

# Presumed impact of a construction of Overhead Power Line (OHL) in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish borderland, closed file 2013/5

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on behalf of NGO Rudamina Community

Bern Convention Standing Committee 36th meeting  
Strasbourg, November 16, 2015

# LitPol Link OHL, 2016

Pictures from our sister Community of Bakalarzewo, Poland























In 2016, for the environmental monitoring of the OHL impact the Lithuanian Government has appointed the same company (LITGRID AB) and the same NGOs whose previous actions during the LitPol Link planning and construction phases were subject to our complaint 2013/5.

- Standing Committee 34th meeting in December 2014 proposed the mediation procedure for complaint n° 2013/5 .
- Standing Committee 35th meeting in December 2015 issued a Recommendation on monitoring of the agreement concluded in the frame of complaint n° 2013/5 and also it decided to close the file.
- The opinion of the Chairman of the Standing Committee was obviously important in undertaking the above decisions. The Chairman was directly involved in handling the case since its submission in 2013.
- At the same time, Mr. Øystein Størkersen has been a Principal Advisor at the Norwegian Environment Agency, i.e. one of the Government institutions.
- There has been [close collaboration](#) between the Norwegian and Lithuanian Governments in [the energy sector](#). Multi-million contracts between the Lithuanian and Norwegian energy groups were concluded on trade of the [natural gas](#). The planned buildup of the Lithuanian-Polish gas pipeline as a part of the LitPol Link infrastructural corridor has been openly considered [as a tool to facilitate such a trade](#). Also, the LitPol Link OHL from the beginning was planned and has been already employed for Nordic-continental European electricity trade.





## Energy: EU invests €150 million in energy infrastructure

Brussels, 14 July 2015



- As per the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee, “the mediator shall be appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe”.
- CoE Secretary General Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland is a former Norwegian Prime Minister, Parliament Speaker and foreign minister. He also served as Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which in 2012 awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union. LitPol Link is an EU-funded energy infrastructure.

1. The Complainant Association Rudamina Community is of opinion that by directly being engaged in handling complaint 2013/5 the Chairman of Bern Convention has been in a situation of conflict of interests.
2. The Complainant sees the applied mediation procedure as being politically biased and therefore denounces the mediation agreement for complaint 2013/5.
3. The Complainant is disappointed by the attitude of several European democratic governments, which obviously have treated their international obligations on protecting Nature and the human rights as of marginal importance, compared to their direct political and economical goals.