

## **STATEMENT**

### **on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Baltic Assembly and the perspectives of cooperation**

On 8 November 1991, in Tallinn, the members of the Supreme Councils of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania established the Baltic Assembly with the aim to develop and strengthen the parliamentary cooperation of the Baltic States in foreign, security and domestic issues.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania demonstrated to the world that small countries that have both similar and different interests are able to join efforts and resources to cooperate in political, social, economic and cultural fields, thus promoting development of democracy, ensuring economic and social transition and returning to the European and transatlantic family. The Baltic Assembly acted as a strong tool to represent and defend national interests of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and as well as efficient forum for the Baltic States to exchange views, formulate positions and share best practices among ourselves and with our closest partners.

Standing up for the established traditions of Baltic cooperation, sustainable development, long-term stability and increase of welfare in the region, and understanding that new challenges and problems demand new approach towards the Baltic parliamentary cooperation, the Baltic Assembly started to purposefully implement coordinated measures to revitalise its role as a political body and an innovative interparliamentary organisation as well as to increase its capacity in the following strategic directions:

- to set-up clear mid-term and long-term cooperation priorities both at parliamentary and governmental level;
- to streamline the structure of the organisation, thus making it more relevant, coherent and efficient;
- to raise public awareness of successful joint parliamentary and governmental activities.

Tallinn, 25 November 2011