

**JOINT DECLARATION FOR REINFORCED CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,

- Sharing the intention to reinforce and deepen the traditional relations of friendship and co-operation between the respective Countries and Governments, both at the bilateral as well as European and multilateral levels,
- Considering that the relations between Lithuania and Italy are based on strong political, economic, commercial and cultural bonds, strengthened by the common belonging to the European Union and NATO, as well as by a productive collaboration within international organisations,
- Considering that the two Countries are confronted with common challenges that require more profound consultation, in order to contribute to the promotion of common values such as peace, rule of law, democracy, human rights, security and sustainable development,
- Acknowledging with satisfaction the growth of economic and trade relations between the two Countries, and renewing the effort to further deepen reciprocal collaboration in sectors of common interest,
- Convinced of the importance of a regular and constructive dialogue on both bilateral and European, regional and international issues of common interest,
- Recognizing the necessity of developing closer cooperation between the foreign services in relation to the forthcoming presidencies of the EU Council to be held by Lithuania in 2013 and by Italy in 2014, respectively, and Lithuanian Presidency of OSCE in 2011,

have agreed upon the following:

1. The Parties will hold regular consultations in order to reinforce and expand their co-operation in the bilateral, European and multilateral contexts.

2. The annual consultations will take place at the level of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs/ Undersecretaries and/or High Officials, alternately in Lithuania and Italy. The date, place and agenda of these meetings will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

3. The consultations between the Parties will be particularly focused on the following:

- a. bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields;
- b. current issues on the agendas of the European Union and NATO;
- c. issues related to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and OSCE;
- d. European Neighbourhood Policy, including the Eastern Partnership;
- e. EU Common Foreign and Security Policy;
- f. energy security;
- g. United Nations and other international organizations;
- h. trade and investments promotion;
- i. consular affairs;
- j. public diplomacy.

4. This Declaration may be amended or supplemented by written agreement of the Parties.

5. This Declaration is open-ended and it can be suspended at any moment by any one of the Parties by a written six-month notice.

6. The Declaration will come into effect at the moment of signature.

Done in Rome, on the 3rd June of 2009 in two original copies in the English language.

**For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Lithuania**

**For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic**

