



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Mar 24, 2025 · 18 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1904152824759341236](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce Lithuanian far-right politician and Seimas member Remigijus Žemaitaitis. He's best known for his extremist political views and for falling for a scam that convinced him he was flying to New York to meet Elon Musk.

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Like many vatniks before him, Remigijus worked as a lawyer before entering the world of politics. Once just another politician, he gradually embraced far-right nationalism and populism, following a trend seen across Europe over the past 15 years.

2/17



Remigijus ŽEMAITAITIS Išrinktas vienmandatėje Kelmės-Šilalės (Nr. 41) apygardoje II ture  
Vienmandatė apygarda: [41. Kelmės-Šilalės](#)  
Iškėlė: [Partija „Laisvė ir teisingumas“](#)  
Tūras: II  
Sąrašas: [Partija „Laisvė ir teisingumas“](#)  
Numeris sąrašė: 1  
Porinkiminis eilės numeris: 1

Anketa **Biografija** Turto ir pajamų deklaracijos Privataiū interesų deklaracija Politinės kampanijos dalyvio duomenys Kita

1. Gimimo data, vieta **1982-05-30, Šilutė**

2. Tautybė **Lietuvis**

3. Išsilavinimas:

Išsilavinimas	Mokymo įstaigos pavadinimas	Specialybė	Baigimo metai
Aukštasis	Vilniaus universitetas	Teisininkas	2005

3.1. mokslo laipsnis **Nenurodė**

3.2. pedagoginis vardas **Nenurodė**

4. Užsienio kalbų mokėjimas **Anglų, Rusų**

5. Darbo patirtis:

Darbo pradžia	Darbo pabaiga	Darbovietė	Pareigos
2009	2020	Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas	Seimo narys
2008	2009	Vilniaus miesto savivaldybė	Mero patarėjas
2004	2007	Vilniaus apygardos teismas	Pirmininko padėjėjas
2003	2004	Vilniaus m. 2-asis apylinkės teismas	Civilinių bylų skyrius, specialistas, teisėjo padėjėjas

6. Mokslinė, pedagoginė, visuomeninė veikla **Nenurodė**

7. Pomėgiai **Gamta, skaitymas, žvejyba**

8. Šeiminė padėtis **Vedęs**

8.1 vyras/žmona **Živilė**

8.2 vaikai **Vakaris, Joris**

9. Ką dar norėtumėte parašyti apie save **Nenurodė**

Instead of real policies, he tapped into fear, resentment, and anger, turning 4chan talking points into a populist political strategy. His speeches became more extreme, targeting minorities, Western institutions, and Lithuania’s support for Ukraine.

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## Political distrust and the populist alt-view trap

Helios Herrera, Federico Trombetta / 19 Dec 2024

The recent rise of populist movements in Western democracies has accompanied an erosion of trust in institutions and expertise. This column examines the dynamic between traditional policymaking – characterised by complex compromise – and the rise, persistence, and recurrence of populism, which tends to encourage extreme and simplistic policies without solid evidence. The link between distrust and ‘alt-truth’ engenders a trap whereby trust in the traditional political class never recovers, leading to a recurrence of populists in power. Surprisingly, this cycle sometimes benefits voters by having a disciplining effect on traditional politicians.

In Nov 2023, Žemaitaitis launched Nemuno Aušra, a nationalist-populist party. The think tank Eastern Europe Studies Centre described them as follows: “It’s very hard to describe what kind of ideology they represent and where they stand on the scale of left to right.”

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**Nemuno Aušra**

bne **INTELLINEWS** Eastern Europe Central Europe Southeast Europe Eurasia Africa Middle East Latin America Asia Press release Reports Events Magazine

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## PROFILE: Remigijus Zemaitaitis, Lithuania's new radical-right leader



Remigijus Zemaitaitis: "On security issues, I side with the Kaczynskis, and on domestic politics and policies with Orbán." / bne IntelliNews

By Linas Jегelevicius in Vilnius October 8, 2024

Žemaitaitis's pro-Russian stance is obvious. He undermined the aid to Ukraine by claiming it to be fully corrupt. In 2018, during an interview with Ekspress Nedelya, he opposed what he called "anti-Russian sanctions."

