

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
AND
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
ON CO-OPERATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF
EUROPE INFORMATION POINT FOR BELARUSIAN PEOPLE IN VILNIUS,
LITHUANIA

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Council of Europe (hereafter together referred as “the Parties”),

Having regard to the agreement reached within the Council of Europe Contact Group on co-operation with Representatives of Belarusian democratic forces and civil society on including in the list of activities (action plan) for 2024-2025, the establishment of a Council of Europe Information Point for Belarusian People in Vilnius, subject to the availability of financial resources and reaching institutional arrangements to ensure its sustainability,

Acknowledging Lithuania’s support to the establishment of the Council of Europe Information Point for Belarusian People in Vilnius, Lithuania, and Lithuania’s intention to meaningfully contribute to its work,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The Parties agree to cooperate in implementing the agreement reached on 27 June 2024 within the Council of Europe Contact Group on co-operation with Representatives of

Belarusian democratic forces and civil society ("the Contact Group") to establish the Council of Europe Information Point for Belarusian People (hereinafter – "the Information Point") in Vilnius, Republic of Lithuania, which will be providing information on the work as well as the values and principles enshrined in the Statute and the Conventions of the Council of Europe to the people of Belarus, and to support activities carried out in Lithuania under the action plan agreed by the Contact Group.

2. The Parties, acting in accordance with the relevant regulations applicable to them respectively, shall make best efforts to support and promote the work of the Information Point.

Article 2

1. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall take all necessary steps to provide the Information Point with adequate office space in Vilnius in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Lithuania generally applicable to the management of state-owned property. The said premises shall be provided free of rent.

2. The expenses for the premises' equipment and maintenance of the Information Point, as well as all other costs related to its operations, including staff appropriations, shall be covered through extra-budgetary contributions made to the Council of Europe and allocated to the Information Point by the Council of Europe.

Article 3

1. The Information Point shall be staffed by Council of Europe officials who may include the following categories: Council of Europe staff members employed under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the Council of Europe, including staff recruited locally, and

officials seconded to the Council of Europe in pursuance of the applicable rules (hereafter – the Officials).

2. The Council of Europe shall notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania of the name, functions and category of the Officials.

3. As an Institution of the Council of Europe, the Information Point and its Officials shall benefit from the provisions of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities (hereinafter “the GAPI”) in force for the Republic of Lithuania from 22 July 1998.

4. The Information Point shall have legal personality and shall have the capacity to conclude contracts, to acquire and dispose of movable property, to institute legal proceedings, to open bank accounts in national and foreign currency and to possess them.

5. Officials, with the exception of locally recruited staff and seconded officials, shall enjoy the privileges and immunities foreseen in Article 18 of the GAPI. Officials, including citizens of the host country, who are locally recruited staff shall enjoy the privileges and immunities foreseen in sub-paragraphs 18a and 18b of the GAPI. Officials, who are seconded officials, shall enjoy the privileges and immunities foreseen in Article 18 of the GAPI with the exception of sub-paragraph 18b.

6. In addition to the provisions contained in the GAPI, Officials, with the exception of officials seconded by Lithuania, shall be exempt from the application of the laws of Lithuania on social security provided that they are covered by a social security scheme provided for by the Council of Europe. This exemption shall not preclude voluntary participation in the social security system of the Republic of Lithuania to the extent that such participation is permitted by the relevant legislation of the Republic of Lithuania.

7. The Information Point and its Officials are permitted to display the Council of Europe’s insignia on premises used by the Information Point as well as its means of transport.

8. In cases where the Information Point purchases for its official use goods or services the price of which includes excise duties or taxes, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall take appropriate administrative measures for the remission or the refund of the amount of these duties and taxes, subject to the relevant legislation of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 4

1. The Parties shall provide to each other all information necessary for the proper implementation of this Agreement.

2. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any circumstances that interfere or threaten to interfere with the successful implementation of this Agreement. The Parties shall consult each other on any issue related to the implementation of this Agreement.

3. Any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by consultations between the Parties.

Article 5

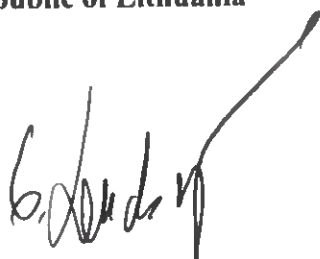
1. This Agreement may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the Parties. Such amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure provided for in paragraph 2 of the present Article of this Agreement.

2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the last written notification by which the Parties, through diplomatic channels, inform each other that all their internal legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement have been completed.

3. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of one (1) year and shall be further extended for subsequent periods of one (1) year unless terminated by either Party after giving notice to the other Party in writing through diplomatic channels at least three (3) months prior to the intended date of termination.

Done at Strasbourg, on 13 November 2024, in two originals in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

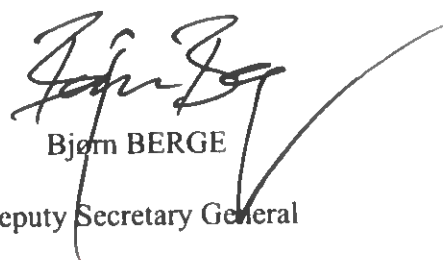
**For the Government of
the Republic of Lithuania**



Gabrielius LANDSBERGIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Council of Europe



Bjørn BERGE

Deputy Secretary General