



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS
SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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Mr. René van der Linden
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Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Committee on European Affairs of the Lithuanian Seimas. During a recent exchange of views with the Lithuanian Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Mrs. Vilija Blinkevičiūtė members of our committee decided to approach our colleagues in the national parliaments of the European Union asking for their support for the Lithuanian proposal to locate the seat of the European Institute for Gender Equality in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Gender equality issues have deep historical roots in Lithuania. Our achievements in the area including well developed national legislation fully in line with the *acquis communautaire* have been positively evaluated on international level. Gender equality issues receive positive attention at both parliamentary/governmental and society levels. They also enjoy substantial interest of the Lithuanian mass media.

Considering the above and the general attitude that the new European Union agencies should have their seat in the new Member States, the Lithuanian Government has already made an official offer to host the European Institute for Gender Equality in Vilnius, Lithuania.

We should be grateful if your committee would kindly consider supporting the Lithuanian bid for the location of the future European Institute for Gender Equality in Vilnius, Lithuania and confer with your Government on this important subject.

Yours truly,

Dr. Vydas Gedvilas
Chairman

Enclosures:

1. Gender Equality in Lithuania – Key Facts;
2. European Gender Institute;
3. Support by the “Baltic-Europe” Inter-group of the European Parliament.