Žemaitaitis did not let this go. “As for visiting Ukraine – it’s a great suggestion from the speaker. I can visit Ukraine, but I’ve no reason to go there. Unless one wants to master the skill of bribe-taking, corruption, armaments selling, selling out the state,” he commented to the Elta news agency on Wednesday.

The statement has drawn condemnation from coalition partners and the president.

Remigijus Žemaitaitis, who leads the second biggest group in the governing coalition, Nemunas Dawn, took aim at this consensus by suggesting that Ukraine is a corrupt country.

His comments came this week in an exchange over a recent decision by Lithuanian leaders to massively increase military spending. After Žemaitaitis expressed doubts about the expediency of spending 5-6 percent of GDP on defence, Parliament Speaker Saulius Skvernelis, who leads the Democrats “For Lithuania” party, quipped that any doubters should visit Ukraine.



The leader of the “Orderly” Remigijus Žemaitaitis is against economic sanctions against Russia, according to the Kremlin’s mouthpiece “Express nedelia”. The Seimas member told LRT.lt that he was following this opinion, because, according to him, it is necessary to punish not the nation, but responsible politicians. He is also convinced that Lithuanian politicians must communicate with such publications.

aA




In Jan 2025, he falsely claimed that President Nausėda planned to “steal” citizens’ bank deposits to fund defense. This disinformation was meant to undermine support for increased defense spending, even under the very real threat of Russian invasion.

## Lithuanian president sees no future for Žemaitaitis in ruling coalition

**SB** Sniegė Balčiūnaitė, BNS  
2025.01.31 11:44



Remigijus Žemaitaitis | J. Stacevičius / LRT

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda says he does not see the current ruling coalition surviving with the Nemunas Dawn party whose leader Remigijus Žemaitaitis has expressed doubts about raising military spending. 

Despite his extremist views, Žemaitaitis's party gained power in 2024. After elections, Lithuania's Social Democrats formed a coalition with Nemuno Aušra, handing them control of three ministries, including Justice. The coalition was a disaster.



