



Activity Report

2023

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THE WORD OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear colleagues, members of the Confederation,

I am pleased to present to you the Activity report of the Lithuanian Business Confederation - ICC Lithuania for the year 2023, which marks our commitment to the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

Over the past year, we have worked intensively to refresh the organization's brand and image to reflect our commitment to pursuing the most advanced and innovative solutions while improving the business environment in the country.

The year 2023 was intense, filled with various challenges and issues, but together with you, we overcame them, achieving results we can be proud of. We worked together on various topics beginning with tax reforms and regulation of the activities of associations to addressing issues related to electricity surcharges, excise duties and defense.

This year, we will continue to expand and strengthen the ICC Lithuania community, enhance the organization's visibility and recognition in society, and remain steadfast in our pursuit of fairer and better legislation and a more favorable business environment in the country. These are election years, which may bring about political tensions and outbreaks of populism, but we look to the future with confidence, knowing that together, as a strong and united community, we will overcome all challenges to the best of our abilities.

Thank you all for your ongoing cooperation, contributions, and dedication. We believe that this year, we can achieve even more significant and valuable results. I wish us all great success and inspiration for our important work ahead.

Best regards,

*General Director
ICC Lithuania
Ineta Rizgelė*

ICC LITHUANIA IN 2023



116 members in 2022



34 associations in 2022

New members

January

Lithuanian Poultry Association

April

Glimstedt Bernotas ir partneriai

May

Lithuanian Trade Enterprises Association

June

Audiomedika, UAB

UAB Pactum Verum

September

Eldrive Lithuania, UAB

Lithuanian Real Estate Agencies Association

November

Advokatų kontora „HubLegal“

Lithuanian Association of Sports and Wellness Clubs

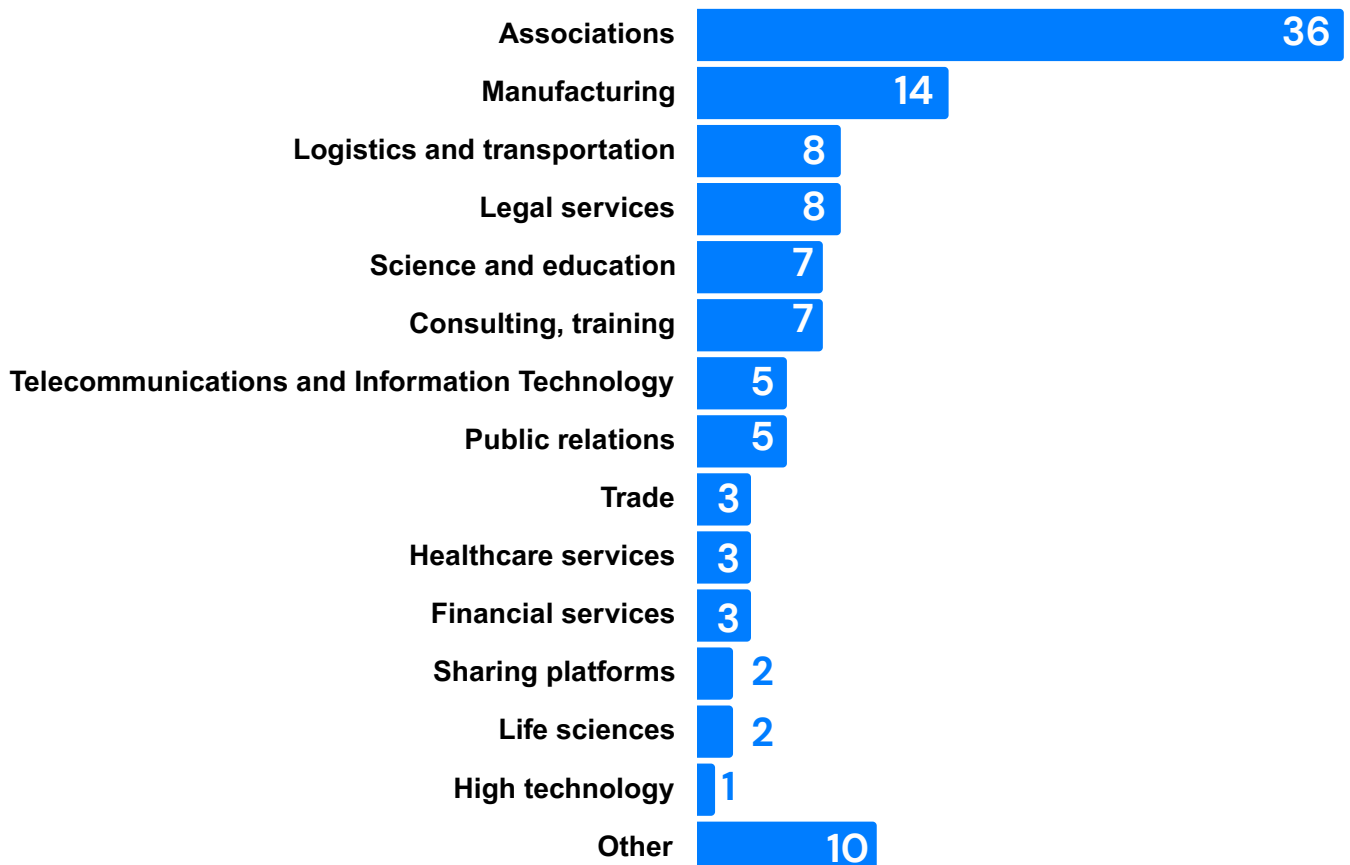
December

Good to know, UAB

INVL Asset Management, UAB

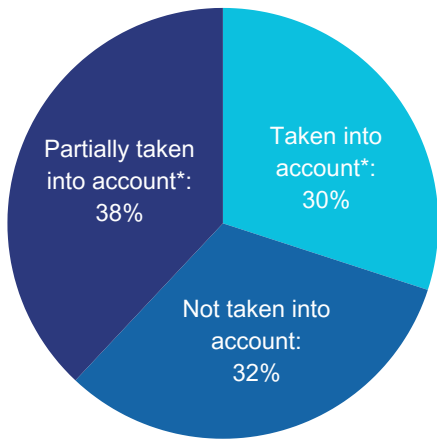
Lithuanian Association of Credit Management Companies

Members by area of activity



ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF LEGISLATION

Results of legislative proposals submitted by the ICC Lithuania



122

122 unique legislative proposals were submitted in 2023, reflecting the main themes and areas as depicted in the image below.

