

## **Lithuanian parliament adopts controversial law on dual citizenship**

VILNIUS, Nov 04, BNS - On Thursday, the Lithuanian parliament adopted the new version of the controversial Law on Citizenship that provides for broad geography of dual citizenship.

88 MP were in favor of the law, criticized for potential contradiction to the Constitution of Lithuania, 8 members of the parliament were against and 25 abstained.

The new version of the Law on Citizenship has been discussed for the past two years. In 2009 a special work group, set up by the then President Valdas Adamkus, drew up the draft law that was later on changed completely at the parliament.

Following the adoption of the law, the parliament plans to address the Constitutional Court on its constitutionality.

The older version of the law has been broadened to provide for dual citizenship not only to people who left Lithuania before the Restoration of Independence on March 11, 1990, but also to those who emigrated after the date, if they settled in and took citizenship of an EU or NATO country.

Many politicians and experts believe that the new version of the law contradicts the constitution that limits cases of dual citizenship.

Dual citizenship has been a subject of heated debates in Lithuania ever since the Constitutional Court in the fall of 2006 found that the country's main law provides for dual citizenship as rare exceptions, declaring laws allowing dual citizenship as running counter the country's Organic Law.

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