

## **LITHUANIA AND TURKMENISTAN: SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS**

### **THE RUHNAMA TRANSLATED TO LITHUANIAN**

As detailed in the film, the translation of Niyazov's pseudo-religious text was a measure to ensure profitable business contracts with his otherwise inaccessible Turkmen government. In February 2005, the Washington Post reported that "The Irish firm Emerol, which has contracts in Turkmenistan worth tens of millions of dollars, published the book in Lithuanian -- one of its directors is Lithuanian, according to company registration documents filed in Dublin." The company's decision to translate the book has paid off, as Emerol has managed to secure multi-million dollar contracts in Turkmenistan on rebuilding and modernising the country's oil refineries.

In 2003, The Turkmen State News Agency (TDH) stated that "the publication of the Turkmen leader's book became an event of great importance in public life of such states as Ukraine and China, Russia and Turkey, Belorussia and Iran, Poland and Malta, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania and others." It did not specify how this "great importance" manifested itself.

More information:

EMEROL company website

[www.emerol.net/](http://www.emerol.net/)

*A Turkmen Tome Gets Foreign Aid*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45332-2005Feb22.html>

*Turkmenistan's Rukhnama book print run up 400 000 in two years*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=4880&type=event&highlight\\_words=lithuania&ort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=4880&type=event&highlight_words=lithuania&ort=date_desc)

### **THE PRESIDENTS MEET IN NEW YORK**

Since Berdymuhammedov's rise to power, Lithuania's relationship with Turkmenistan has intensified. The Turkmen and Lithuanian presidents met in New York in September 2007 and exchanged views on the "establishment of mutually beneficial cooperation." Both leaders expressed their firm intentions to reach a new level of cooperation to meet the interests of the two nations. A Lithuanian government delegation led by prime minister Gedeminas Kirkilas visited the Turkmen capital in April 2008 (see below), and discussed a similar agenda with the government of Turkmenistan and its president, Gurbanguly Berdymuhammedov.

More information:

*Turkmen President holds talks with Lithuanian leader*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=11122&type=event&highlight\\_words=lithuania&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=11122&type=event&highlight_words=lithuania&sort=date_desc)

*Lithuanian prime minister arrives in Turkmenistan*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=12624&type=event&highlight\\_words=lithuania&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=12624&type=event&highlight_words=lithuania&sort=date_desc)

*President Adamkus Congratulates Presidents of Turkmenistan and the Czech Republic on National Holidays*

<http://www.president.lt/en/news.full/8419>

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## TURKMEN-LITHUANIAN BUSINESS FORUM

In April 2008, a Lithuanian government delegation visited Turkmenistan and a Turkmen-Lithuanian business forum was held in Ashgabat. Lithuania's Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas led the delegation which consisted of managers of the country's leading organizations and companies, including PAROC, ORANDA, Baltvesta, Linas AGRO, TRANSKALIS and others.

Cooperation in the fuel and energy sphere was the main topic of the talks. Transportation, tourism, trade and advanced technologies were also highlighted as possible areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. The president of Turkmenistan and the prime minister of Lithuania discussed cooperation in the humanitarian sphere also, including cultural exchanges and joint participation in festivals, exhibitions and forums.

The representatives of both countries signed a memorandum of understanding between the government of Turkmenistan and the government of Lithuania as a result of the talks, and the Lithuanian Prime Minister extended an invitation to Vilnius to President Berdymuhammedov on behalf of the Lithuanian president Valdas Adamkus.

More information:

PAROC company website

<http://www.paroc.lt/channels/lt/>

BALTVESTA company website

<http://www.baltvesta.lt/en>

Linas AGRO company website

<http://www.linasagro.lt/en/>

*Turkmenistan-Lithuania: towards intensifying economic co-operation*

<http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/en/?idr=5&id=080424a>

*Turkmenistan, Lithuania sign MoU*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=12636&type=event&highlight\\_words=lithuania&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=12636&type=event&highlight_words=lithuania&sort=date_desc)