

**Questionnaire-
Parliaments of applicant states -**

Information of the European Affairs Committee in Lithuanian Parliament (the Seimas)

1. How does your Committee get the necessary information? From the Government? From the European Commission ? From the European Parliament ? From other sources ? Does your Committee consider the information in its possession sufficient ?

The biggest flow of information is received from the governmental bodies, European Committee under the Government and the line Ministries by the form of briefings and written material. Members of the committee can ask for additional information, as well.

There is no direct flow of information from the European Commission or from the European Parliament. The information is received from the internet or from Lithuanian Mission in Brussels. Though, we are looking forward for a more established flow of information from European Parliament.

The secretariat of the committee has to rely on their own initiative looking for the information. Therefore, the amount and quality of the information is very important.

2. Integration of European legislation.

Do the standard legislative proceedings apply to the integration of European legislation into national law or do you apply special proceedings? Does your Committee play a specific role in the legislative integration process?

Standard legislative procedures apply to the European legislation, but it should be noted that a special codification system applies to the EU related draft laws.

The European Affairs Committee is not a legislative committee. According to the Statute of the Seimas the competence of the European Affairs Committee is to consider the major issues, pertaining to the policy of the Republic of Lithuania in respect of the European Union, and to submit conclusions related to them. Matters, which relate to law approximation, are mainly dealt within the specialised committees. The contribution of the Committee is done only through planning of the legislative process (prioritising the draft laws) via the resolutions.

3. Accession negotiations.

How does your European integration committee follow the accession negotiations? Does the Committee give its opinion?

The Committee follows closely the accession negotiation process. Every negotiation position that is to be submitted for the final approval of the Government is being discussed in the European Affairs Committee. Usually the Chief Negotiator and the Head of the Negotiation group presents the draft negotiation position, that has been already approved by the Governmental European Integration Commission, but before it's submission to the Cabinet of Ministers. Committee can express approval or disapproval with the draft negotiation position, but it is of a recommendational nature.

4. Conformity of national law to European legislation.

Is there a procedure aiming at scrutinising the compliance of bills submitted to Parliament to European legislation ? Does your Parliament play a role in this procedure ? Is your committee associated to this procedure ?

The European Law Department under the Government is working out scrutinising the compliance of bills submitted to the Parliament by the Government. There is no compliance unit in the Parliament. Committee is associated with the procedure by the form of monitoring the adoption of the EU related draft laws.

5. Other committees for European legislation.

Did you take your inspiration from the experience of other applicant states when your Committee was created ? Are you in touch with European integration committees from other applicant states ?

The Committee was established following the examples of the Swedish, Danish, Finish EU committees. We appreciate good contacts with the colleagues from other parliaments.

6. Community aid.

As part of the accession process, had your Parliament received any technical assistance from the Community or from some member states? What kind of assistance? Was this assistance sufficient ?

The Committee gets the assistance by the TAEIX organised programmes.

Under the *PHARE* programme, Committee had a subproject on the role and procedures of the European Affairs Committee during the half of the year 2000. Two short-term experts from Sweden and Denmark have elaborated recommendations and ideas for the improvement of the work of the Committee.

A major *PHARE* project for strengthening of institutional capacities of the Parliament will start later this year.