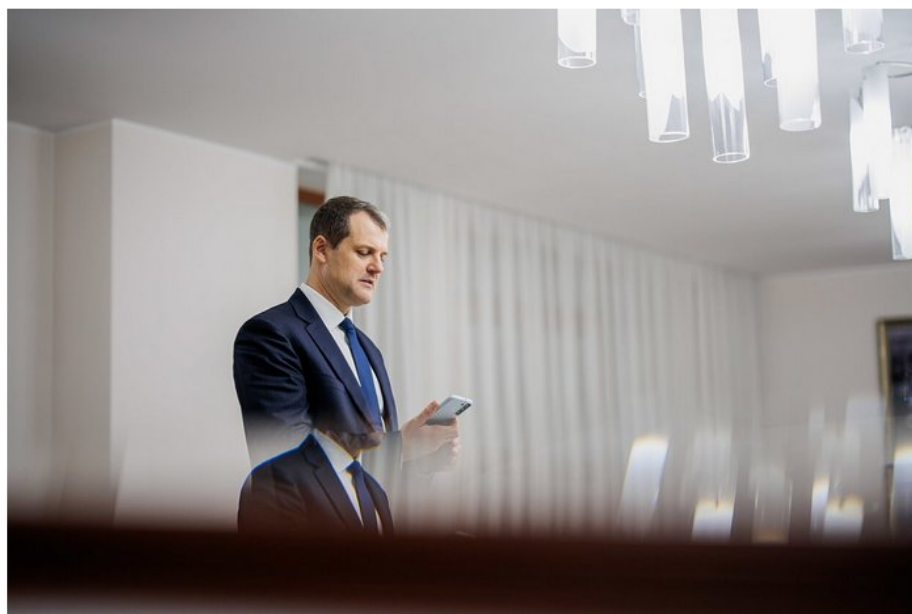
News 2024.11.07 16:34

## Social Democrats invite two parties to form Lithuania's ruling coalition

updated



BNS  
2024.11.07 16:34



Gintautas Paluckas | D. Umbrasas / LRT

The Dawn of the Nemunas and the Democratic Union “For Lithuania” have received an invitation from the Social Democratic Party of Lithuania (LSDP) to form a ruling coalition in the new Seimas.



Once in government, Remigijus attacked everyone. Since Nov 2024, he's been undermining opposition and coalition partners alike, even criticizing the president. He's currently under investigation for defamation and inciting ethnic hatred.

## *Party Whose Leader Is Known for Antisemitism to Join Lithuanian Government*

A new coalition includes a party led by a politician notorious for antisemitic remarks, another blow to the longstanding refusal by Europe's mainstream parties to join with those seen as extremist.



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Share full article



Remigijus Zemaitytis, leader of a new party, gave up his seat in Parliament this year to avoid impeachment over antisemitic remarks. Valda Kalnina/EPA, via Shutterstock



By **Andrew Higgins**

Andrew Higgins writes about political, economic and cultural issues in Europe's formerly communist eastern flank.

Nov. 8, 2024



## Police launch pre-trial investigation into the recording of R.Žemaitaitis on Facebook

Police on Monday opened a pre-trial investigation into a Sunday post by Remigijus Žemaitaitis, the leader of the Nemunas dawn, on a Facebook post on which he called people to draw up candles at the home of Vytautas Landsbergis, the first Lithuanian leader who restored its independence, in Vilnius.



## Šimonytė on the prospects of Žemaitaitis: “This type of appointment will be a shame”

2025-01-17 14:59 / source: ELTA

When it was clear that **Remigijaus Žemaitaičio** pre-trial investigations into defamation and hate speech began on Thursday, Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė says that the appointment of this politician to the vice-president of the Seimas would be embarrassing. The conservator emphasizes that **the** district court is being examined by R. The criminal case of Žemaitaitis for inciting hatred against Jews and Holocaust denial.



Remi is known for his blatant antisemitism. In June 2023, he absurdly claimed that Jews oppressed ethnic Lithuanians during WWII and argued that Lithuanians suffered a “greater Holocaust than Jews.”

# Public Statements of Lithuanian MP Žemaitaitis Were Recognised As Hate Speech

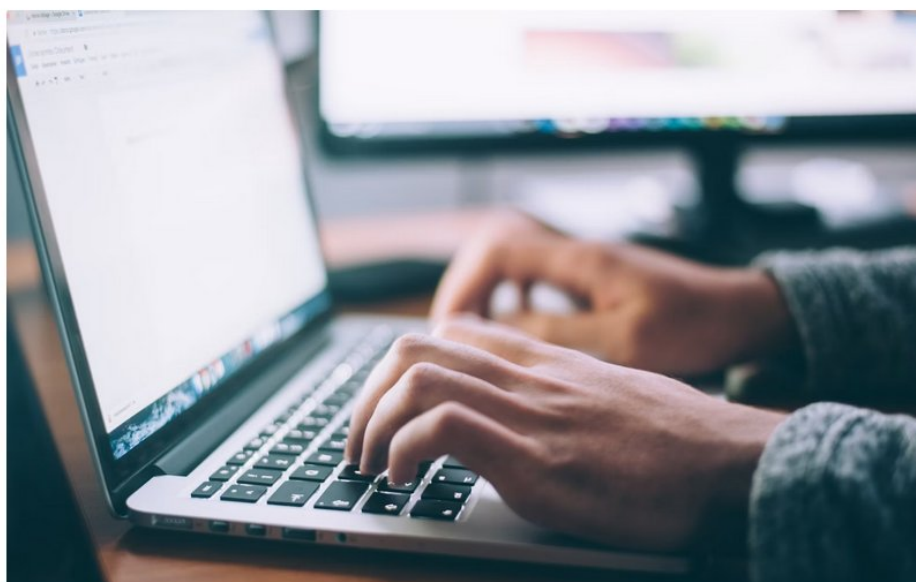
**With antisemitism prevalent in Eastern Europe, HRMI was quick to assess public statements made by MP Remigijus Žemaitaitis about the Jewish community and recognise them as hate speech.**