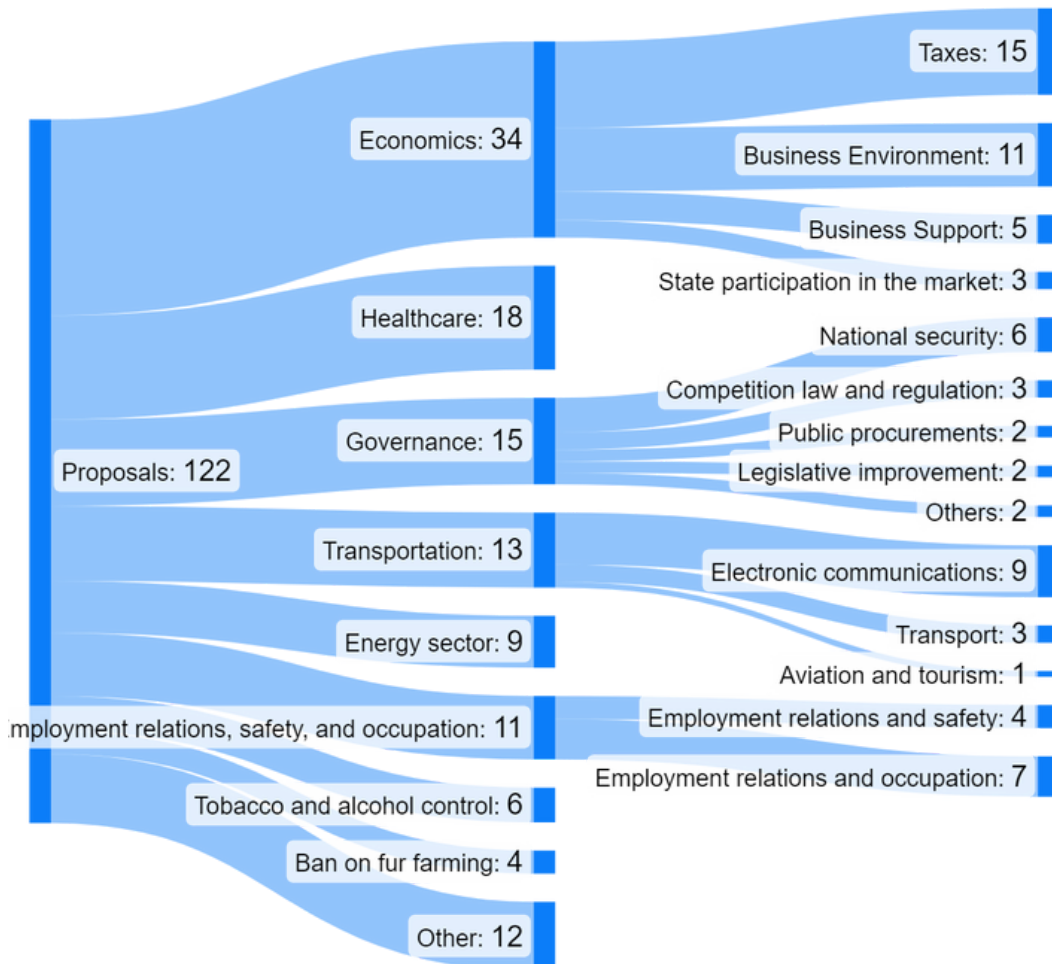
68%

68% of all ICC Lithuania proposals or their packages were fully or partially taken into account.

*Proposals taken into account are those based on which ICC Lithuania proposals were essentially adopted;

*Proposals partially taken into account are those based on which the draft legislation was adjusted before adoption.

The areas of proposals and observations submitted by ICC Lithuania



ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF LEGISLATION

- ICC Lithuania initiated the preparation of a joint appeal by 54 associations regarding tax reform, after which it was decided not to consider amendments to the Personal Income Tax Law.
- If an investment account is introduced, according to ICC Lithuania's proposal, its contributions will not be restricted.
- Within the framework of property valuation reforms, with efforts from ICC Lithuania, an institution is envisaged to further ensure the qualification of property appraisers.
- Minimum compensations for fur farms upon closure have been achieved.
- Through LVK efforts, the transport sector maintains the opportunity for companies to import workers from Belarus.
- LVK worked intensively to apply a more favorable bank solidarity tax base to businesses - interest income from new loans is not calculated into the tax base (this further did not worsen the capital accessibility for businesses).
- A successful outcome of representing sharing economy sector - ICC Lithuania's proposal led to the abandonment of proposed excessive restrictions for carriers, the proposal to allow scooters to move only on bicycle paths or on the road shoulder was not accepted, and the Lithuanian institutions continue to support platforms, couriers, and carriers in negotiations on the EU Platform Work Directive.
- ICC Lithuania's consistent work results include the amendments to the Competition Law initiated and submitted to the Parliament, which aim to provide the Competition Council with a consulting function and clearly define the operating limits of associations.
- Based on ICC Lithuania's proposals, the government's position regarding permission for tobacco manufacturers to support state institutions in the fight against smuggling has been changed.
- ICC Lithuania arguments contributed to the amendments to the Excise Law aimed at reducing disproportionately high excise duties on liquefied petroleum gas used by business and household consumers, submitted to the Parliament.
- Active participation of ICC Lithuania in the Tripartite Council of the Republic of Lithuania postponed the consideration of proposals regarding changes in aggregate working time accounting. ICC Lithuania did not agree with the proposal that aggregate working time accounting should be introduced only in companies operating continuously without interruption, and in other companies, it could be introduced only upon agreement in the branch or employer-level collective agreement.
- With the social partners, it was agreed that the Government would approve the minimum monthly wage (MMW) size for 2024 (924 euros) in June, without waiting for the end of the year, when, according to previous practice, companies were forced to budget and forecast wage cost increases without having real data on future MMW growth.
- ICC Lithuania actively worked to oppose Alcohol Control amendments that would legalize "homebrew" production and create exclusive, privileged conditions for a specific group of individuals - farmers engaged in rural tourism activities. ICC Lithuania continued to adhere to the principled position that competitive conditions should not be distorted for economic entities operating in the same market.
- ICC Lithuania made significant efforts to demonstrate that the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports plan to strengthen the state college network, proposing to allocate 20 million euros from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) exclusively to state colleges, discriminates against non-state colleges and distorts competition, thus requiring review.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF LEGISLATION

