

**PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA FOR 2004 – 2008**

VILNIUS, 2004

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SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**RESOLUTION No X-43****of 14 December 2004****on the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania
for 2004–2008**

Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, having considered the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2004–2008 and having regard to paragraph 7 of article 67 and sub-paragraph 5 of Article 92 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, r e s o l v e s:

Article 1

To approve the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2004 – 2008 submitted by Prime Minister Algirdas Mykolas BRAZAUSKAS.

Article 2

The Resolution shall enter into force from the date of its adoption.

CHAIRMAN OF THE SEIMAS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

ARTŪRAS PAULAUSKAS

PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA FOR 2004–2008

With the aim of implementing national strategic goals, Lithuania has created stable external security, economic growth and cultural identity preservation guarantees. The further objective of the country's economic growth is to focus on major social issues, i.e. to increase employment, promote social inclusion and raise welfare. The country will continue to develop political, economic, social and cultural democracy, to ensure the protection of human rights and freedoms, to strengthen health care, property protection and social guarantees of people.

The Coalition shall ensure the continuity of foreign policy and adherence to international commitments. Our country shall continue to be an active EU and NATO member and maintain good neighbourly relations.

Particular attention shall be paid to human investment, i.e. education, culture, science and health care; we shall seek to speed up national research and technology progress, information and knowledge society development.

The establishment of a socially oriented market economy model and sustainable development of national regions will go alongside with the effective implementation of economic reforms, promotion of production promotion as well as expansion of the service sector. We shall seek to make Lithuanian agriculture efficient and competitive. Rural issues and ways to deal with them shall be one of our top priorities.

With the creation of favourable conditions for foreign investment we shall contribute to business, especially SMEs development, improve public administration, delegate more rights to local government, tighten checks on the responsibility and accountability of civil servants with respect to their individual performance.

The key commitments of the Coalition Government for the 2004–2008 period are as follows:

1. ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

1.1. To foster the country's economic growth and bridge the gap between Lithuania and the leading European Union (EU) member states.

1.2. To draft a new long-term economic development strategy.

1.3. To build a socially oriented market economy; to ensure its sustainable development and an employment fostering policy.

1.4. To strengthen the competitive edge of national economy by giving priority to higher value-producing, research- and knowledge-based activity and advanced technologies.

1.5. To promote co-operation between industry and science for the best use of science potential available.

1.6. To encourage investment in human resources, knowledge and innovations as well as greenfield investments, investments in public infrastructure projects and the establishment of industrial zones.

1.7. To pursue a vigorous policy in the areas of export development and promotion, preservation of present markets and expansion into new markets. To create conditions for those investors who will create and expand production in great demand in the global market.

1.8. To ensure a rational planning and administration of EU structural funds and other financial assistance. To ensure transparent and effective utilization thereof and target them primarily for national and public needs. To steer the activities of institutions toward preparations for the EU programming period 2007–2013.

1.9. To introduce concrete measures to reduce disparities in development existing between different Lithuanian regions whilst utilizing EU structural funds. To establish conditions for the implementation of Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant decommissioning projects, to attract investment for the construction of new nuclear plants.

1.10. To develop the entrepreneurial skills of the nation, which provide the foundation for economic growth; to create the most favourable conditions for business start-up and development in Lithuania.

1.11. To consider small and medium-sized business (SMB) to be the foundation of the national economy and the precondition for the formation of the middle class; to create a more favourable climate for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

1.12. To support and encourage SMB, to improve tax system for companies involved in this sector, abolish business-strangling legislation, provide state support to newly established companies and encourage their increase.

1.13. To implement anti-trust tools ensuring fair competition.

1.14. To legalise equal participation of business-associated structures in drafting laws and other legislation, in management of funds targeted for support of business development, in discussing and deciding on a number of other important economic and business development-related issues.

1.15. To introduce new business support forms, including financial assistance (risk capital, microcredits) and make every possible use of EU financial support.

1.16. To improve business information, consulting and training quality. To target funds for the training and remuneration of specialists who would help business entities draft projects to receive EU financial assistance.

1.17. To encourage business development in problem regions and rural areas.

1.18. To bridge the economic and social development gap between the country's regions, to draft a national programme for economic and social development gap reduction and regional development, to lay down specific state aid measures therein, starting with tax and investment benefits.

2. ENERGY SECTOR

2.1. To ensure the delivery of energy services and meet the energy needs of the Lithuanian people and business entities at accessible prices.

2.2. With the above aim in mind, to encourage competence in the energy sector and coordinate it with the state regulation of energy services and prices for electricity charged by producers so that prices would be set with respect to necessary costs, thereby ensuring the energy sector development and continuous power supply to customers.

2.3. To enhance electricity production capacities by utilising renewable energy resources and alternative energy sources.

2.4. To seek that Lithuania would become a part of the EU single energy market with the future prospect of the link-up of Lithuanian and Polish energy networks as well as Lithuanian and Latvian gas supply systems.

2.5. To seek that Lithuania would remain a state with nuclear power generating facilities.

3. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

3.1. To increase the attractiveness of Lithuania as a transit country, to simplify customs transit procedures as regulated by a series of EU legislation provisions.

3.2. To ensure equal competition and tax conditions for different means of transport, i.e. road, railway, air and maritime transport, and business entities involved therein according to their respective areas of activities.

