

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 180922a

Saturday 22.09.2018

**Apostolic Trip of His Holiness Francis to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (22-25 September 2018) –
Departure from Rome, Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic and Telegrams to Heads
of State**

Departure from Rome

Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic

Telegrams to Heads of State during the flight from Rome to Vilnius

Departure from Rome

This morning Pope Francis began his 25th international apostolic trip, this time to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The aircraft carrying the Holy Father (an Alitalia A320) took off from Rome-Fiumicino International Airport at 7.40.

He arrived at Vilnius International Airport at 11.20 local time (10.20 in Rome).

Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic

Upon leaving Italian territory destined for the Baltic states, the Holy Father Francis sent the following telegram to the President of the Italian Republic, the Hon. Sergio Mattarella:

HIS EXCELLENCY
HON. SERGIO MATTARELLA

PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
PALAZZO DEL QUIRINALE - 00187 ROME

AS I AM ABOUT TO DEPART FOR THE APOSTOLIC TRIP TO LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ADDRESS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND TO ALL ITALIANS MY AFFECTIONATE AND AUSPICIOUS GREETING, WHICH I ACCOMPANY WITH THE WARMEST WISHES FOR PEACE AND SERENITY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Telegrams to Heads of State during the flight from Rome to Vilnius

During the flight from Rome to Vilnius, in flying through Croatian, Hungarian, Slovakian and Polish airspace, the Holy Father sent the following telegrams to the respective Heads of State:

Overflight Croatia

HER EXCELLENCY KOLINDA GRABAR-KITAROVIĆ
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ZAGREB

AS I FLY OVER YOUR COUNTRY ON MY PASTORAL VISIT TO LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA, I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS. INVOKING DIVINE BLESSINGS UPON THE NATION, I PRAY THAT ALMIGHTY GOD MAY GRANT YOU PEACE AND WELL-BEING.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Overflight Hungary

HIS EXCELLENCY JÁNOS ÁDER
PRESIDENT OF HUNGARY
BUDAPEST

I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AS I FLY OVER HUNGARY ON MY WAY TO LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA. I ASSURE YOU OF MY PRAYERS FOR THE NATION AND ITS PEOPLE, INVOKING UPON YOU GOD'S BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Overflight Slovakia

HIS EXCELLENCY ANDREJ KISKA
PRESIDENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
BRATISLAVA

I OFFER BEST WISHES AND THE ASSURANCE OF MY PRAYERS AS MY JOURNEY TO LITHUANIA,

LATVIA AND ESTONIA TAKES ME OVER THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC. ENTRUSTING YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE PEOPLE OF SLOVAKIA TO GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE, I WILLINGLY INVOKE UPON ALL OF YOU THE BLESSINGS OF JOY AND PEACE.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Overflight Poland

HIS EXCELLENCY ANDRZEJ DUDA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
WARSAW

I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AS I FLY OVER POLAND ON MY WAY TO LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA. I ASSURE YOU OF MY PRAYERS FOR THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE, INVOKING UPON ALL OF YOU ALMIGHTY GOD'S BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND JOY.

FRANCISCUS PP.