- The Ministry of Health took into account the remarks of ICC Lithuania and rejected the proposal to specify examples of criteria in the Government's resolution, which would require economic entities to have installed automatic external defibrillators.
- Through the efforts of ICC Lithuania, changes to the description of requirements for the installation of household, sanitary, and hygiene premises to include requirements for natural lighting in relaxation rooms were made.
- ICC Lithuania actively provided comments on the draft compromise Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulations, proposing changes to provisions related to reuse and refill objectives, as well as other relevant changes related to packaging sorting for the beverage industry business community.
- ICC Lithuania actively participated in the Tripartite Council of the Republic of Lithuania and in the Government when considering projects related to legal work, proposing to abandon the calculation of fines for illegal work based on turnover. During hearings organized by the Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs and Justice, ICC Lithuania expressed disagreement with the proposed mechanism for granting "borrowers' holidays" and the proposed reduction of deducted wages, and succeeded in ensuring that relevant institutions, together with social partners, would prepare compromise amendments to the Civil Code of Procedure that reflect the interests of both borrowers and creditors.
- ICC Lithuania proposed changes to the Employment Law to address the issue where consequences for employers regarding violations aimed at supported employment are treated differently. Additionally, the aim was for employees with fixed-term contracts to be included among the exceptions where employers face sanctions for laying off subsidized employees.
- The comments were provided regarding the fine administration reform "Single Window for State Obligations", proposing not to support its full implementation, except for the creation of electronic solutions, to reduce the administrative burden on state institutions. All obligations to the state would be centralized and accounted for (administered) only in the VMI information system. However, the recovery of state debts from monetary funds and assets would continue to be carried out exclusively by bailiffs. Based on these proposals, the Government has not yet approved the reform. Additional analyses are being conducted regarding the improvement of the entire recovery system.
- The Ministry of Social Security and Labor abandoned the proposal to organize twice a year the compilation of a list of public sector organizations (including state-owned enterprises) that have met (or failed to meet) the mandatory quota for employing people with disabilities. ICC Lithuania convinced them that two cycles of submitting such lists per year would create additional administrative burden for public sector organizations and controlled entities.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF LEGISLATION

- The Ministry of Health supported the proposals of ICC Lithuania to adjust the procedure for providing remote consultations by healthcare specialists, contributing to the expansion of remote specialist consultations, which would eventually allow optimizing patient flows in healthcare institutions and reducing the workload of specialists.
- ICC Lithuania actively participated in the process of changing strike regulations. The imperative prohibition to strike during a state of emergency, wartime, or extreme situations provided in the Labor Code was changed to allow for the possibility of applying such a prohibition. Based on the remarks presented by ICC Lithuania, the state was granted the instrument to restrict not only the announcement of new strikes but also ongoing strikes.
- ICC Lithuania prepared proposals for the improvement of sanitary protection zones (SAZ) and the Parliament adopted a significant SAZ regulation law proposed by ICC Lithuania - the "error correction" mechanism is extended until the end of 2024, which means that after conducting a Public Health Impact Assessment procedure, it will be possible to register SAZ without the consent of residents within the SAZ territory.
- After the Ministry of National Defense presented the conscription reform, ICC Lithuania publicly stated that there should be a discussion about universal conscription, including specific remarks suggesting that all women, if they have acquired the necessary qualifications, should be eligible for service, not just those who have completed medical, obstetrics, or nursing studies.
- ICC Lithuania actively participated in the Government's discussions on amendments to the Health Insurance Law prepared by the Ministry of Health, and compromises were found on some of the amended provisions. The request of social partners to create conditions for a unified association of healthcare institutions and a unified association of pharmacies to submit proposals for the inclusion of new personal healthcare services (PHS) in the list of reimbursable services was taken into account. An evaluation criterion for the impact on disease diagnosis was included in the criteria for PHS evaluation.
- The Parliament adopted amendments to the Competition Law initiated and prepared by ICC Lithuania, aiming to promote advanced supervision of economic entities' activities and ensure a more stable business environment. These amendments seek to meet the needs for consultation and methodological assistance, encourage the Competition Council to take preventive measures, and orient its activities not only towards enforcement functions but also towards building greater trust among individuals and the public in the Competition Council's activities.