3.3. To reorganise the railway transport sector of Lithuania. To liberalise the railway transport services market in respect of EU legislation provisions stipulating the strengthening of railway market regulation institutions. To continue with ongoing Trans-European Network (TEN) projects in Lithuania and draft new ones.

3.4. To achieve full integration of the Lithuanian roadway sector into the EU road transport system, to modernize international roadway sections in the territory of Lithuania, to develop the regional (local) road infrastructure and its links with motorways. To promote the development of the service market of cargo and passenger carriers and establishment of logistics centres.

3.5. To establish a rational safe traffic structure that would determine the concatenations and interaction of all links, to encourage introduction of information and telecommunications technologies to ensure road safety in Lithuania.

3.6. To develop maritime transport, to increase competitiveness, capacity and safety of Klaipėda State Seaport, to continue its modernisation, to take a flexible approach in response to international market changes. To take a concerted effort to make the Šventoji State Seaport an integral part of the Lithuanian transport and tourism infrastructure. To improve legislation regulating the functioning of Šventoji State Seaport.

3.7. To modernise the airport infrastructure in compliance with the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) and Schengen Convention regulations by introducing modern aviation safety and security systems and improving quality of services available for passengers.

3.8. To promote modernisation of the Lithuanian vehicle fleet by economic and legal measures.

4. CONSTRUCTION

4.1. To establish conditions for the further increase of construction potential, to modernise the above sector, to ensure transparent competitive climate therein and encourage real property development and investment.

4.2. To ensure sustainable construction and housing sector development, to enact the Housing Strategy on a consistent basis, to make improvements in housing, housing fund and quality of the environment for population; to upgrade housing crediting system, create conditions for housing modernisation and introduce relevant financial mechanisms for that purpose.

4.3. To improve the state control of territory planning, building project and construction, to simplify building permit issuance procedures and procedures for change of the purpose of land use, to make use of a relevant information system to this end. To launch a telecommunications-run information system for the provision of services.

5. FINANCE

5.1. To increase funding for social security, education, science, health care and culture on a consistent basis, to use and allocate financial resources in the most effective and targeted way, thereby ensuring that basic public needs are met.

5.2. To create better housing purchase or renting conditions for families by providing subsidized housing credits and supporting social housing development.

5.3. To plan the national budget in accordance with the relevant programmes and in line with the strategic interests of the state; to ensure transparency in the budget drafting and implementation phases.

5.4. To create an expedient system for ensuring control and transparency in the use of state property and resources, including the taxpayers' money.

5.5. To seek the transparent, clear, simple and efficient tax administration; to establish the principle of mutual trust as the basis for the relationship between a tax administrator and a tax payer once the rights and responsibilities of parties involved have been properly balanced.

5.6. To increase the number of tax payers, to promote commercial and entrepreneurial activities and reduce the administration burden. To encourage prompt and honest payment of taxes, to restrict the extent of the shadow economy by enlarging the part of GDP allocations through the budget.

5.7. To significantly decrease the movement of illegal goods by implementing an IT system in customs for mapping the movement of goods, and by strengthening border control.

5.8. To improve tax system thereby ensuring the increase of the Lithuanian business competitiveness in the EU and global markets.

5.9. To seek a maximum shortening of the period for VAT refund.

5.10. To achieve a better balance of labour force and taxable capital gains.

5.11. To gradually reduce the tax burden of population, especially for low-income people, and to increase the minimum tax-free income. To raise the minimum monthly wage.

5.12. In accordance with the EU provisions, to seek the application of preferential VAT rates to food products and medicines.

5.13. To amend the Law on Public Procurement and change the procedure of public procurement.

5.14. To seek the actual assessment of the country's economic growth and financial stability while addressing the issues on Lithuania's entry into the eurozone, to seek the creation of favourable conditions for the development of Lithuania's economy and improvement of people's quality of life.

5.15. To promote finance sector development, stability, and integration into the EU financial markets.

5.16. To make restitution for rouble deposits.

5.17. To complete restitution of land and other existing real property to which ownership rights have been restored.

5.18. To pay compensation for property redeemed by state (land, forest, water bodies, residential houses, apartments, etc.).

6. RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

6.1. To draft the National Rural Development Programme and lay down the rules for all legal, economic, social, and cultural agriculture and rural development measures and provision of adequate resources therein.

6.2. To strengthen the economic and manufacturing potential of the agricultural sector by investments and other effective structural instruments, to foster and promote the competitiveness of producers in domestic and foreign markets.

6.3. Together with the other new EU member states, to seek a speedier means of becoming equal with the old EU member states in terms of receiving the EU direct payments and rural development support (per hectare, production unit or economic entity).

6.4. To seek higher agricultural production quotas in the most promising sectors, thereby providing opportunities for farmers to increase production and income generated from agricultural business.

6.5. To introduce the EU market regulation mechanisms in Lithuania, thereby facilitating the rise of purchase prices of agricultural production with respect to the EU average purchase price levels; to regulate by law the economic relations between agricultural producers, processing industry, and traders. To eliminate the purchase price differences in agricultural products between small and large-scale producers.

6.6. To encourage the domestic consumption of the Lithuanian origin food products as well as their export and establishment of special export agencies in other countries with the aim of more efficient use of present markets and expansion into new markets; to maintain and increase a positive trade balance of agricultural products and food products.

