

VIKTORIJA ČMILYTĖ-NIELSEN, SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS THE  
PATRON OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLD LITVAK CONGRESS

דער פֿינפֿטער וועלט ליטוואַק-קאָנגרעס  
5<sup>asls</sup> Pasaulio litvakų kongresas  
the 5<sup>th</sup> World Litvak Congress  
הקונגרס הליטווקי העולמי החמישי



**Opening event of the 5th World Litvak Congress - Conference at the Seimas of  
the Republic of Lithuania**

**PROGRAMME**

**Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**

**Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania  
Constitution Hall**

Gediminas ave. 53, Vilnius

9:30 – 10:00 Registration of participants

10:00-10:30 Opening of the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) exhibition “21st Century  
Litvak Culture Yearbook”  
*Venue:* Constitution Hall Lobby

Opening of the Conference:

10:30 – 10:35 Opening remarks  
Patron of the 5th World Litvak Congress, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of  
Lithuania **Mrs. Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen**

10.35 – 11.40 Opening remarks  
European Commission Coordinator on combatting Antisemitism **Ms. Katherina Von  
Shnurbein** (Online)

11:40– 11:55 „LJC 30 years of history and challenges“  
Chair of Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community **Mrs. Faina Kukliansky**

11.55 -12.00 **Mickey Kantor** – the deputy chairman of the Association of Jews  
from Vilnius and Vicinity “Beit Vilna“ in Tel Aviv

12.00 – 12.05 **Arie Ben Grodzensky** - the chair of the Association of Lithuanian  
Jews in Israel

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12.10 – 12.20 „Human rights, antisemitism and global resurgence of it “

International Chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, an Emeritus Professor of Law at McGill University, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and longtime Member of Parliament, and an international human rights lawyer  
**Mr. Irwin Cotler** (Online)

12:20 - 12:35 „A broad overview of addressing Holocaust-era restitution claims and related issues during these past twenty-five years--what has been achieved and what remains unfinished“

Director of International Jewish Affairs at the American Jewish Committee  
**Rabbi Andrew Baker**

12.35 -12.45 „Vilna – Lithuanian Jerusalem: History of YIVO“

Executive Director & CEO at YIVO **Mr. Jonathan Brent**

**12.45 – 13.20 Lunch**

13.20 – 13.30 “Litvaks, Israel and historical memory”  
Israel's ambassador to Lithuania **H.E. Yossef Levy**

13.30 – 13.40 „Future school: what it is ?“  
Director of Vilnius ORT Sholom Aleichem Jewish Gymnasium **Dr. Ruth Reches**

13.40– 14.00 „What is Litvak?“  
Head of Project at the Institute for the History of Polish Jewry at Tel-Aviv University, delivering an M.A. course about the History of the Lithuanian Jewry **Ben-Tsiyon Klibansky**

14.00 – 14.15 “Jews in Lithuania: a common history - not yet discovered or already lost?”

Political reviewer, journalist **Vytautas Bruveris**

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14.15 - 14.25 “The Past and the Future of Non-Invasive Investigation  
of Holocaust era Sites in Lithuania“

Bertram and Gladys Aaron Professor of Jewish Studies at Christopher Newport  
University **Dr. Richard A. Freund** (Online)

14.25 – 14.40 „*Shoah* memory “

Professor of the Department of Political Philosophy and History of Ideas at VU TSPMI,  
cultural historian, researcher of Holocaust memory in Europe prof. **Dr. Violeta  
Davoliūtė**

14.40 – 14.55 „What is a Litvak?: Capturing the Cultural Features of Lithuanian  
Jewry“

**Prof. David Fishman** academic and author, professor of Jewish History at the Jewish  
Theological Seminary of America (Online)

14.55 – 15.15 “The Litvak Story at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews”

**Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett** - University Professor Emerita and Professor  
Emerita of Performance Studies at New York University. She is currently Chief Curator  
of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

15.15 – 15.30 “Šeduva Jewish History Museum "Lost Shtetl": History, Purpose,  
Process ”

Chief Curator of the Exhibition of the Lost Shtetl Museum **Ms. Milda Jakulytė**

The conference is moderated by Cultural historian, lecturer at Vilnius University, writer,  
presenter of radio and television programs, author of several books **Dr. Aurimas  
Švedas.**