

Lithuania's Statement for the 2026 EBRD Annual Meeting

Dear Madam President, Chair of the Board of Governors, Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to attend this 35th EBRD Annual Meeting taking place in the Baltic region. Lithuania would like to express its sincere appreciation to our Latvian hosts for organising this important gathering in Riga, highlighting a strong regional cooperation among the Baltics and showcasing the strengths of each of the three Baltic countries.

Geopolitical situation, security, and the need for international cooperation

We meet at a time when we are facing the greatest geopolitical challenges and potential threats since the World War II, unprecedented in both their scale and impact and characterised by broader geopolitical tensions that continue to create uncertainty, increase fragmentation and undermine peace and stability.

Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine remains the most significant security threat in our region. Lithuania strongly condemns Russia for this unprovoked and unjustified war and reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

At the same time, we observe a broader deterioration in the security environment. Hybrid threats, including cyber incidents, disinformation campaigns and other disruptive activities are becoming more frequent, including in the Baltic region.

Furthermore, the conflict in the Middle East adds fuel to global instability, affecting energy markets, disrupting supply chains and weighing on the global economic outlook as well as heightening uncertainty for businesses and investors. These global developments and ongoing crises underscore the need for coordinated international responses and stronger economic resilience.

Role of the EBRD in today's global environment

In the current environment, the role of the EBRD is particularly important. The Bank was established to operate in challenging circumstances and to support economies undergoing transition and facing external shocks. Today, this mandate remains highly relevant.

Going forward, the EBRD should continue to play an instrumental role in ensuring strategic and long-term engagement, strengthening economic resilience and mobilising private capital at scale in the countries of operations. In addition to financing, the Bank's expertise, policy dialogue and advisory support remain essential in advancing sustainable reforms and fostering investment. The EBRD's ability to operate effectively in difficult environments, while combining financial instruments with technical expertise, remains a key strength that should be further leveraged.

Support for Ukraine

Lithuania stands firmly with Ukraine and remains committed to supporting it for as long as it takes. To date Lithuania has provided around EUR 1.85 billion in humanitarian, military and financial assistance, which accounts for more than 2.5 percent of GDP.

We will not give up helping Ukraine and will continue to contribute actively to Ukraine's resilience and recovery. This is not only a matter of solidarity, but also a matter of European security, stability, and credibility of our collective action. It will also be a key pillar of Lithuania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2027.

Maintaining the resilience of Ukraine's economy and society is essential. Lithuania highly appreciates the EBRD's efforts and strong commitment to supporting Ukraine. It is remarkable that since the beginning of Russia's war, the EBRD has deployed almost EUR 10 billion in financing to Ukraine.

The experience of the past winter clearly demonstrated the vulnerability of Ukraine's energy systems and essential infrastructure. Looking ahead, it is important to further intensify efforts aimed at rebuilding and safeguarding energy infrastructure, ensuring reliable water supply, supporting food supply chains and maintaining liquidity for businesses. Strengthening these areas is crucial for preserving economic activity and social stability under ongoing conditions of uncertainty.

At the same time, reconstruction efforts should continue in parallel. Well-coordinated and sustained investments, particularly in infrastructure, energy systems, and the private sector together with continued technical assistance, will be critical for Ukraine's sustainable recovery, structural reforms and long-term development, including its path towards European integration. In this regard, we particularly commend Ukraine's efforts in setting a strong anti-corruption and integrity framework, which, according to OECD assessment, is well above the OECD average.

Lithuania's cooperation with the EBRD

Lithuania highly values its close and constructive cooperation with the EBRD. In light of the current geopolitical environment, the Bank's presence in our region remains particularly important, contributing not only to investment flows but also to investor confidence, economic stability, and overall resilience. We appreciate that the number of the EBRD projects is growing every year, and investments in 2025 were at a record high – the EBRD invested EUR 339 million in 17 projects.

Given Lithuania's geographical location on the European Union's Eastern border and the heightened security risks in the region, we believe it is essential that these realities are fully recognised. They clearly justify the need for a continued and strong role of the EBRD in Lithuania.

As the EBRD is preparing its new Country Strategy for Lithuania for the period 2027–2031, we see this as an important opportunity to further strengthen our cooperation and align it with current challenges and priorities. We see the following key areas for further engagement:

- (i) the development of pan-Baltic capital markets – we are pleased that here in Riga we will sign the updated Memorandum of Understanding 2.0 in this regard, aimed at further strengthening and enhancing cooperation among the Baltic countries, the European Commission and the EBRD;
- (ii) strengthened collaboration with Lithuania's National Promotional Bank – ILTE, which recently launched full-scale operations. Over the next four years, ILTE plans to inject EUR 6 billion into the Lithuanian economy to boost investment in defence and security, energy independence, a competitive and innovative business environment, social infrastructure and other strategically important projects in Lithuania;
- (iii) continued support for infrastructure and energy investments, including through public-private partnerships. The Ministry of Finance, together with Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) and ILTE, has developed Lithuania's first PPP programme for infrastructure, focusing on roads, viaducts and bridges, and we expect the EBRD to be our partner in implementing this programme.

The EBRD's engagement will be essential for enhancing competitiveness, mobilising private capital, and supporting long-term sustainable growth in Lithuania. We look forward to continued dialogue on these priorities and to the approval of the new Country Strategy for Lithuania by the Board of Directors.

Implementation of the EBRD's Strategic and Capital Framework for 2026-2030

Lithuania welcomes the implementation of the EBRD's Strategic and Capital Framework for 2026–2030 and appreciates its alignment with current economic and geopolitical challenges. We underline the importance of continued support for fragile and conflict-affected economies with Ukraine remaining the foremost priority.

We also support the efforts to mobilise private capital, promote innovation and digitalisation, and advance the green transition, including strengthening energy security, as key elements of long-term resilience.

Lithuania welcomes the Bank's expansion into new regions where it can bring added value and deploy its expertise and is pleased to welcome Kenya to our Constituency.

In conclusion, Lithuania reiterates its strong support for the EBRD and its mandate. In the current environment, the Bank plays an important role in supporting Ukraine, strengthening resilience in affected economies, and promoting sustainable and inclusive growth.

On a final note, let me take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to Madam President, the Management and staff for their strong leadership in these challenging times.