6.7. To introduce an effective crediting system of agricultural entities by promoting and supporting the sustainable development of credit unions and establishment of co-operative banks.

6.8. To develop ecological farming, to significantly increase the certified land plots for that purpose, to support the production of high-quality and healthy food products, to help farmers produce raw material for fuel resources.

6.9. To implement measures that help solve socio-economic problems of small and uncompetitive farmers by rational use of the EU funds.

6.10. To increase employment in the rural areas; to this end, to provide support for the development of alternative activities, small businesses, crafts, tourism, and other services sector.

6.11. To pursue rural regional policy in a more efficient way, aim to faster reduce regional and urban-rural disparities in terms of income, living standards and access to services.

6.12. To provide the best possible conditions for the youth to settle in the rural areas, to support the young farmers from the EU structural funds, thus ensuring the continuity of farming or other business activity from generation to generation.

6.13. Aiming to contribute to more sustainable regional development, to pay additional direct annual payments from relevant EU funds to farmers working on poor soils and less favoured areas as well as areas with environmental restrictions.

6.14. To promote the development of rural cooperation in every possible way, to increase its financial support.

6.15. To improve the intervention grain purchase procedure.

6.16. To effectively use the EU structural funds for the renovation of land reclamation and hydrotechnic structures in order to provide normal farming conditions for the owners of reclaimed lands.

6.17. To allocate programme budget funds for the improvement of technical conditions of the state-owned land reclamation and hydrotechnic structures.

6.18. To provide state financial support (up to 85 percent of the projects' value) for the timely renovation of land reclamation structures.

6.19. To find possibilities to arrange for the rehabilitation of unutilized land for agricultural purpose and buildings.

6.20. To create preconditions for the formation of agricultural holdings of the competitive farms, to provide state support to agricultural entities for the acquisition of agricultural land, and to allocate the EU funds for the consolidation of land plots.

6.21. To complete restitution of land and other real property, to complete payment of compensations for land, forest and waters redeemed by the state.

6.22. To provide support to entities for the afforestation of lands with low agricultural productivity.

6.23. To aim that the EU fisheries policy would ensure sustainable and viable development of this sector in the maritime and inland waters, to seek improvement of preservation of fishery resources and breeding of valuable fish species in ponds, modernisation of processing enterprises, increase of the stock and export of fisheries products.

6.24. To ensure the EU and state support to the solution of water management problems in rural areas; to give adequate attention to the development and renovation of cultural, educational, health care and other facilities so that the establishment of the advantages of the system infrastructure meets the quality-of-life requirements in the rural population.

6.25. To review the financing of the Road Maintenance and Development Programme, to allocate more funds for the development of the local road and street network with corresponding constructions and improvement thereof.

6.26. To promote and support the establishment of rural communities and the implementation of the projects they have drafted to address local social and cultural problems and to foster rural community traditions.

6.27. To further increase the role of the farmer self-governance and rural non-governmental organisations in the agrarian sector, to support their activities, to strengthen the cooperation between public authorities and local government organisations.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND FORESTRY

7. 1. To widely implement and economically stimulate the clean means of production based on advanced technologies.

7.2. To create an effective hazardous waste management system and capacities thereof.

7.3. To site 11 new dumps, to close the majority of old dumps and clean up the affected territories.

7.4. To improve waste collection and sorting as well as the use of secondary waste by implementing the EU targets on recycling of packaging materials. To promote a waste-to-energy approach.

7.5. To modernize the water management sector, to establish, on a regional basis, an efficient system of administrative institutions. In order to ensure the proper quality of drinking water, to draft and start the implementation of the programme for the evaluation of underground water resources and their use for drinking water supply, to complete the stocktaking of potential geological environmental pollution hot spots, to set specific goals for underground water protection.

7.6. To draft the programme for the reduction of atmospheric pollution in order to ensure the implementation of the EU air quality requirements, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

7.7. To economically stimulate the production and use of an environmentally friendlier fuel and biofuel.

7.8. To strengthen control of the market of genetically modified organisms, to create the system for the safe use and handling of hazardous chemical substances.

7.9. Together with other states, to prevent the pollution and accident risk in the Baltic Sea. To improve water quality in the Nemunas River and the Curonian Lagoon.

7.10. To implement the Coastline and the Nemunas River Delta Management Programme.

7.11. To adopt measures in order to prevent the negative karstic effects (sinkholes) for the engineering structures and buildings in the towns and regions of Biržai and Pasvalys, to assess the country's territory from the perspective of other hazardous geological phenomena.

7.12. To draft programmes and measures for the planning of protected areas, management of the most valuable national heritage sites and restoration of the affected areas in parks and nature reserves. To create conditions for the public to visit protected areas, to draft planning documents of protected areas, to draft programmes for the management of the most valuable national heritage sites and restoration of the affected areas in parks and natural resources and to implement the measures adopted therein. To complete the formation of the protected areas network (NATURA 2000).

7.13. To improve the environmental protection management, to strengthen the institutional system in the area of administration of the use of the EU funds, to ensure openness and publicity in the drafting and implementation of environmental projects, to ensure the investment effectiveness, to create conditions for the public to take an active part in the decision-making process.

