



**THE STATEMENT OF THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE
UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

**THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION
HEARING *POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED (IN)JUSTICE?*
THE EXTRADITION CASE OF JUDGE VENCKIENE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018**

Chairman Wicker, Co-Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Cardin, Ranking Member Hastings, and distinguished Commissioners,

The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania is not in a position to participate in the hearing of the U.S. Helsinki Commission on September 27, 2018 on the issue of Neringa Venckienė extradition request. As stated in previous occasions, we are not entitled to interfere in or attempt to sway legal processes or intervene in the judicial processes.

Lithuania fully abides by the core tenet of democracy – the rule of law – and has profound respect for the principle of judicial independence, which is at the heart of both our judicial systems, in the United States and in Lithuania.

The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania expresses its hope that the Extradition Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the United States of America, concluded on October 23, 2001, will be implemented in good faith, as per spirit and the letter of the Treaty.

Lithuania has a solid track record of protecting and defending human rights and combatting human trafficking, both at home and abroad. Notably, on this latter issue, Lithuania has been consistently placed among Tier 1 nations in annual US Department of State *Trafficking in Persons Reports*.

As a close ally and partner of the United States and a staunch advocate of the rule of law, human rights, and democracy, Lithuania has on numerous occasions worked together with the United States – and the Helsinki Commission specifically – to safeguard the protection of human rights defenders, as well as individual freedoms and liberties in countries under undemocratic, authoritarian rule.

In the spirit of our long-standing cooperation, we remain ready to respond to the questions and queries of the U.S. Helsinki Commission on Lithuania's strong democratic governance and rule of law tradition at an appropriate time and without prejudice to the ongoing judicial processes.
