



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS FINANSŲ MINISTERIJA  
MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

Mr Mart Vörklaev  
Minister of Finance  
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7 February 2024  
Our Ref.: 25.7-01  
Your Ref.:

**RE: CANDIDACY OF VILNIUS IN AMLA SEAT SELECTION**

Dear *Mart,*

Fighting money laundering and financing of terrorism (ML/TF) is definitely among the key priorities shared by all EU Member States as it is a common threat to our values. The EU has taken important steps to further harmonise its anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) framework, including the establishment of a new agency Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA), which will upgrade our joint efforts in this field.

As we are now just one step away from taking the decision on the future location of AMLA, I would like to address you regarding Lithuania's bid to host the new institution in our capital Vilnius.

I strongly believe that Vilnius would be an excellent location for AMLA based on Lithuania's solid track record in managing ML/TF risks. Lithuania, being a vibrant international hub for financial technology (FinTech) companies, gained invaluable experience in risk management not only in the conventional banking sector, but also in the rapidly developing FinTech segment. Lithuania with this experience stands out from other contenders. It is also reflected in international ratings, such as the Basel AML Index 2023, which ranks Lithuania among the top 10 countries globally and first among the candidate countries to host AMLA with the lowest money laundering risk.

Vilnius also offers a unique financial sector ecosystem that will empower AMLA to reach its full potential. Lithuania boasts a deep talent pool with relevant AML/CFT competencies, while innovative platforms for public-private cooperation, such as the Centre of Excellence in Anti-Money Laundering, allow Lithuanian authorities to constantly upgrade their know-how and the regulatory toolkit. We have more than 10, 000 specialists working in the field of compliance, of which more than 7, 500 specialize in financial services, banking, and related sectors. Moreover, we ensure that AML specialists have plenty of training opportunities – which is essential given the rapidly changing and evolving nature of risks in the financial system.

Furthermore, the city of Vilnius ensures attractive living conditions for the Agency's staff and their family members, including access to multilingual education and healthcare systems. AMLA staff

family members also will have diverse job opportunities as Vilnius has a dynamic labour market, providing numerous possibilities for highly skilled specialists.

On top of that, Vilnius is recognized as the greenest city in Europe and in 2025 the city will hold the title of European Green Capital. The Lithuanian capital offers excellent quality of life, while doing so at a cost-competitive rate in comparison to other major European cities. Vilnius also boasts well-developed digital infrastructure, with fast, reliable and easily accessible internet connection, coupled with wide-ranging digital public services.

Finally, locating AMLA in Vilnius would be in line with the principle of geographical balance when establishing new European agencies. Currently, the distribution of EU agencies and their personnel among member states is very uneven, so the decision on AMLA location should be seen as an opportunity to mitigate these divergences. In particular, this is a great opportunity to have such an important agency in the Baltic-Nordic region. In the current uncertain geopolitical environment, selecting Vilnius as the home for AMLA would also send a signal of confidence and trust in the whole region.

Hoping for your positive consideration and support for Lithuania's candidacy to host AMLA in Vilnius, I would like to thank you for our close cooperation.

Please find enclosed the Executive Summary of Lithuania's Official Application (brochure). Me personally and my team are ready to provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Gintarė Skaistė

Minister

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gintarė Skaistė', written in a cursive style. The signature starts with a large, looped 'G' and ends with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the main body of the signature.

Enc: The Executive Summary of Lithuania's Official Application (brochure), 20 pages.