7.14. To ensure sustainable development (in the area of restoration and use) of the integrated public forestry sector.

7.15. To improve the continuous and integrated public and private forest protection, forest management quality, and the implementation of the principles of sustainable agroforestry, to ensure the implementation of the integrated management and protection systems for the hunting and forestry sector.

7.16. To increase the forest coverage in the country, to stimulate the afforestation of poor soils, to carry out a long-term programme for the development of forests and the forestry sector.

7.17. To draft a programme for the development of the forestry sector and wood industry, to promote wood processing and export of wood products. To orient research towards the application of cutting-edge technological developments and technologies in the area of wood processing.

7.18. To ensure that reliable information on environment is collected and made public.

8. LABOUR, FAMILY, SOCIAL SECURITY

8.1. To implement an active employment and human resources policy development so that each citizen of our country could find here an appropriate job.

8.2. To provide conditions for the creation of at least 150 thousand new jobs in the country within the next 4 years. To achieve that the unemployment level is brought down to 8 percent and less and reduce the youth and long-term unemployment.

8.3. To support the establishment of appropriately equipped workplaces. To promote investment into workplace quality and work safety improvements.

8.4. To consistently increase salaries in the public sector, to promote the growth of salaries in the private sector.

8.5. To achieve the increase of the average minimum wage to LTL 1800 per month, and the increase of the minimum monthly wage to LTL 800 per month by 2008.

8.6. To promote and increase business social responsibility.

8.7. In the area of amendment of legislation regulating labour relations, to apply the principle of coordination between the flexibility of labour relations and safe employment.

8.8. To promote fair relations between employer and employee, social partnership, and development of collective labour relations.

8.9. In the area of implementation of employment and social security policy measures, to seek social harmony and dialogue; on the regional and national level, to regularly cooperate with social partners such as employers' organisations, trade unions, and non-governmental organisations representing interests of different social groups.

8.10. To effectively take advantage of opportunities to modernise the Lithuanian labour market from the EU funds, to exercise an active employment policy, to develop human resources.

8.11. To improve the public sector social insurance system, to increase its coverage.

8.12. To modernise the pension system, to achieve its better transparency, validity of benefits and financial stability.

8.13. To increase social insurance old-age and disability pensions in order to create a steady increase in the purchasing power of pensioners. With the steady annual increase of the average old-age pension, to make it at least LTL 650 per month in 2008.

8.14. To increase the minimum non-taxable income to LTL 390 and to increase the minimum monthly wage to LTL 600 in 2006.

8.15. To ensure the successful and financially stable functioning of the cumulative pension system by rational coordination of the present and future pensioners' interests. To create conditions for the development of voluntary pension insurance and cumulative life insurance.

8.16. To motivate senior people to stay in the labour market, to ensure lifelong learning opportunities. To improve social security for individuals who have lost their jobs with 3-5 years prior to the retirement age; to improve the mechanism for the advance pension payment system.

8.17. Through an active employment policy and development of social security measures, to reduce social exclusion and poverty risk, to achieve larger social coverage and better social cohesion. To make social assistance more targeted, to

improve its organisation by taking account of the beneficiaries' property and income level.

8.18. To consistently implement measures that could guarantee income for living a fully fledged life for those citizens who have completely or temporarily left labour market due to the old age, disability, parental leave or other important reasons.

8.19. To increase the level of state supported income, basic social benefits, and all social allowances related to these indices. To implement the mechanism for wage and social benefit indexation protecting individual earnings from inflation.

8.20. To more flexibly and rationally reimburse heating and other expenses related to housing costs to rural and urban residents; to take account of the family property and income level.

8.21. For each disabled individual, to guarantee the necessary means of special support and to provide a better and greater range of social services that would meet their needs, to make the living environment better suit their needs.

8.22. To create conditions for the disabled who are willing and able to work to find a job according to their capabilities.

8.23. To modernise the social services provision system and to improve the financing mechanism thereof.

8.24. To implement measures that would enable parents who have left the labour market due to the child care to return to it in an easier way, to help them refresh their professional skills, to create conditions for their employment and further a successful balance between their work and family duties.

8.25. To provide social support to families bringing children: to implement the payment of allowances for each child until 18 years of age or longer until they go to secondary school; to gradually increase the maternity (paternity) benefits that are paid until the child turns one year old. To provide social support to large families.

8.26. To provide lump-sum benefits to children from socially disadvantaged families for their preparation for school and free of charge meals in education institutions.

8.27. Aiming to reduce the numbers of foster children in child care institutions and to promote their care in families and foster families, to reform the child care system, to improve work with problem families. To improve adoption procedures; first, to take account of the interests of the child.

8.28. To protect the interests of the child, to exercise proper protection of their rights.

8.29. To consistently pursue an equal opportunities policy, to further implement legal, administrative and other measures so that nobody is discriminated against on the grounds of gender, race, nationality, convictions or other reasons.

8.30. Taking account of the significant demographical changes, to pursue the social security and employment policy on a consistent basis. To implement provisions of the National Strategy on Demographic Policy and the National Strategy on Overcoming the Consequences of Population Ageing.

8.31. To ensure that social and cultural needs of the nationals of the Republic of Lithuania who have made use of the right of free movement are better met abroad. To draft and implement measures encouraging economic migrants to return to their homeland.

9. HEALTH CARE

9.1. To encourage investment in health promotion and disease prevention, and ensure accessible and qualitative health care. To take regard of health and well-being priorities when drafting laws which regulate national economic development and environmental protection.