by Human Rights Monitoring Institute

August 02, 2023

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The Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HRMI) submitted a conclusion to the Commission for Ethics and Procedures of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, in which it assessed the public statements of MP Remigijus Žemaitaitis about the Jewish community and recognized them as hate speech.

**On June 14, 2023**, when Lithuania was commemorating the start of the 1941 Soviet deportations, Žemaitaitis posted on Facebook: *“The Lithuanian people must never forget the Jews and the Russians who very actively contributed to the destruction of our nation.”*

The Constitutional Court ruled last April that Žemaitaitis’ statements violated articles in the constitution on hate speech and discrimination on the basis of nationality. According to the court, this was a gross violation of the constitution and a breach of his oath as a parliament member.

**On June 13, 2023**, Žemaitaitis posted on Facebook a comment on Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė's visit to Israel: *"Our Prime Minister Šimonytė could not have put it any nastier while in Israel last weekend: [quotes a headline] 'Prime Minister met with Israeli President: our historical ties and friendship between our countries are what we are proud of.' It's nasty for Šimonytė to say such nonsense when on June 3, 1944, Lithuania's Jews alongside the Russians killed the village of Pirčiupiai and its people. [...] How much longer will our politicians be kneeling to the Jews who killed our compatriots, contributed to the surveillance, torture of Lithuanians and the destruction of our state. [...] There was a holocaust of Jews, but also an even bigger holocaust of Lithuanians in Lithuania!"*

This sparked major backlash. Lithuania's Constitutional Court ruled that he had violated the Constitution. Facing impeachment, he resigned, playing the victim, as extremists often do when held accountable. He's also quoted a well-known Lithuanian rhyme about murdering Jews.

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Augustas Stankevičius, Ignas  
Jačauskas

## R. Žemaitaitis, who has ruled against the oath of office, promises to renounce the mandate of the MP

After the Constitutional Court admits that Remigijus Žemaitaitis had broken his oath, he himself promises to relinquish the mandate of a member of the Seimas in the near future.



But the funniest thing about Remigijus? He recently got scammed into thinking he was flying to New York to meet Elon Musk. It started with an email from a very legitimate-sounding address: forryan.riedel@yahoo.com.



