



## **Remigijus Šimašius, Mayor of Vilnius**

*“Tu ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito (Latin: Do not give in to evil but proceed ever more boldly against it)”*

### **Education (1992–2002)**

Remigijus Šimašius earned his master’s degree in the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University, and a PhD in Social Sciences at the Department of Law Philosophy of Law University of Lithuania (currently, Mykolas Romeris University). For the doctoral thesis, he picked the theme of *Legal Pluralism*, which was new in both Lithuanian and international contexts and aimed to dispel the myth of a state as prerequisite for existence of law.

### **Liberals (1993–2018)**

A social activist in many ways, Remigijus Šimašius became an active member of the Lithuanian Liberal Youth, and in 1997, the Chair of the organisation. A member of the Lithuanian Liberal Union Board, he chaired the Legal Committee, and was twice elected to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Vilnius City Council in 2001-2006. He represented liberals as the Minister of Justice of Lithuania in 2008, and as a Member of Parliament (the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania) 2012 to 2015, when he was elected the Mayor of Vilnius.

### **Lithuanian Free Market Institute (1995–2008)**

Remigijus Šimašius became a young expert of law in the Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI), and in 2006, he took a challenge of becoming its President. The Institute is a school of transparent thinking, rational analysis, and high standards, ranked one of the five best analytical centres in Central and Eastern Europe.

### **NGOs (1996–2005)**

A consultant in the NGO Information and Support Centre at the beginning of the establishment of the first NGOs in the country, Remigijus Šimašius participated in preparation of the laws related. In 1999, he published the book *Non-governmental Organizations: Regulation in Lithuania and Western Experience*.

### **Further Professional Development (1997–2004)**

Remigijus Šimašius continued his professional path with a traineeship at the Heritage Foundation (the US Research and Educational Institute) *and* developed his public governance skills in the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Germany. He extended his knowledge on competition economy in the Central European University (CEU, Hungary), and got a prestigious Diploma of the Summer University of Ludwig von Mises Institute in Alabama, USA.

### **Minister of Justice (2008–2012)**

In the position of the Minister of Justice, Remigijus Šimašius aimed at reducing bureaucracy, speeding up and reducing the cost of the process of preparing and issuing documents; and increasing the access and accountability of state institutions.

During his term of office, many previously blocked reforms were adopted, including making the public procurement information publicly accessible and so saving millions of costs; cutting down the number of business supervision institutions and redirecting them from punishment to support; online establishment of companies, and the very important legalisation of baby hatches.

### **The Seimas (Parliament, 2012–2015)**

The MP Remigijus Šimašius continued his fight for common sense decisions, focusing on liberal ideas of reduction of taxes for working people and families raising children, greater investment in children's education and talent development, and simplification and modernisation of bureaucratic procedures.

### **Vilnius City Mayor (2015-2019; 2019-now)**

Remigijus Šimašius was able to actively pursue and implement a number of strategies aimed at simplifying and modernizing bureaucratic procedures. It is this zest for openness, engagement and decisions driven by real data that led to him being elected as the Mayor of Vilnius in 2015.

He has been driven by a mission to create a city that is open and transparent; owned and governed by the people that live in it. Under his expert supervision, Vilnius is set to become a truly cosmopolitan home for people with ambition, inspiration and drive.

Remigijus Šimašius has been re-elected to his current position for the second term-of-office in 2019. Vilnius was named by the *New York Times* as one of the Top 10 smart and well-managed cities of the world. In *fDi European Cities and regions of the future 2018/2019* magazine the City of Vilnius has appeared among *Top 10 winners of the Mid-sized European cities of the future 2018/2019* at the 4th place, consequently *Top 10 winners of the Mid-sized European cities of the future 2018/2019 Human Capital and lifestyle* at the 3rd place.

### **Awards (2011–2012)**

In 2011, Remigijus Šimašius was granted a high state award, the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary. In 2012, he received the Investors' Forum (Lithuania) award for the greatest contribution and decisions improving the business environment.

### **The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative (2017-2018)**

In 2017–2018 for 18 months Remigijus Šimašius participated in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative. The program offers leadership and management training to mayors who lead cities with vision and purpose.

### **Additional activities (2000–2019)**

“Should Lithuania's freedom be endangered, I would like to contribute as much as I can so that the threat is removed, therefore I joined the Lithuanian Union of Riflemen”, says the Mayor, who also practices crafts, jogging and shooting, and plays basketball. On holidays, the Šimašius family like outdoors activities, especially walking and cycling.