9.2. To reform the system of public health by bringing it closer to the community and devising tools for rapid response to incidents and emergencies. To develop a uniform model of individual and public health service delivery at the primary health care level.

9.3. To ensure the early detection and effective treatment of the most frequent diseases (cardiovascular disease, cancers and diabetes). To facilitate regular and free-of-charge breast and cervical cancer screening for all women in the age group 30-65. To develop and encourage implementation of patient education programmes at the primary health care level.

9.4. To pay special attention to pregnant women and infants, in terms of health care provision. To give more attention to the preservation and improvement of health of children and youth. To provide free vaccination against the immunisation schedule, and ensure free dental services to children. To extend the network of children rehabilitation and spa recuperation services, and provide counselling to children and youth at risk.

9.5. To ensure free prosthodontic services for pensioners, and reduce waiting times for endoprothetic services.

9.6. To strengthen mental health of people, encourage an individual-friendly social environment and foster a sense of communal togetherness, and solidarity. To involve various sectors and strengthen their interaction in the fight against HIV and AIDS as well as addiction-related diseases.

9.7. To regularly issue public updates on health services, fees and indicators of institutional performance. To make arrangements for the introduction of e-prescription.

9.8. To seek the implementation of compulsory third party insurance for medical institutions. To cooperate with the social care sector in addressing social and health problems, and reducing social and economic differences in relation to health and health care.

9.9. To promote voluntary health insurance and specify extra services for the coverage.

9.10. To increase funding for health care. To accelerate the restructuring of health care institutions, and, to this end, identify the future need for specialists. To further increase salaries and social benefits for doctors and nurses. To arrange for the professional enhancement of health care specialists; to pay more attention to training, re-training and skills development of nursing specialists.

9.11. To separate primary and secondary outpatient services, encourage the establishment of outpatient diagnostic centres. To rearrange the order of payment for primary health services by combining a fee-for-service with a number of registered patients. To seek for trouble-shooting at outpatient level, and, to his end, provide financial incentive for the most active entities. To support health improvement and education at primary level. To develop community nursing with the assistance of public health professionals. To arrange for equal conditions for both private and public health care institutions. To pay special attention to the development of infrastructure of primary health care network in rural areas. To provide financial incentives for general practitioners in rural and out-metropolitan areas.

9.12. To optimise the number of public health care institutions. To encourage private health care network development, particularly in rural areas.

9.13. To upgrade the first-aid fleet. To develop nursing and palliative services in regional health care institutions.

9.14. To take advantage offered by the evidence-based medicine in working out new and elaborating current guidelines for disease treatment and diagnostics. To keep them updated on a regular basis.

9.15. To review and increase health care service charges by including actual depreciation costs related to medical equipment and premises. To prioritise primary health care, irrespective of the ownership type of the service provider, in terms of eligibility for the funding from the EU structural funds earmarked for reforming and modernisation of the health system.

9.16. To concentrate complex hi-tech-based health care services. In order to ensure accessibility of such services, an optimum regional network of service providers is to be developed, and organisational as well as patient transportation system to be upgraded. To further develop IT-aided diagnosis for instant results and their assessment. To pool medical practitioners, researchers and business entities for the introduction and management of health and pharmacy-related IT systems.

9.17. To improve the pharmaceutical wholesale pricing system, and ensure that the price of imports does not exceed the EU level. In the group of therapeutic alternates, to refund on the basis of the lowest priced prescription drug in the group. To set up a framework ensuring that all the products in the pharmaceutical market are of good quality.

9.18. To negotiate special price arrangements with the pharmaceutical manufacturers most heavily funded from the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund on the quantity of refunded medicaments sold to the public according to the universal market principle: greater sales, lower prices. To increase the refunded share in prescription drugs for pensioners and the disabled. To encourage the development of pharmaceutical industry in Lithuania. To ensure easy access to pharmaceuticals throughout the country.

9.19. To encourage the development of community nursing home network. To legislate nursing service fees, and introduce a higher fee for care of chronically ill patients, encouraging voluntary financial contribution, invite cooperation with the social sector. Develop the range of services delivered at nursing homes.

9.20. To ensure good quality of basic rehabilitation and recuperation services, and encourage the development of the network of outpatient rehabilitation services. To increase the refund share for rehabilitation services.

9.21. To develop health-related scientific research with regard to health policy implementation and appraisal.

10. EDUCATION, SCIENCE, INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

10.1. To implement the Strategic Guidelines for the Development of Education for 2003-2012 by bringing the system of education and science in line with changing public demands. To make education and science accessible to all, encourage life-long learning. To increase funding for the science and education system.

10.2. To achieve universal school attendance by school-age children, and target at 85% secondary school graduation rate by the youth of the respective age. To provide conditions, ensuring access to higher education for more than half of the Lithuanian youth.

10.3. To further improve the school network and management through higher decentralisation. To foster closer interaction between general education and vocational training.

10.4. To develop the system of education monitoring and quality assurance.

10.5. To seek to arrange for school transportation for the majority of children.

10.6. To arrange for the school renovation and the upgrade of teaching facilities.

10.7. To further improve informal education and after-school activities for children, ensure better access to informal teaching and interest-based after-school activities. To this end, utilise school premises and pay after-school teachers.

