

## **COMMUNICATION** **on Measures Preventing Alcoholism**

### **The Baltic Assembly,**

**considering** that the Baltic Assembly has repeatedly discussed the problem of the spread of alcoholism and alcohol abuse which is still not resolved successfully and therefore, first and foremost, threatens people's health, their mental potential and social development, influences unfavourably the demographic situation, creates a propitious ground for crime, and causes physical and mental degradation of present and future generations,

**convinced** that the important share of alcohol excise duty in the state budgets of our countries does not compensate for all the harm that our nations are subjected to through increased alcohol consumption, and considering that the allocations for prevention work by our governments are exceedingly modest and the activities in limiting alcohol use inefficient,

repeatedly **calls on** Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Governments to:

- elaborate effective, comprehensive solutions for restricting alcohol consumption, introduce measures that change the attitudes and customs in society and increase public awareness, as well as to plan and coordinate solutions for preventing illegal alcohol trade,
- pay particular attention to measures preventing alcohol consumption by children and adolescents, actively including the public administration institutions, non-governmental and civil society organisations, the media, educational institutions, international organisations and the family – the basic cell of society,
- pay special attention to projects and investments aimed at occupying the free time of children and young people and at the same time consistently broaden the alcohol-free space for adults and create conditions for leading a healthy lifestyle in work as well as home environment,
- regularly monitor submission to their parliaments of comprehensive reports on alcohol issues and the relevant situation in society, as well as to inform the Baltic Assembly of the implementation of the programme for reducing alcohol sale and consumption,

**recommends** that the Baltic Council of Ministers discusses the proposals in the Communication of the Baltic Assembly and starts rectifying the worrying situation,

**proposes** that each Baltic state declares June 1 or September 1 as an alcohol-free day, as well as plans other campaigns and cross-border activities in cooperation with neighbouring states.