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NOTICE OF PUBLIC ADDRESS AT A NEW VENUE

Speaker	H.E. Darius Degutis, Ambassador of Lithuania
Topic	<i>Security, Defence, and Lithuania's Current Geopolitical Reality</i>
Date & Time	Tuesday 5 November 2024, from <u>6:00</u> pm.
Location	<i>Europe House</i> Lecture Theatre, 56 Wakefield Street, Level 16, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland: Note: <u>car parking is available at Wilson's carpark next door.</u>
Synopsis	20 years after entering membership of NATO, Lithuania faces serious challenges, both individually, and in association with its NATO partners. They include these: <i>Firstly</i> , the need to support Ukraine, to the point of victory. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has forced new consideration in the neighbouring regions and in the broader global community of the advantages of collective security. NATO members are particularly alert to the threat of expansion by Russia. <i>Secondly</i> , a challenging relationship with China. In July 2023 the Government of Lithuania adopted an Indo-Pacific strategy, which includes the East Asia region. Biographical Details Ambassador Degutis is the Lithuanian Ambassador to Australia, and New Zealand. Previously he has been the Ambassador to each of Israel, South Africa, and Poland. Earlier in his career he held senior diplomatic postings in the Lithuanian Embassy in the U.S.A. (as Deputy Chief of Mission), and in the Embassy in Denmark. When based back in Vilnius, his duties have included the following areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>European groupings.</u> He participated in developing and implementing strategic and operational plans for accession to NATO and the European Union.• <u>Middle East.</u> He planned and executed foreign policy objectives, particularly in the Middle East, where he developed the strategic partnership with Israel and with World Jewish Organizations.• <u>Energy Security.</u> As Ambassador-at-Large, he was the Special Envoy for energy security. His duties ranged from participation in the formation and implementation of strategic plans (including the preparation of legislation and policy formulation at the level of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs) across to day-to-day operations in the nation and the region.

The Forum provides a space and an opportunity for discussion and consideration of topics of international affairs. The meeting is open to the public, without charge or seat reservation.

¹ World Affairs Forum Incorporated, # 50081789. Available from: <https://app.businessregisters.govt.nz>.
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