News 2025.03.04 11:47

## Lithuania's Žemaitaitis scammed, received fake tickets to go meet Musk's team 146

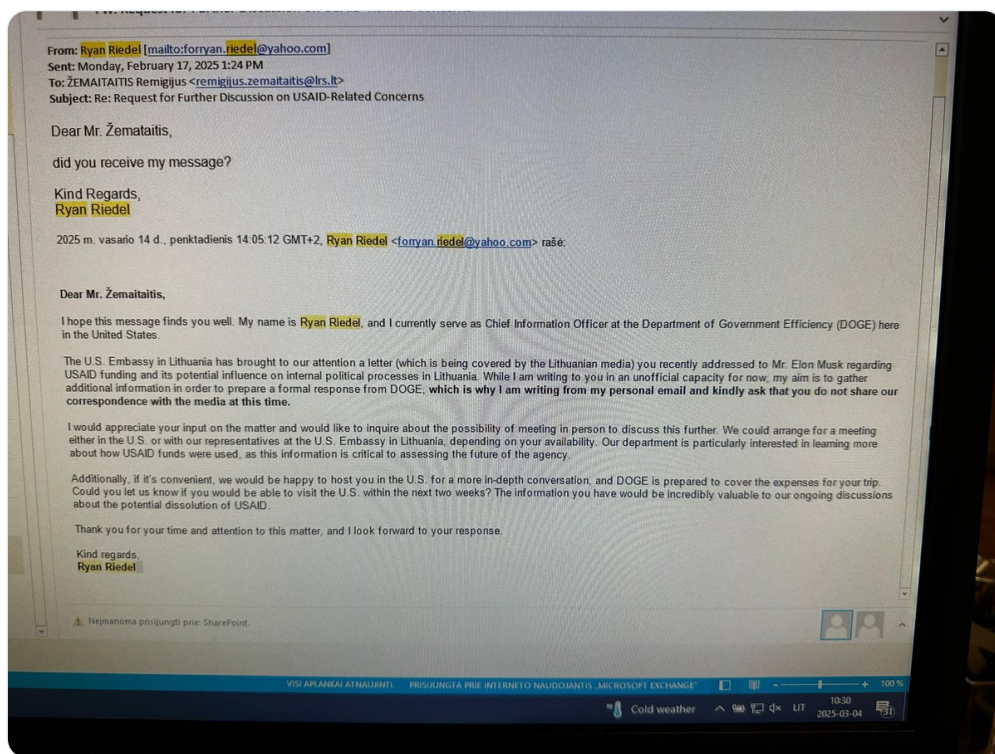
KA

Karolina Ambrazaitytė, BNS  
2025.03.04 11:47



Remigijus Žemaitaitis | J. Stacevičius / LRT

Remigijus Žemaitaitis, leader of the Nemunas Dawn party, part of the ruling coalition in Lithuania, says he has been tricked by a scammer who pretended to be an employee of the US administration's Department of Governmental Efficiency (DOGE) and invited him to meet with Elon Musk's team. aA



The sender, claiming to be “DOGE’s Chief Information Officer,” said Žemaitaitis’s posts about USAID had caught their attention. In return for sharing info, they offered him a business-class trip to NYC, a stay at the Baccarat hotel, and a meeting with Musk.

12/17





In exchange, he was asked to praise Trump and Musk on social media and consider acting as a liaison with the Russian embassy. He declined the embassy request but eagerly trashed Lithuanian leaders and even picked *The Great Gatsby* as the musical he wanted to see.

13/17



Remigijus Žemaitaitis

March 4 at 10:21 AM · 🌐

Kad ir koks būtumei atsargus ar pastabus, bet yra žmonių, kurie negali gyventi be intrigų. Prieš kelias savaites su mūsų komanda susisiekė Ryan Reidel, kuris dirba DOGE bei prisistatė E. Musk komandos žmogumi. Po kelių savaičių susirašinėjimo bei informacijos susikeitimo, buvome pakviesti atvykti į JAV, bei susitikti su jų komanda. Susitikimo tikslas gauti USAID surinktą informaciją. Tačiau šian atvykus į oruostą paaiškėjo, kad tai mūsų lietuvių veikėjų apgaulė. Lėktuvo bilietai netikri! Tenka vykti atgal į darbus, o mūsų pagrindiniam Lietuvos intrigų meistriui pavyko apgauti. P.s. Dear Mr. Žemaitaitis, I hope this message finds you well. My name is Ryan Riedel, and I currently serve as Chief Information Officer at the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) here in the United States. The U.S. Embassy in Lithuania has brought to our attention a letter (which is being covered by the Lithuanian media) you recently addressed to Mr. Elon Musk regarding USAID funding and its potential influence on internal political processes in Lithuania. While I am writing to you in an unofficial capacity for now, my aim is to gather additional information in order to prepare a formal response from DOGE, which is why I am writing from my personal email and kindly ask that you do not share our correspondence with the media at this time. I would appreciate your input on the matter and would like to inquire about the possibility of meeting in person to discuss this further. We could arrange for a meeting either in the U.S. or with our representatives at the U.S. Embassy in Lithuania, depending on your availability. Our department is particularly interested in learning more about how USAID funds were used, as this information is critical to assessing the future of the agency. Additionally, if it's convenient, we would be happy to host you in the U.S. for a more in-depth conversation, and DOGE is prepared to cover the expenses for your trip. Could you let us know if you would be able to visit the U.S. within the next two weeks? The information you have would be incredibly valuable to our ongoing discussions about the potential dissolution of USAID. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response. Kind regards, Ryan Riedel Dear Mr. Žemaitaitis, I would like to apologize for the delay in getting back to you with the flight tickets and hotel reservation. I'm happy to inform you that the tickets have been purchased and the hotel has been booked. Please find the PDFs of both the flight and hotel bookings attached to this email. Unfortunately, Lufthansa no longer had available First Class seats, so our travel agency secured tickets with Turkish Airlines instead. I hope this won't be an issue for you.

