



NEWS REPORT

Date:	25 November, 2010
Expert:	Gediminas Andriukaitis
Title:	Draft law on public propagation of homosexual relations
Country:	Lithuania
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	The Parliament approves further consideration of draft law, which foresees administrative liability for public propagation of homosexual relations
Ground of discrimination:	sexual orientation
Source:	legislation
Field:	other
Legislative provisions:	A Draft Law (no. XIP-2595) supplementing the Code of Administrative Offences with articles 214(30)

Content

Political development: On 12 November 2010, the Parliament of Lithuania approved further consideration of the draft law, supplementing the Code of Administrative Offences, which foresees civil liability for “public propagation of homosexual relations”. The draft law provides for administrative liability (fine) ranging from 2000 to Litas 10000 (EUR 580 to 2896). According to the Statute of the Parliament, the draft law will now be discussed at the Committees of the Parliament and the voting for it is scheduled to take place on 16 December 2010.

Both the Legal department of the Parliament as well as the Department of EU Law under the Government of Republic of Lithuania noted that such a provision would breach the principle of non-discrimination and that the usage of the term “propagation” was not clear. However, the Parliament voted for further consideration of the Draft (31 voting for, 7 – against and 21 abstentions). It must be taken into account that very low number of Parliament members was present during the voting (only 59 out of 141).

The draft law was initiated by one member of Parliament – Petras Gražulis, member of the „Order and Justice“, (*Tvarka ir teisingumas*) political party (which is part of the governing center-right coalition). This parliamentarian



initiated a number of similar draft laws in the past. His previous proposal to establish criminal liability for similar actions was not approved by the Parliament on June 11, 2009. Thus he suggested a “milder” form of liability. According the explanatory letter, the aim of this amendment is to protect “the values of righteous and harmonious society” and ensure liability for public propagation of other forms of sexual orientations, which “contravene public morals”.



Internet link source and additional information: (no newspaper links)

Draft Law (no. XIP-2595) supplementing the Code of Administrative Offences with articles 214(30), available in Lithuanian at:

http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=383747&p_query=&p_tr2=

Stenograph of the Parliament sitting of November 12, 2010, available in Lithuanian at: http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=385963&p_query=&p_tr2=

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