

# Newsletter for the Baltics

## Week 37, 2018

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### PRIMARY NEWS

#### **Lithuania's parliamentary parties signed defence policy agreement (BNS)**

September 11 news: Lithuania's parliamentary parties signed a political agreement on the country's defence policy guidelines for the next decade. The agreement calls for increasing defence spending up by 0.5 percent points from 2.0 to 2.5 percent of GDP by 2030. The parties also agreed to assess the possibility of establishing general conscription in 2022.

The agreement covers broad defence policy framework: assurance of defence budget by claiming that this agreement will not be influenced by election cycles and changes in the political government; strengthening of the Lithuanian armed forces and solving personnel-related challenges; and increasing appeal of military service and resilience of the society and state institutions to hybrid threats.

**Comment:** It is only a political agreement that draws guidelines for policy, but does not provide a specific funding which is still considered as a part of the overall state budget.

### SECONDARY NEWS

#### **Latvian government approves €175m Black Hawk purchase (LSM)**

September 11 news: Latvia's government approved the purchase of the four UH-60M "Black Hawk" helicopters in a deal worth 175 million euros under the Foreign Military Financing Program of the United States of America. The purchase is a part of a plan to finance long-term liabilities for 2023 and 2014.

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