

**WTDC-17 Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe**  
**Opening speech by Mr Feliksas Dobrovolskis,**  
**Director General of the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania**  
**27-28 April 2017**

**Dear Mr. Brahim Sanou**  
**Dear Heads of Delegation**  
**Dear Observers and Participants of Regional Preparatory Meeting**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the Lithuanian administration, I would like to welcome you in Vilnius.

I am glad that Lithuania can contribute to preparation process of the European countries for the World Telecommunications Development Conference that will take place later this year. As a country that serves its first term on the ITU Council we feel obliged to contribute to the process of this organization.

But, trust me, obligation is not the main driver here! As ITU member – Lithuania – believes in effective functioning and management of this organization and continuous improvement of the processes within.

I want to repeat the message that was announced yesterday, we will be ready to continue our involvement in ITU and we just got a positive reply from two Ministries for Lithuania to run for a new term in the ITU Council. Also, Lithuania has decided to put forward a candidature of Mr. Mindaugas Žilinskas for the position of the director of the ITU Radiocommunications Bureau.

Let me get back to RPM and why we have gathered here! Main aspects of the RPM is to discuss development aspects.

When personally I think about ICT development – I immediately think about infrastructure, competition, regulation, best practices and innovation. It is not always possible to share infrastructure, competition or innovations, but it is always possible to share our knowledge, practice, advice and ideas.

We must discuss the common ground within ITU community, hear the needs of the ITU community, especially developing countries, and contribute to the implementation process by agreeing on concrete guidelines and much needed measures.

I understand that this is not a final meeting in the preparation process for WTDC-17, nonetheless, this is a step forward and a step closer towards WTDC-17. This meeting is an opportunity for the European group to become united in forming proposal and also to share our views, send a message to other regions and continue the cooperation.

I also feel great about having observers from other regions present in European RPM. I do think that despite the long journey that some of you had to take, it is a great opportunity to learn about our ideas, also, to continue our relationship in the ITU community.

And I am certain that some of you are visit Lithuania for the first time. Enjoy your stay, everyone!

Thank you.