

**JOINT DECLARATION BETWEEN ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND THE
UNITED STATES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FURTHER
IMPLEMENTATION OF A HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY
UNDER THE INITIATIVE OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSATLANTIC
ENERGY COOPERATION**

6 October 2019

Vilnius, Lithuania

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure of the Republic of Estonia, the Minister of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania, and the United States Secretary of Energy,

Having met on the occasion of the 2nd Partnership for Transatlantic Energy Cooperation (herein after – the P-TEC) meeting on 6 October 2019 in Vilnius, Lithuania,

1. *Highlighted* the potential of the P-TEC initiative to bring added value in achieving more efficient energy usage, more transparent and integrated energy markets, and considerably enhanced energy security for transatlantic partners by facilitating direct cooperation between the United States and policy makers in Central and Eastern Europe.
2. *Stressed* the importance of a strong transatlantic bond, close coordination and cooperation between the Baltic States and the U.S. and *discussed* how to make the most of opportunities offered by this partnership in strategic energy projects' implementation, and how to deal with geopolitical regional energy security challenges.
3. *Acknowledged* a critical moment for the Baltic States in strengthening cybersecurity in strategic Baltic energy infrastructure. We see a crucial role that the U.S. could play in assisting the Baltic States with strategic and technical support.
4. *Planned* to continue a regular high-level U.S. - Baltic ("3+1") energy dialogue at the margins of P-TEC Ministerial meetings to take stock of the preliminary directions of cooperation projects (see Annex).

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PROJECTS OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE '3+1' FRAMEWORK
under the Partnership for Transatlantic Energy Cooperation (P-TEC) Initiative

I. Cyber security aspects of the Baltic States' synchronization with the Continental European Networks

Given the current security environment and emerging threats in the Baltic region, protection of energy infrastructure and reliable flow of energy becomes of outmost importance. The essence of this project is to support cyber security of the Baltic States and secure a seamless desynchronization from the Russian and Belorussian controlled electricity system. Safeguarding technical as well as political backing of the Baltic States synchronisation with the Continental European Networks is critical.

This project would leverage publicly available measures. It strives to prevent cyber threats while the synchronization with the Continental Europe Networks project is being implemented and strives to support long-term resilience after its successful implementation. The project would help to achieve strategic goals within transatlantic energy cooperation and would ensure practical cooperation deliverables among the three Baltic States and the U.S. by sharing cybersecurity best practices, assessments, and supporting targeted exercises.

II. Diversification of gas supply in the Baltic States

Gas interconnections with Poland ("GIPL") and Finland ("Balticconnector") opens new opportunities to diversify gas supply in the region. Transatlantic energy cooperation could be used to promote U.S. LNG in the region, including enhanced commercial relations on the development of new regional interconnectors and the deployment of associated technology. Further regional gas market development and creation of a single gas market zone in the Baltic States and Finland creates additional incentives for LNG to further diversify natural gas sources.

This area of cooperation between the Baltic States and the U.S. is aimed at creating a business network among the Baltic States' and the U.S. energy companies with a focus on LNG business opportunities, as well as promoting new capital investments in key energy infrastructure, including through commercial relations related to the deployment of associated material goods and technology.

III. Co-operation on utilizing innovative low-carbon energy technologies

While the European Union has set a goal to implement the Energy Union discussions regarding the most cost-efficient means for achieving this goal are underway. This requires considerable focusing on R&D and the deployment of innovative and new technologies. Through the deployment and integration of lower emission electricity production means we see great value in co-operating with U.S. counterparts on the mapping and utilization of innovative low-carbon energy technologies that could be used in the Baltic region (such as, CCS and CCU, demand response, storage, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and next generation renewable and nuclear technologies).