ICC LITHUANIA MEETINGS

Meetings of ICC Lithuania bodies held in 2023



1

General Members Meeting - Congress



10

Council Meetings



16

Board Meetings



1

Extended Council Meeting - Consultation with Members

Meetings with politicians, political leaders and election candidates organized by ICC Lithuania

January

01 11 with S. Urbonavičius, Director General of the Center of Registers

01 12 with A. Dulkis, Minister of Health

01 23 with Vilnius mayoral candidates M. Majauskas, V. Benkuskas

01 25 with Vilnius mayoral candidates L. Savickas, T.V. Raskevičius

01 27 with Vilnius mayoral candidate A. Zuokas

February

02 14 with Vilnius mayoral candidate E. Radvilė

March

03 07 with A. Dulkis, Minister of Health

03 09 with E. Dobrowolska, Minister of Justice

03 13 with A. Armonaitė, Minister of Economy and Innovation

03 27 with L. Kaščiūnas, Chairman of the National Security and Defense Committee of the Seimas

03.29 with the Seimas Democratic Fraction "Vardan Lietuvos" and Seimas "Laisvės" Fraction.

April

04 04 with R. Bilkštytė, Deputy Minister of Finance

04 19 with the Seimas "Darbo partija" Fraction

04 20 with the Seimas "Liberalų Sąjūdis" Fraction

May

05 09 with A. Dulskis, Minister of Health

05 15 with S. Gentvilas, Minister of Environment

June

06 27 with J. Ivanauskienė, Chairwoman of the Competition Council, and I. Urmonaitė, Deputy Chairwoman of the Competition Council

August

08 24 with I. Valeškaitė, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation

September

09 04 with A. Armonaitė, Minister of Economy and Innovation

EVENTS

March

03 30 Associations' Forum "Freedom and Limits of Association Activity"

April

04 17 International Conference "Happy as Swedes: Country Experiences Relevant to Lithuania"

04 26 ICC Lithuania Congress and Awards

June

08 09 Lecture-discussion "9 months in the war: battalion from zero to front"

August

08 26 Discussion "Why the most important reforms are accompanied by conflicts or when will we start talking?" discussion festival "Būtent 2023"

September

09 29 ICC Lithuania Members' Forum and Community Evening

November

11 22 Roundtable Discussion "Time for a Renovation Breakthrough: How to Facilitate the Renovation Process for Businesses and Residents"

December

12 07 ICC Lithuania Community Christmas Evening



ICC LITHUANIA IN MEDIA

January

01 02 Lithuanian Business Confederation: State anniversaries are not just an institutional matter

01 04 35 business associations request clarification on how to operate after the decision of the Competition Council

01 09 Lithuanian Business Confederation opposes property and business valuation regulation reform: will we cure the ailing leg by amputating it?

01 11 Lithuanian Business Confederation: private colleges discriminated against in implementing college reform

01 24 Legalizing "homebrew" production distorts competition and increases alcohol consumption

February

02 22 A. Romanovskis: We want pensions like Scandinavians, but the Scandinavian system doesn't suit us

March

03 02 A. Romanovskis: Suspension of RRF funds - serious signal that we are not managing

03 10 Lithuanian Business Confederation: business fears tax hikes

03 21 LVK: temporary bank tax would reduce business funding accessibility, affect Lithuania's investment climate

April

04 05 Freedom of Associations is necessary for ensuring legislation quality in the country

04 12 LVK presented a package of proposals for the Government's proposed Tax reform

04 20 Lithuanian Business Confederation: Farmers should not suffer in the context of fur farming bans

May

05 04 Resolution on Associations activity - proposals to review existing regulation

05 05 Lithuanian Business Confederation: minimal wage increase issue should not be linked to Tax reform

05 10 Business on Tax Reform Changes: we feel deceived

05 17 Business organizations' appeal to the Government and political parties regarding Tax reform

June

06 26 LVK: Municipalities will engage in business, and residents will pay for it

August

08 01 54 associations oppose tax increases: negative impact will affect everyone

September

09 07 How to raise more funds for defense and structural reforms sustainably?

09 08 Organizations urge to start real discussions on women's inclusion in conscripts

09 13 Business on the autumn session of the Seimas: awaiting important decisions, but elections may cause obstacles

November

11 28 A. Romanovskis: Business - essential partner in protecting the country from threats

December

12 18 Business disappointed with conditions for refunding ESO overcharges: proposes initiating negotiations between ESO and consumers

