dimension of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region
Mr Andreas BECKMANN, World Wide Fund for Nature, Director of the Danube-Carpathian Programme

Debate

- 13.00–14.30 Lunch
 Venue: Stained Glass Gallery, Building I of the Seimas
- 13.00 Press Conference
 Venue: Press Conference Room, Building II of the Seimas

SESSION III: CONTRIBUTION OF THE EU INSTITUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES

- 14.30 **Development and prospects of European Union macro-regional strategies**
 Mr Johannes HAHN, European Commissioner for Regional Policy
- Macro-regional strategies and their significance from the perspective of the European Parliament**
 Ms Danuta HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament (*tbc*)
- Debate
- 16.15 Debate on and adoption of the Conclusions of the meeting
- 16.45 Guided tour of the Seimas (in English or French) *optional*
- Return to the hotels or departure for the airport by bus
- 17.30 Return to the hotels or departure for the airport by bus