When asked if he needed Parliament's approval for the trip (he absolutely did), Žemaitaitis said it wasn't necessary. So off he went to Vilnius Airport, ready for his big trip to New York.

14/17



But to Remi's disappointment, Turkish Airlines staff informed him the tickets were fake. To make matters worse, the anonymous scammer had tipped off Laisvės TV, who filmed the entire humiliating moment and published all the emails.

15/17



**TURKISH  
AIRLINES**

e-Ticket Itinerary Receipt

ROUND TRIP  
Vilnius (VNO) > New York (JFK)  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 - Friday, March 7, 2025

2 ADULTS

PASSENGERS TICKET DETAILS

PASSENGER NAMES	REMIGIJUS ZEMAITAITIS	BIRTH DATE: 30/05/1982
	ZIVILE ZEMAITAITIENE	BIRTH DATE: 05/04/1981
E-TICKET NUMBERS	76256581094 7625658109	
ISSUED BY/DATE	01MAR2025TKWWWWW TURKEYAIRLINE US	

OUTBOUND FLIGHT

FLIGHT	DEPART/ARRIVE	AIRPORT/TERMINAL	CLASS	AIRCRAFT TYPE
TK1408 CONFIRMED	04 MAR 25 11:55	VILNIUS AIRPORT (VNO)	BUSINESS	BOEING 737 MAX 8
	04 MAR 25 16:00	ISTANBUL AIRPORT (IST)	BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE 30KGS	
TK1 1 CONFIRMED	04 MAR 25 19:05	ISTANBUL AIRPORT (IST)	FIRST	BOEING 777-200ER
	04 MAR 25 22:15	NEW YORK JFK AIRPORT (JFK)	BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE 30KGS	

INBOUND FLIGHT

FLIGHT	DEPART/ARRIVE	AIRPORT/TERMINAL	CLASS	AIRCRAFT TYPE
TK2 CONFIRMED	07 MAR 25 20:05	NEW YORK JFK AIRPORT (JFK)	FIRST	BOEING 777-300ER
	07 MAR 25 14:05	ISTANBUL AIRPORT (IST)	BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE 30KGS	
TK1409 CONFIRMED	08 MAR 25 17:00	ISTANBUL AIRPORT (IST)	BUSINESS	BOEING 737-900
	08 MAR 25 19:05	VILNIUS AIRPORT (VNO)	BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE 30KGS	

Your electronic ticket is stored in our computer reservations system. This e-ticket/itinerary is your record of your electronic ticket and forms parts of your contract of carriage.

PAYMENT DETAILS


Beyond embarrassment, Žemaitaitis now faces impeachment and possible bribery charges for accepting the (fake) trip without declaring it. If convicted, he could face up to seven years in prison. And he won't even get to see The Great Gatsby!