10.8. To provide better conditions for adult learning, and make every effort that at least a quarter of adult learning centres cooperate closely with foreign partners.

10.9. To promote a healthy life-style, strengthen disease prevention and take measures against child abuse, violence, addiction to tobacco, alcohol and drugs. To this end, to pool the efforts of public institutions, media, academic society and general public.

10.10. To improve profiled model with a view of gradual transition to an individual syllabus. To develop career consulting services at comprehensive secondary schools and gymnasia (high schools) level.

10.11. To foster schools of Lithuanian national minorities, provide basis for better self-expression, resulting in faster acquisition of the official state language.

10.12. To make allocations for the professional enhancement of teachers and lecturers, to support state-funded qualification raising.

10.13. To advance the process of school computerisation; continue implementation of school renovation programme.

10.14. To carry out the reform of vocational training, ensuring qualification-labour market compatibility, recognition and transparency of vocational qualifications, flexibility and accessibility. To streamline the curriculum of vocational training.

10.15. To ensure access to state supported continued education.

10.16. To draft and approve a National Plan for the Development of Higher Education, setting out the requirements for quality, effectiveness and accessibility. To tailor qualifications to better meet market demands.

10.17. To improve the funding framework for higher education, by attracting off-budget resources. To encourage case studies assessing the performance of higher education institutions.

10.18. To improve educational quality, and seek that at least half of the study programmes of higher education institutions are assessed by international experts.

10.19. To achieve European recognition of Lithuanian qualifications, to implement the mobility programme Europass, and double the international teacher and student exchange.

10.20. To provide more support for students, especially from poor families. To carry out a student loan and scholarship reform, enabling the youth to opt for more difficult but also more important professions, in terms of national economic development.

10.21. To continue the renovation of student dormitories, improving students' living conditions.

10.22. To increase the role of social stakeholders in the management of higher education institutions. To address the problem of scope overlap between the degree and non-degree sector of higher education and ensure closer cooperation between them.

10.23. To facilitate access to relevant databases for researchers and students, and create conditions for regional institutions to gain access to extensive collections of scientific and technical literature.

10.24. To increase funding for studies until the EU has been achieved, to provide framework for private business investments in science, R&D and case studies.

10.25. To review the mechanism of money allocation for science and studies, by earmarking state commissioned and programme-based funding for science and studies; to encourage a better quality in scientific research and its relevance in application; to develop new technologies facilitating the creation of new jobs. To implement long-term investment in fundamental scientific research.

10.26. To build up the competitiveness of the Lithuanian science; increasingly rely on science in developing new technologies, which will contribute to the creation of new well-paid jobs.

10.27. To support value-added innovative SMEs and increase their international cooperation.

10.28. To utilise national and EU structural funds for the improvement of R&D infrastructure.

10.29. To coordinate scientific priorities between Lithuania and other European countries, to provide conditions for joint action. To reduce brain drain and foster brain gain.

10.30. To encourage the development of the IT and telecommunications sector. To put the Lisbon strategy and “e-action” plan to practice.

10.31. To achieve computer literacy by the majority of population and to advance a high-speed Internet connection in almost every school.

10.32. To establish a network of public Internet access centres. To have at least 1000 opened across the country.

10.33. To arrange for e-government services to be provided for both private individuals as well as legal entities. To link state registers and information systems into a secure public institution network.

10.34. To increase salaries for teachers, lecturers and scientists.

10.35. To support farmers' education, continuous learning, information, consultation as well as applied scientific studies in the agricultural sector. To place the development of agricultural science, innovation application and technological modernisation among the top priorities in agricultural development.

11. YOUTH

11.1. To support young families by guaranteeing a preferential long-term housing credit and compensating interest paid for housing credit.

11.2. To encourage entrepreneurship. To make every effort to create favourable conditions for as many young people as possible to start up a business.

11.3. To encourage the consolidation of youth organisations, contributing to the build-up of social conscience and enabling to address issues of military service, education and science, employment and housing, leisure, social and health care, sports, crime prevention, etc. To encourage the development of associated youth structures; to support their interaction with local authorities and the community.

11.4. To increase allocations for youth projects.

12. CULTURE

12.1. To allocate more funds for cultural institutions, and encourage sponsorship. To consolidate the system and mechanisms, helping to work out the criteria for priorities of the Culture and Sport Support Foundation, and ensuring that the budget allocations earmarked for culture and sports are provided for relevant projects.

12.2. To encourage active involvement of artists as well as public art and culture organizations in the policy-making process. To support religious communities in their endeavours to reinforce public morality.

12.3. To carry out projects and measures, which are in line with major objectives of the national development and strategic priorities of cultural policies.

12.4. To establish a new order for the support of professional artists.

12.5. To complete the restructuring of the system of protection of cultural heritage, and carry out the preservation projects of cultural values and manor heritage. To increase funding for the protection of cultural heritage.

12.6. To activate the production and dissemination of national films.

12.7. To renovate and modernise libraries, leisure centres and museums. To ensure an update of museum exhibits.

12.8. To allocate resources for the development of the Lithuanian regional and ethnic culture, and encourage the initiatives of public civic culture. To intensify the dissemination of culture-related information.

12.9. To allocate funds for the début performances of young artists, and for the implementation of the programme for young artist support. To enhance cultural and artistic education in pre-school and school children.

