

Speech by President Dalia Grybauskaitė at the Klaipėda LNG terminal opening ceremony

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the twenty-fifth year of its re-independence, Lithuania again stands proud of its strong spirit, courage and political will.

Lithuania, the first of the Baltic States, has built a liquefied natural gas terminal.

It is a strategic energy project that will determine our future.

At the same time, it is Lithuania's great victory.

Lithuania has developed the terminal project by itself, independently. It took us only three and a half years to deliver it.

We are now an energy-secure state.

The Klaipėda LNG terminal will play a very special role – it will be a security guarantee for the whole region. If necessary, it will be able to cover 90 percent of the three Baltic States' gas supply needs.

From now on, nobody will dictate us the price for gas – or buy our political will.

Once again we have proved to ourselves and to the world that our nation can protect its independence.

Lithuania's game-changing decision is manifested in the name of the vessel that has arrived today.

We are the architects and the guardians of independence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's event is a turning point on the path of our freedom and further proof that we can seek ambitious goals and stand responsible for the future of Lithuania.

May it bring us together in solidarity. May it give us strength to create and rise to each and every challenge. Let it strengthen our confidence in ourselves and in Lithuania!