16/17

**Delfi.en** Politics Business World Lithuanians Expats Culture Lifestyle Top


EN Delfi › Politics 2025.03.05 17:06

## Investigators will decide whether to probe Žemaitaitis' planned visit to USA


 Karolis Broga

Elta EN



Investigators will decide whether to probe Žemaitaitis' planned visit to USA PHOTO: ANDRIUS UFARTAS | ELTA



An anonymous prankster has tricked MP **Remigijus Žemaitaitis**, leader of the **Nemunas Dawn** party, into believing that he was invited to meet with staff of the United States Department of Government Efficiency (**DOGE**) in the US and would be provided information about the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The MP corresponded with the prankster on Lithuania's political affairs, was asked to praise billionaire Elon Musk on social media and was promised a trip to New York and a visit to a Broadway show of his choosing. The politician was later filmed in the airport by reporters the moment he learned that he was given fake plane tickets. Now investigators may probe whether he concealed information from parliament regarding expenses of the trip that never materialised.

According to her, Žemaitaitis would have been required to declare that EUR 30,000 trip-related costs would be covered by someone else.

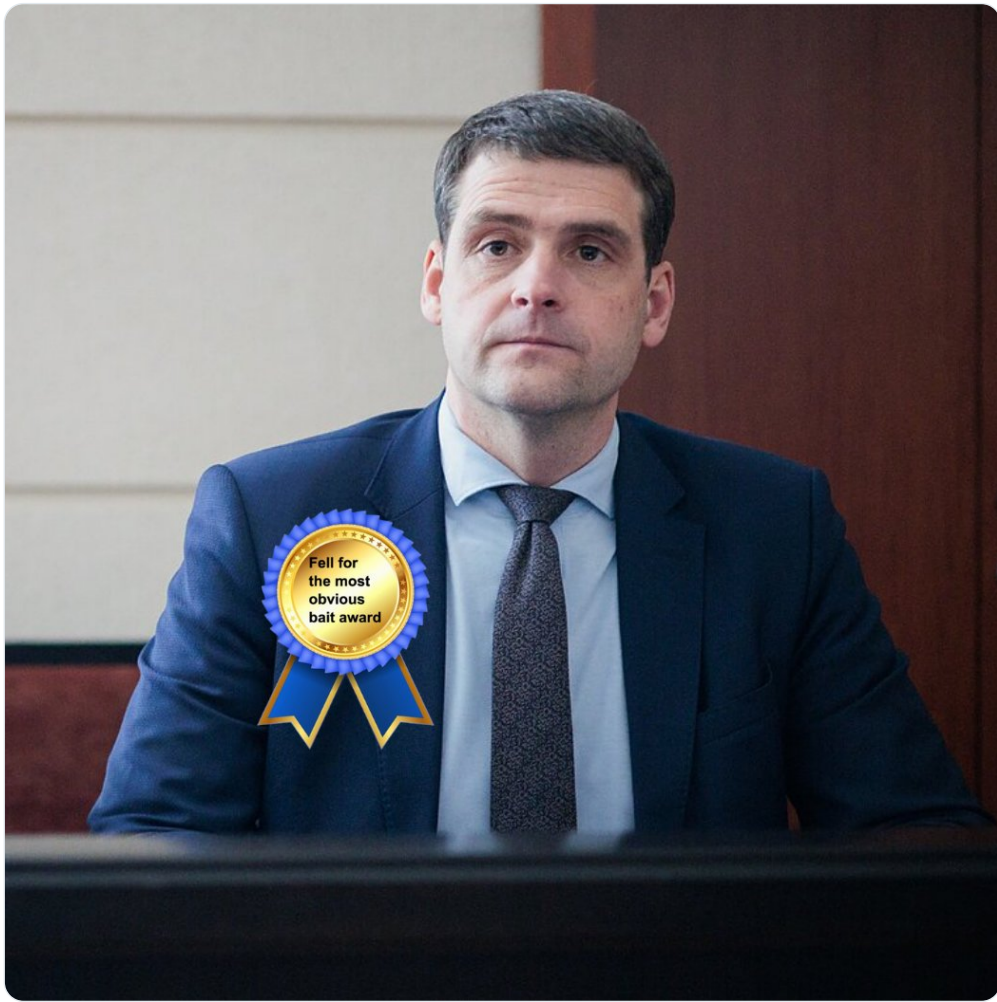
"Judging by the MP's claims, it would seem that another party would have paid for his personal trip", said Širinskienė, a member of Democrats For Lithuania political group.