12.10. To ensure the Lithuanian language supremacy in all the areas of public life, to advance its application in computer-writing, and introduce the system of machine-aided translation. To promote the publication of the Lithuanian literature and its translations in Lithuania and across the EU.

12.11. To reinforce the protection system of the rights of authors and right holders, to raise public awareness of the intellectual property rights (IPR).

12.12. To coordinate promotion of Lithuanian culture and art abroad, to develop cultural diplomacy. To provide conditions for including Lithuania's cultural products into the international cultural exchange.

12.13. To implement the National Lithuania's Millennium, Regional Culture Development and Ethnic Culture Development Programmes; to support and promote creative activities of amateurs. To cherish the tradition of Lithuanian Song Festivals.

12.14. To strengthen rural cultural institutions.

12.15. To prepare a long-term strategy on the relations of the state with its nationals living abroad.

12.16. To adopt a long-term policy development strategy for national (ethnic) communities and to enforce its implementation.

13. SPORT, TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

13.1. To support and sponsor sports contributing to the formation of Lithuania's image and to the improvement of human health; to coordinate state policies and measures promoting both professional and popular sports. To organise more sports events, to initiate the adaptation of sports facilities for the needs of health improvement and amateur athletics. To promote mass sports events building up solidarity and activity of a community.

13.2. To promote sports activities of the youth and to increase funding of sports programmes through attracting private capital and community funding.

13.3. To establish an Alliance for Recreation, Tourism, Health and Sports with the aim of mobilising universities and schools, Government and businesses as well as the broad public for shaping and implementation of a general healthy lifestyle policy.

13.4. To prepare healthy lifestyle models for various communities in order to enable them to make their own choices.

13.5. To upgrade sports facilities designed for sports events in accordance with the European standards in order to train highly skilled sportsmen. To encourage organisation of international sports events in Lithuania.

13.6. To set clear criteria and norms for support to highly-skilled national teams and individual athletes of professional sport. To improve selection of talented athletes and their training system. To establish professional upgrade centres for physical culture and sports specialists.

13.7. To shape the country's touristic image, to found new Lithuanian tourist information centres abroad and to open possibilities for further development of resorts.

13.8. To use financing of the EU structural funds for reconstruction and renovation of the objects of cultural and historical heritage and their adaptation to tourism needs, following the principle of balanced regional development.

13.9. To enlarge the network of routes and tourist services infrastructure for national water, bicycle and other types of tourism.

13.10. To support development of rural tourism. To create favourable conditions for incoming tourism.

14. GOVERNANCE OF THE STATE

14.1. To optimise the system of public administration based on professional public service and development of the knowledge and information society. To eliminate negative phenomena related to corruption and red-tape.

14.2. To establish an optimal framework of state institutions, which clearly reflects administrative relations between institutions, their hierarchy, subordination and distribution of functions, and serves the interest of people.

14.3. To facilitate the adoption of legislative amendments providing for direct elections of mayors and neighbourhood chief executives.

14.4. To increase operational and financial independence of local authorities, to expand their functions continuously and methodically.

14.5. To form the budgets of neighbourhoods, acting as appropriation managers, for implementation of their assigned duties out of municipal budget funds.

14.6. To reform county administrations by leaving them the duties of preparation, implementation and coordination of regional projects. To delegate to municipalities responsibility and functions related with the needs of the municipality residents in the fields of agriculture, land management, social security, health care, education, culture, public order, etc., except for the objects of regional importance.

14.7. To amend Article 68 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania so as to reduce the minimal number of citizens that have the right of legislative initiative from 50,000 to 30,000.

14.8. To improve the selection of public officials and their performance assessment procedures.

14.9. To establish that legal acts are adopted with due consideration of the needs and opinion of the public, and that the impact of drafted and acting legislation is assessed by experts, academic institutions as well as by the interested business and self-government institutions. To encourage participation of local community representatives in the decision-making process.

15. LEGAL SYSTEM

15.1. To ensure constitutional rights of an individual and security of private life; to improve human rights protection mechanisms in Lithuania, including the obligation to take into consideration decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice. To create suitable conditions at courts to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of nationality, gender, beliefs, on defending their rights and legitimate interests or seeking justice.

15.2. To amend the Law on Courts of the Republic of Lithuania and to strengthen responsibility of the judiciary by legitimating a mandatory participation of representatives of the public in the activities of the Court of Honour of Judges. To increase independence of courts, to encourage the active participation of the general public in the process of the selection of judges. To reduce the administrations of law enforcement institutions.

15.3. To ensure reliable protection of citizen's life, health and property. To create a single national emergency service capable to undertake all kinds of rescue action.

15.4. In police activities to set priority on social services and prevention, rather than on administrative and punitive measures, and to provide an adequate funding to that purpose.

15.5. To ensure not only respect of human rights and freedoms at the custodies and penal institutions executing sentences imposed by the court, but also an adequate funding of these institutions for implementation of programmes on re-socialisation of the convicts.

15.6. To create and implement a model of probational postponement of the sentence and conditional discharge that would be in compliance with the provisions of international law and would serve as a deterrent against repetitive offence.

