

EU BATTLEGROUPS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT

1. Legal framework

Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania

<http://www3.lrs.lt/home/Konstitucija/Constitution.htm>

Article 67

The Seimas:

20) shall impose direct rule and martial law, declare states of emergency, announce mobilisation, and adopt a decision to use the armed forces.

Law On International Operations, Military Exercises and Other Military Co-Operation Events

http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=439939

Article 6. Other operations

1. When implementing other than collective defence rights and obligations of the Republic of Lithuania:

1) Lithuanian military units may be deployed and used for the purposes of other operation in the territory of other states;

2) military units of other states may be deployed and used for the purposes of other operation in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. Decision on the deployment and use of military units of the Republic of Lithuania for the purposes of other operation in the territory of other states, as well as on the deployment and use of military units of other states for the purposes of other operation in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania shall be taken by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania by adopting a resolution on the recommendation of the President of the Republic.

3. In emergency cases the President of the Republic shall adopt a decision on the participation in other operation, including the deployment of military units of the Republic of Lithuania, permission for deployment of military units of other states in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, as well as other necessary measures necessary achieve the objectives of a respective operation.

4. The decision of the President of the Republic referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article must be executed immediately. The President of the Republic shall submit forthwith the decision to the next sitting of the Seimas. Without prejudice to the commitments of Lithuania under a collective defence treaty and joint decisions of the parties to that treaty, the Seimas shall approve or repeal by its resolution the decision of the President of the Republic and shall by the same resolution adopt a decision on the use of military units of the Republic of Lithuania for the purposes of other operation in the territory of other states, and/or on the use of military units of other states for the purposes of other operation in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

5. The maximum size of Lithuanian military units used for the purposes of other operation in the territory of other states and maximum duration of their stay in the territory of other states, as well as the maximum size of military units of other states used for the purposes of other operation in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and maximum duration of their stay in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania shall be established by the Seimas by adopting a resolution, referred to in paragraph 2 of this Law, on the recommendation of the President of the Republic, or in case defined in paragraph 3 of this Article - by the President of the

Republic and by the Seimas, when approving the decision of the President of the Republic in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article. The exact size and duration of deployment of military units of the Republic of Lithuania used for the purposes of other operation in the territory of other states, as well as the exact size and duration of deployment of military units of other states used for the purposes of other operation in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and duration of their stay in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania shall be fixed by the Minister for National Defence, in compliance with the maximum size and maximum duration, established or approved by the resolution of the Seimas.

6. Taking into consideration the national interests of Lithuania, the maximum size of military units of the Republic of Lithuania and duration of their stay in the territory of other states, as well as the maximum size of military units of other states and duration of their stay in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania established in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Article, when necessary, may be reduced by the resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, without prejudice to the commitments of the Republic of Lithuania under the collective defence treaty and joint decisions of the parties to that treaty.

2. Best practise – mandate in advance

Two types of decisions of the Seimas are used in practise:

- 1) Mandating participation in on-going operations;
- 2) Mandating participation in possible operations.

On-going operations. Usually, titles of the operation, geographical areas of operations and maximum number of troops for each operation plus maximum duration for participation in all operations are listed. Currently: ISAF in Afghanistan (max 200 troops), KFOR in Kosovo (max 5 troops), Atalanta (max 30 troops), Ocean Shield (max 30 troops). Sometimes, decision is more detailed. For instance, when mandating participation in French-led operation “Sangaris” in CAR, type of participation (transport aircraft with crew) was set.

Possible operations. Seimas adopts decisions, mandating participation of units, which are on stand-by in NRF or in EU BG, in every possible operation in case necessary decisions of North Atlantic Council or EU Council are made. This could be called mandate in advance, which creates conditions for effective decision making, when using quick reaction forces.