The MP added that the Board of the Seimas may have to consider stricter regulations for MPs' personal trips as the situation raises questions about transparency.

Meanwhile, the Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) do not rule out organising impeachment of the Nemunas Dawn leader. MP Mindaugas Lingė says it has transpired that Žemaitaitis' views to Ukraine and Lithuanian authorities proved that he is not loyal to Lithuania.

To conclude, Žemaitaitis is a typical European far-right populist: offering simplistic solutions to complex problems while exploiting fear and resentment. As the DOGE scam shows, he's also extremely gullible.



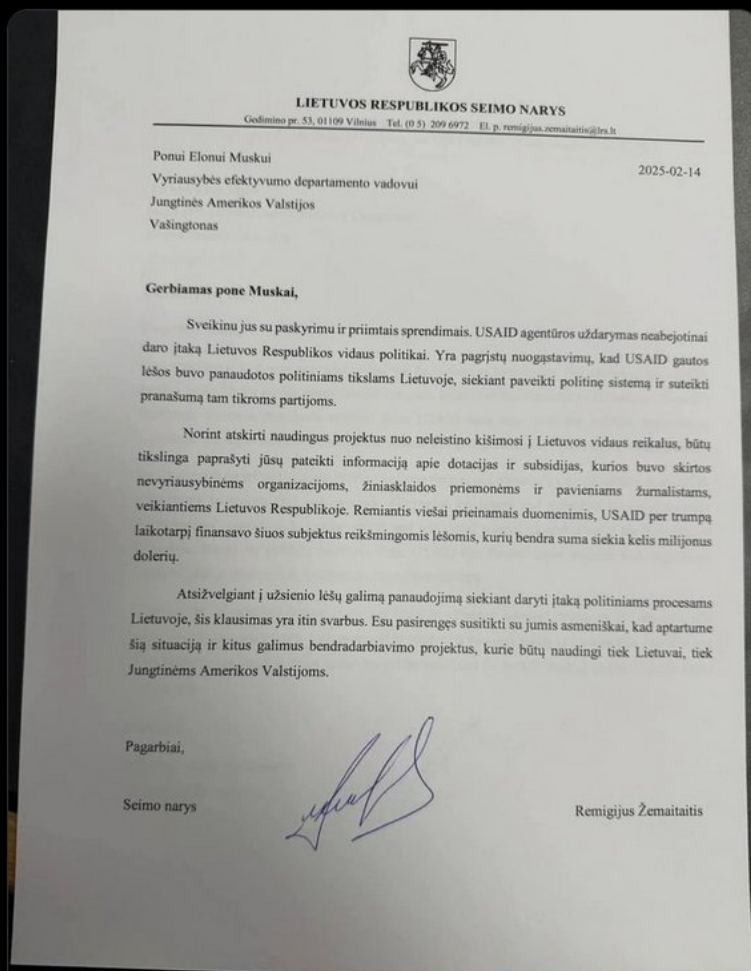




Rimantas †  
@DarRamesnis



Žemaitaitis have written to musk the exactly the same letter, nearly word for word what Fico have done lmao 🤔🤔🤔 this mf really needs to be kicked off from parliament, fucking disgrace



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