

BACCALAURÉAT PROFESSIONNEL

ÉPREUVE ORALE SPÉCIFIQUE – ANGLAIS

HISTOIRE-GEOGRAPHIE

**SECTION EUROPÉENNE
DURÉE DE L'ÉPREUVE : 20 minutes**

La calculatrice et le dictionnaire ne sont pas autorisés.

FROM EASTERN BLOCK TO EU

Situation

You have just arrived in Lithuania for your Erasmus project. You try to understand why Lithuanians are so “europhile” (pro-European).

Tasks

You are expected to:

- describe the historical background (Cold War),
- explain the reasons why Lithuania chose to be part of the European Union.

Vocabulary:

- **overwhelming:** écrasante
- **polls:** sondages



Cold War Map - From 1945 to 1961 thinglink.com

It's a giant "yes" to the European Union from the Lithuanians

It was an overwhelming majority, 91.04%, of Lithuanians who approved their country's membership of the European Union on 10th and 11th May, 2003. Only 8.9% of the population said they were against the Baltic Republic's European integration. Although victory was expected the size of the "yes" vote was a surprise, since the last opinion polls estimated the proportion of the population in favour of membership was less than 70%. With this massive "yes" in terms of enthusiasm, Lithuania became the most Europhile of the four States that have already voted in the membership referendum, ahead of Slovenia, Hungary and Malta.

(...)

The European flag was raised over the Chamber of Representatives. "During the Communist era no one could have foreseen that the European flag would fly in the place of that of the USSR", commented Rolandas Paksas, "at that time it seemed unimaginable. Today I am very happy".

(...)

Benefits of EU membership

- Strong and growing economy. ...
- Increasing level of foreign direct investment. ...
- Energy independence. ...
- Freedom of movement in the EU. ...
- Investment in science and education. ...
- Social guarantees in the EU. ...
- Global consular assistance.



How Lithuania sees Europe,
https://www.reddit.com/r/lithuania/comments/m6fjr4/how_lithuania_sees_europe/