15.7. To create an efficient system of loss compensation to the victims of violent crime. To compensate for the losses inflicted by illicit actions of public institutions. To provide better access to the lawyer's services for crime victims – and, with this in mind, to improve the activities of Victims Support Foundation. To provide an opportunity for any individual to benefit efficiently from the legal support system guaranteed by the State – all Lithuanian residents are eligible to get primary legal support free of charge and at their convenience.

15.8. To prevent corruption at public institutions, unfair competition in business, to amend the public procurement practices. To tighten penalties imposed on corrupt officials and to strengthen prevention of corruption-related crime. To revise the application of limitation periods for such offences. To fight against smuggling and bribery and to apply strict penalties for these offences.

15.9. In combating organised crime, to achieve also elimination of crime generating factors.

15.10. To improve the fight against financial offences, especially against infringements related with the attraction and use of the EU funding and other foreign aid.

15.11. To strengthen prevention and control system targeting drugs-related violent crime and juvenile offences.

15.12. To create a necessary infrastructure at the EU external frontiers and to ensure an appropriate service level for individuals crossing the border. To prepare for the membership of the Schengen area. To improve the unified nation-wide system for migration management.

15.13. To endeavour to achieve stability of the acting legislation, to avoid its frequent amendments and to ensure full publicity of all legal acts.

15.14. To introduce new services providing convenient access to data of various registers (the Register of Immovable Property, the Register of Legal Persons, etc.)

15.15. To implement a system of popular legal education which would enable every pupil, as early as the secondary school level, to choose an introductory course on the principles of law providing basic legal knowledge on family relations, labour relations and relations with various authorities.

15.16. To change the procedures of funding of political parties so as to establish clear and transparent rules preventing illegal acquisition and use of funding.

16. NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY

16.1. To ensure security and democratic development of Lithuania in the context of new opportunities and threats. To cherish Euro-Atlantic cooperation as a basic prerequisite of national security, while NATO and the EU – as the key organisations of such cooperation.

16.2. To establish a firm position within NATO and the EU, to develop partnerships with NATO and EU member states. To seek for support of these countries while adopting collective decisions. To rely actively on regional cooperation structures and initiatives and to make Lithuania a centre of inter-regional cooperation.

16.3. To support further integration of the EU Member States with consideration of the national interests of Lithuania. To prepare to act under the conditions set forth in the EU Constitutional Treaty. To develop and start implementing the concept of the Presidency of the EU.

16.4. To promote expansion of stability and democracy eastwards as a necessary prerequisite to the success of Lithuania's long term development. To support the "open door policy" of NATO and the EU.

16.5. To support democratic reforms in Ukraine, Russia and Transcaucasian states, to encourage the determination of these countries to join the area of Euro-Atlantic cooperation. To support the efforts of Belarus to strengthen its independence, democracy and civil society. To develop good neighbourly relations with these

countries, to establish Lithuania as an expert of the European Neighbourhood Policy. To seek for conclusion of free trade agreements with these countries.

16.6. In cooperation with the EU institutions, to promote social and economic development of the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation as well as participation both of this Region and Russia as a whole in European cooperation processes.

16.7. To participate in international missions and operations, to strengthen solidarity of NATO and EU member states. To support actively the efforts of international community to combat terrorism.

16.8. To develop further Lithuania's multilateral relations paying more attention to the issue of human rights. To seek to improve efficiency of international organisations. To strengthen international authority of Lithuania. To endeavour to develop Lithuania as a centre for international conferences and initiatives as well as a hosting country for various international organisations or their representative offices.

16.9. To develop international economic cooperation and to increase stability to the international economic environment. To promote Lithuania's integration into the European network of transport and energy infrastructure. To participate actively in the regulation of trade policy of the European Union, and to use its advantages. To strengthen the role of economic diplomacy, to seek trade and investment conditions favourable for Lithuanian business, to attract foreign investment.

16.10. To invigorate the policy of development and aid to the third countries, to increase its funding. To contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Goals declared by the United Nations.

16.11. To strengthen state information policy abroad. To prepare a national Public Relations Strategy and to provide it with adequate funding.

16.12. To strengthen analytical and forecasting capacities of public institutions. To expand the national system of crisis prevention and management involving all public institutions. To participate actively in the regional, European and international crisis management frameworks.

16.13. To continue the reform of national defence with the aim to create a modern, well-equipped army with full interoperability with our NATO and EU allies. To focus efforts on the update of legal basis, training of soldiers and improvement of their service conditions, development of international military cooperation, improvement of management system, infrastructure development and targeted acquisitions.

16.14. To cut by half the number of conscript servicemen by gradually increasing the number of professionals. To reorganise the army reserve, to define the involvement of the reserve forces in international operations and their functions in receiving allied forces and helping civil authorities.

16.15. To make sure that Lithuanian servicemen are properly provided for, have good service conditions and possibilities for improvement.

16.16. To improve the management of the Voluntary National Defence Service by separating strategic, operational and tactical levels, to reorganise the staffs and to eliminate overlapping and duplicating units.

16.17. To expand cooperation with Lithuania's education and science institutions as well as the broad public. To promote cooperation of the non-governmental sector with foreign partners. To seek active public participation in shaping and implementing national security and defence policy.

16.18. To implement other provisions of the agreement between Lithuanian parliamentary parties on the defence policy in 2005-2008 and the agreement between Lithuanian political parties on the key goals and objectives of national foreign policy in 2004-2008.
