

# Open Committee for Social Justice in Lithuania

## P E T I T I O N

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November 7, 2008

Web <[www.fexample-acme.egl](http://www.fexample-acme.egl)>

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To: Martin Schulz, MEP

Fax: <Fax>

Tel.: <PhoneComp>

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**Subject: Help to Correct a Grave Injustice is Needed**

Dear Mr. Martin Schulz, MEP,

We ask for your immediate action in an exemplary case of a grave distortion of constitutional rights of citizens of Lithuania and hence of EU itself.

The company Rojaus Apartamentai, Ltd. ([www.xxx.xx](http://www.xxx.xx)) is planning to demolish the cinema theatre Lietuva, which has been distinguished as a cultural space of long lasting and singular tradition as the country's most modern cinema space it was included in the Lithuania's application, seeking for the city nomination as European culture capital. The company, while acquiring the cinema theatre Lietuva (its shares) in the year 2005, was fully aware that the fate of this cultural object is important to the Lithuanian public and has assumed the relevant business risk.

8000 citizens of Lithuania in 2006 have signed the Petition, considering the project of the aforementioned company as an ultimate stage of the Lietuva's deterioration, requiring to return this important cultural space to the community, and to create cultural policy with due responsibility ([www.culture.lt/peticija](http://www.culture.lt/peticija)).

Regretfully, the decision to privatize the cinema theatre Lietuva, being based on the commercial considerations only, has been passed by the Vilnius City Government one-sidedly, without paying attention to the public protests and clearly expressed opinions and in violation of intl. Aarhus Conention, to which Lithuania is a party.

In response to the Petition, the Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania and former Prime Minister of the Govt. of Lithuania has in many instances acknowledged that the actions of the Vilnius municipality are irresponsible and grave, that the Vilnius City Govt. must assume full responsibility against Vilnius and Lithuania citizens and look for the ways how to solve adequately the revealed problems.

Nevertheless, aforementioned company initiated SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) claim against some responsible citizens, factually attempting to put in question Constitutional rights of all citizens of Lithuania and EU: access to justice by claims against the Government, the Freedom of Speech and Right to define and rightfully defend the Public Interest, i.e. upholding aforementioned culturral space intact (more at: [www.culture.lt?](http://www.culture.lt?))

We ask you to firmly urge Lithuanian MEPs as well as EP in whole to stop this *de facto* act of revenge of irresponsible business investors on Lithuanian citizens concerned with rightfull public interest. Please apply everything that is in your power as MEP to make this case known to EU legislators.

Sincerely,

Open Committee for Social Justice in Lithuania  
[comprising VsI VISI, VsI DEMOS, citizen's movement New Left, etc.; full list attached]