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**THE NEW EXTRALEGAL CONCEPT
OF LOBBYING REGULATION IN LITHUANIA:
ALTERATIONS AND FUTURE GUIDELINES**

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This article intends to analyse the extralegal concept of the 2015 Draft Law on Amendment of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Lobbying Activities from the perspective of the theory of lobbying and the reality of lobbying processes in Lithuania. It investigates how fundamental elements of the concept of lobbying – the essence of the phenomenon, subjects, target and methods – are disclosed in the Draft Law on Amendment of Law on Lobbying Activities. Qualitative alteration of the Draft Law on Amendment of Law on Lobbying Activities is estimated by the latter aspect while comparing it with the current version of Law on Lobbying Activities, recommendations for improving the draft law are provided.

**CREATION OF THE EU BANKING UNION:
THE ANALYSIS OF BANKS' POSITIONS**

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The paper analyses the very recent integration process in the EU financial sector – the creation of the EU banking union. The EU banking union is one of the 4 proposed unions (the others being fiscal, economic and

political), which ultimately should lead towards a genuine economic and monetary union. The article raises the question of how to explain that some of the EU banks favoured the creation of a single supervision and resolution mechanisms, whereas the others opposed to a fully integrated banking union. The analysis focuses on the relationship between the bank internationalisation and the support for the transfer of banking supervision and resolution to the supranational level. The study revealed that the level of bank internationalisation cannot fully explain the difference between banks' positions towards the Banking union. The research identified 3 relevant variables, which could explain the differences between banks' positions. These include: the specifics of the national financial systems, the share of a bank's assets in the euro zone and outside it, and also the importance of the bank to the wider financial system and economic activities.

TURNOVER AND POLITICISATION OF SENIOR CAREER CIVIL SERVANTS IN LITHUANIAN MINISTRIES IN 2001–2015

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In this article the results of the research on the turnover and politicisation of senior career civil servants (in particular, secretaries, state secretaries and chancellors) in Lithuanian ministries in the period of 2001–2015 are presented. The research revealed that over the analysed period the average extent of politicisation of ministerial senior career civil servants amounted to 39%, while the total share of politicised servants varied between 25% and 45%. Evidence shows that demand-side factors, such as the scale of alteration of ruling majorities or alteration of parties holding minister portfolio, are insufficient to explain the turnover and politicisation of senior career civil servants in ministries. In contrast, supply-side factors, namely the existence of suitable partisan candidates to fill high-ranking positions in the ministries and opportunities for politicisation, have higher explanatory power. In addition, the negative relationship between structural and de facto politicisation, as well as the positive relationship between the amount of state budget allocations for institutions and agencies in the minister's field

of activity and the degree of politicisation of senior career civil service in the respective ministries was identified.

**DYNAMICS OF THE LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT'S
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA DURING THE PERIOD OF 2005–2015**

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This article aims at analysing changes of the working programmes of the Lithuanian Parliament during the period of 2005–2015. The theoretical background of the analysis is based on both the classical theoretical approaches (instrumentalism) and the latest theoretical approaches (punctuated equilibrium theory). Six hypotheses were tested in the article. The first three hypotheses were oriented towards description of the general trends of the changes in the Parliament's legislative agenda, while the other three were focused on understanding of the content of these punctuations. In order to answer the research questions, the authors created and analysed a data set covering the working programmes of 19 ordinary sessions of the Seimas that included 2923 priority draft laws. The results of the analysis revealed that the Lithuanian political agenda cannot be characterised as stable – a number of major disjoint and abrupt agenda fluctuations occurred due to various internal and external factors. Taking the overload of the agenda of the Seimas into consideration, these punctuations reduce its ability of the legislature to adopt high quality legislation and to effectively solve public policy issues.