

# Lithuania Weekly:

## Minister of Defence stepping down

Lithuania | Week 28 | Month 7  
March 11th - March 17th, 2024

New observations this week: 9

Main channel: Facebook profiles, Kremlin-aligned media outlets

### Main keywords:

**government, Anušauskas, resignation,  
minister, National Defence, Presidential elections**

### Main narratives:

- The incompetence of the current government;
- General anti-government sentiments;
- Speculations about the growing threat.

### Overview:

During the reporting week, the Minister of National Defense, Arvydas Anušauskas, announced his resignation. The sudden and unexpected event generated mass reactions across all media, including the Kremlin-aligned. Most malign actors and outlets emphasised that after it became clear that Anušauskas resigned, Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė had to explain the situation immediately. Failing to do so, or, as Kremlin-aligned media put it, "her unwillingness to do so", indicated that "there is no professionalism left in this government". They also claimed that it was not only "the worst time to announce his [Anušauskas] resignation" referring to the intense situation with the war in the close neighbourhood and during the weekend of the "election" of the Russian president), but the delayed response let the panic spread "like wildfire in society for three days". The story itself and the follow-up handling of it allowed the anti-government narratives to spread further and possibly affect the general view of the ruling government before the upcoming elections later this year.