12 22 Business criticizes plans to restrict acquisition of agricultural land

BUSINESS MISSIONS

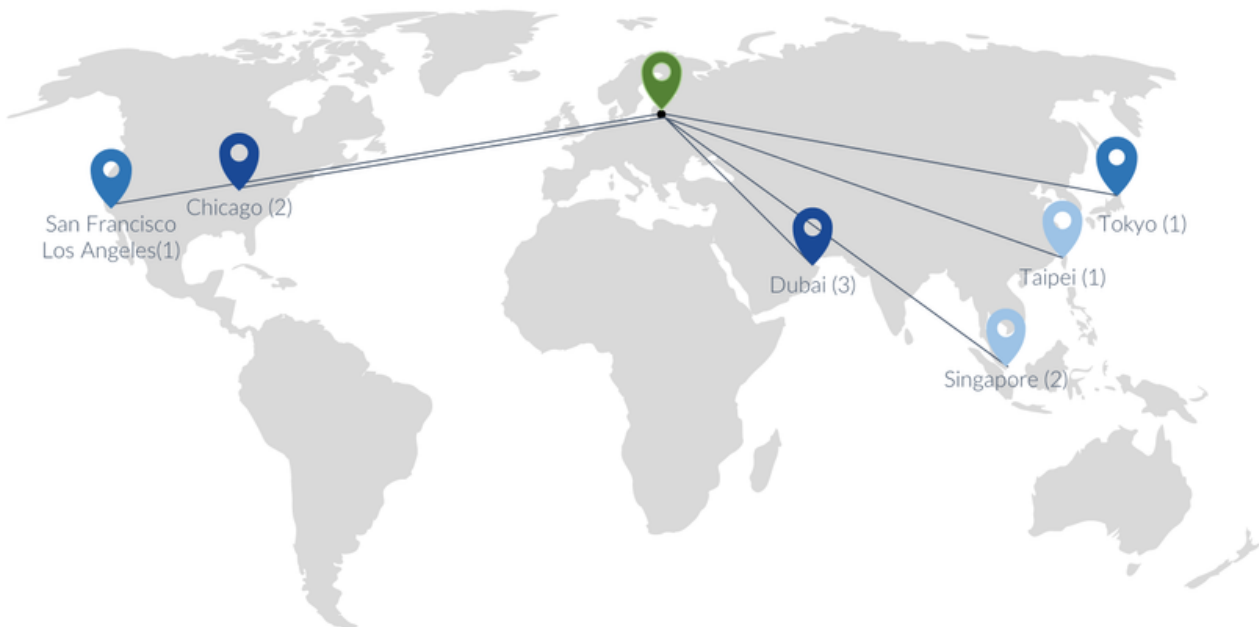
10

Between 2022 and 2023, 10 outbound business missions were organized, out of which 8 were implemented in 2023.

101

A total of 101 business companies had the opportunity to participate in business missions between 2022 and 2023.

ICC Lithuania organized business missions as part of the project "Promotion of Export during the Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Period," which was partially funded by the European Regional Development Fund. Throughout the entire project period (2022-2023), 10 outbound business missions were implemented, involving 89 unique small, medium-sized enterprises that met the project requirements, as well as 12 unique companies that joined the missions with their own funds.



April 3-10

Business mission to Tokyo, Japan, visiting the "JAPAN IT Week" exhibition.

May 21-26

Business mission to Dubai, UAE, visiting the "INDEX" exhibition.

June 10-17

Business mission to Chicago, USA, visiting the "NeoCon" exhibition.

September 17-26

Business mission to San Francisco - Los Angeles, USA.

October 15-20

Business mission to Dubai, UAE, visiting the "GITEX" exhibition.

October 21-28

Business mission to Taipei, Taiwan.

November 12-17

Business mission to Chicago, USA, visiting the "PLMA" exhibition.

November 12-19

Business mission to Singapore, Republic of Singapore, visiting the Singapore Fintech Festival.

ACTIVITY PRIORITIES FOR 2024



LVK bendruomenės stiprinimas ir plėtra;
LVK prekės ženklo atnaujinimas ir jo žinomumo stiprinimas



Verslui palankios aplinkos formavimas;
nuoseklus, profesionalus ir aktyvus nariams
aktualių klausimų atstovavimas teisėkūros
procesuose



Socialinės partnerystės stiprinimas (nuolatinis,
atviras pokalbis tarp verslo ir valdžios
institucijų, informacijos apsikeitimas;
kokybiškos teisėkūros, tvirtų ir reikiamų
sprendimų įgyvendinimo skatinimas)



Sąžiningos konkurencijos tarp valstybės ir
verslo užtikrinimas; lygiateisiškumo visiems
subjektams užtikrinimas sektoriuose, kuriuos
reguliuoja valstybė



LVK narystės International Chamber of
Commerce (ICC) įveiklinimas, LVK narių
įtraukimas į ICC formatus



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