

Translation of:

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Lithuania

## V. Aleknaitė-Abramikienė: Attempt to Portray Lithuania as Intolerant

by Eglė Samoškaitė, [www.DELFI.lt](http://www.DELFI.lt)

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Lithuania is being painted as an intolerant country in the West in order to suppress the West's "appetite for the independence of the Baltic states." That's what Lithuanian MP Vilija Aleknaitė-Abramikienė said Saturday at a joint meeting of parliamentary coalition partners the Conservative Party and the Christian Democrat Party.

She said chants of "Lithuania for Lithuanians" at a march of nationalist youth recently is a weapon in the hands of our enemies and that the chant was almost certainly authored by the Kremlin, and that it provides an opportunity to say there are fascists in our country.

"The shouts of 'Lithuania for Lithuanians' by the patriotic young people puts a weapon in the hands of our enemies so they can say that there are supposedly fascists among us. And thus it is strange to me that young people who love Lithuania adopt slogans probably written in the Kremlin," V. Aleknaitė-Abramikienė said, adding that she was speaking in the name of European Parliament member Vytautas Landsbergis.

She said she wanted to convey the professor's [Landsbergis] concern that when it is impossible to make Lithuania kneel down, that is when there is an attempt to paint an ugly portrait of the country for the West, so that the West's "appetite for the independence of the Baltic states" would be inexorably extinguished.

"We feel that when it is impossible to make Lithuania kneel down in some manner, that is when there is an attempt to paint an ugly portrait of her. Unfortunately there are people in the West who celebrate values different than ours, and there is an attempt to quell the appetite of these people in the West for the independence of the Baltic states. I can't put it any other way, suppress the appetite. To show that we are so intolerant and horrible," Aleknaitė-Abramikienė continued.

The politician indicated clearly she was speaking about a march of homosexuals planned for May 8 in Vilnius and about the concern of some Western politicians that our country, in questioning whether to allow such an event, is violating human rights and freedoms.

European affairs minister Birgitta Ohlsson is planning to attend the march of homosexuals to lend her support, and two European Parliament members who are openly homosexuals, Britain's Michael Cashman and Austria's Ulrike Lunacek, sent a letter asking the Lithuanian government not to interfere with the planned event.

"We also have radicals from the left with rainbow colors. I can't call them anything other than radicals, especially since one fellow member of parliament who has the courage to admit he belongs to this group [gays], said at a meeting with the president: 'I believe this is a provocation [the gay pride march],' Aleknaite-Abramikiene said.

Christian Party faction member Rokas Žilinskas is openly homosexual. V. Aleknaitė-Abramikienė also said she had seen a list of people planning to come to Lithuania to support the march of gays which included "some radical people."

"I got to see, unofficially, a list of people who, allegedly in solidarity, intend to arrive for May 8 in Lithuania. Among them were some very radical people, Europarliamentarians, from whom one can never be certain what to expect, since I

even really doubt, I'm saying this sincerely, their mental health. But I don't have an answer on how to act in this situation," the MP said.

She said she doesn't have a recipe for how to respond to such provocations, but believes the answer probably lies in the New Testament.

She also thanked the Christian Democrat association for organizing the event and said she felt like her health was improving at the event. Aleknaitė-Abramikienė said jokingly that work at the parliament had damaged her nerves and that the meeting of the association always helps her to harmonize. "Every time I visit your community, I get healthier, because I work in an environment that erodes my nervous system and bio-energy field. You ...harmonize it [her bio-energy field]," she concluded her speech.