



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
TEISĖS IR TEISĖTVARKOS KOMITETAS**

SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**ROLE OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN MONITORING OF
THE EUROPEAN AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE**

The current major issue in this field is cooperation in the political monitoring of Europol's activities and evaluation of Eurojust's activities.

Europol's and Eurojust's activities have been subject to parliamentary scrutiny by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania for several years. Since 2009 the Seimas Committee on European Affairs, with the participation of the Members of the Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs and Committee on National Security and Defence, holds hearings of annual reports on Europol's and Eurojust's activities in one of its meetings during spring sessions. The Seimas Committee of Legal Affairs, in the exercise of parliamentary scrutiny, considers annual activity reports by the Prosecution Service of the Republic of Lithuania each year. Information on the activities of the delegate of the Republic of Lithuania in Eurojust forms part of the reports.

In 2011, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, in the light of the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, has been more deeply engaged in this activity. The Seimas Committee on European Affairs, with the participation of the Members of the Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs and Committee on National Security and Defence, held a hearing of the annual reports on Europol's and Eurojust's activities during the spring session (8 June 2011) and referred them to the Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs and the Seimas Committee on National Security and Defence. In view of the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty and the consequent need to pay more attention to this exercise, the Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs considered the 2010 Europol's and Eurojust's annual activity reports on 14 September 2011.

- During the consideration of Europol Annual Report, the Committee on Legal Affairs heard the information on Europol's activities and participation of Lithuania's delegates in Europol's work in 2010, discussed Europol's operational activities and operational support provided for the Member States in 2010 in the fight against terrorism, trafficking in human beings, cigarettes and synthetic drugs, illegal migration, intellectual property and other crimes, as well as considered the scope of Europol's activities and further actions. The analysis of the problems pertaining to Europol's activities drew attention to the fact that the key difficulties were related to the support of special attachés, implementation of additional functions, growth in the number of pieces of information exchanged, and enormous resources needed for investigation of international organised crime. The meeting also examined the priorities in Europol's activities in 2011-2013 and possibility to meet them in Lithuania. In this respect, it is of particular importance to Lithuania to pay special attention, first and foremost, to reduction of production and distribution of synthetic drugs in the EU, fight against all forms of trafficking in and smuggling of human beings, decrease in the ability of mobile organised crime groups to get involved in criminal acts

and intensification of fight against cybercrime. In view of that, the Committee decided that it was urgent to allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the abovementioned priorities and consider them when discussing the Republic of Lithuania draft Law on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets for 2013.

- During the consideration of Eurojust's Annual Activity Report 2010, the Committee heard the information on Eurojust's activities and participation of Lithuania's delegates in Eurojust's activities as well as considered obstacles to Eurojust's judicial cooperation in criminal matters, use of Eurojust's judicial cooperation tools, judicial cooperation in priority areas of crime, and relations with EU partners. The meeting also discussed the legal status of prosecutor's offices in other European Union Member States, trends in this area and implementation of provisions of Lithuania's legal acts, which apply to the activities of Lithuania's law enforcement institutions.

Stasys Šedbaras
Chairman of the Committee

St. Šedbaras