
HOW LITTLE LITHUANIA DRAGGED THE EU INTO ITS SHOWDOWN WITH CHINA

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07.10.2021

Politico (6 October 2021)

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The diplomatic showdown between Lithuania and the worlds second-largest economy began with just one word.

In August, Vilnius authorized Taiwans request to set up a Taiwanese representative office in the country. Using that name offended Beijing, which insists the island is part of China and prefers Taipei to be used instead.

The row quickly escalated. Though Vilnius stressed the move did not reflect a challenge to Beijings One China policy, the decision □ the first of its kind in Europe □ was seen by many as a potential first step toward eventually recognizing Taiwan as a separate country.

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