

**Meeting: Internet of Things.**  
**Committee: Innovation and Creativity of IOT.**  
**Country: Lithuania**

As technology progresses forward, so too is its pervasiveness in our daily lives. The Internet of things (IOT) has expanded radically over the past 40 years since the first inkling of such devices were discussed, paving the way for a tomorrow's future today, with driverless vehicles and self-managing refrigerators. Lithuania is no stranger to information technology, with its production in the country reaching 1.9 billion euros in 2016 and make up 80 percent of our exports. The largest communications network (4G) covers 97 percent of Lithuanian territory, and the usage of fixed phone lines are quickly declining in exchange of mobile phones. Almost 50 percent of Lithuanians own smart phones while the Divine Mercy in Vilnius can be viewed entirely in virtual reality. In 2016, Lithuania was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the United Nations e-participation index. At the same time, while embracing information technology with open arms, the Lithuanian government is also fully aware of its potential for adverse impact on our society. Lithuania recognizes the remarkable potential for growth in IOT in parallel to the advancement of computer and information technology. At this year's Consumer Electronics Show, 5G was the most talked about technology in relation to IOT and how the significant increase in speed and reliability will impact IOT innovation. Continuing on this path will undoubtedly usher in the oft-spoken Fourth Industrial Revolution in the near future, blurring the lines between the physical, the biological, and the technological. However, Lithuania is also of the expressed opinion that this unstoppable move forward, if left unchecked, can and will create disparities not seen since the very first Industrial Revolution 200 years ago. The economic and social benefits that will be gained from the further integration of IOT will change how society functions at all levels, in both positive but also alarmingly negative ways. Many aspects of daily life will be automated, however at the expense of privacy, freedom, and security. Public and private infrastructure can be interconnected on an individual scale through the Internet, however its design must take into account future obsolescence and how its replacement will affect all parties involved. Various levels of production can be scaled down or removed entirely through use of networked robotics, but at the expense of the workforce, thus further enhancing economic and social disparity.

Lithuania's strong and competitive economy is fast emerging, demonstrating the most robust growth rate in the European Union since the global financial crisis. With economic growth this year likely to surpass 3.5 percent, the government has no plans on stopping anytime soon. Conversely, it is to be acknowledged that Lithuania is seeing a decline in working age population, which is now 20 percent lower than in 2000. Much of the upsurge in our information technology sector is attributed to our progressive outlook on new financial technology such as e-money that attracts foreign investment, as well as an immense talent pool in IT thanks to our education policy. Lithuania is also highly supportive of policies regarding new technologies at the EU parliament and the subsequent investments in the appropriate sectors.

Lithuania fully supports the adaptation of emerging IOT technologies that will help maintain economic growth in the future, especially which sustains economic growth without increasing manpower costs, however with regulations to ensure that social, economic, and environmental security can be maintained. We believe with absolute certainty that the foreseen 4IR can become a serious liability to nations worldwide if allowed to progress unhindered. We hope that through stellar past records of our membership in the World Trade Organization and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the United Nations at large, the international community will consider a multinational course of action, for the benefit of all.

**The Diplomatic Service of the Republic of Lithuania**