

# APPEAL

## Regarding the Development of *Via Hanseatica*

**The Baltic Assembly,**

**acknowledging** that *Via Hanseatica* is a significant historical development zone and a transport corridor which can ensure sustainable and balanced development of the Baltic Sea Region and strengthen the economy of specific regions in the Baltic States;

**welcoming** good cooperation among regions and local governments of the Baltic States in implementing projects regarding the development of the *Via Hanseatica* transport corridor;

**acknowledging** that up to now, the Baltic States have focused on studying the cultural heritage and tourism potential of *Via Hanseatica* and on developing tourism;

**recognising** that there is a need for the Baltic States to better coordinate measures regarding the development of *Via Hanseatica*,

**calls on the Baltic States' governments, regional administrations, relevant local governments and the Baltic Council of Ministers:**

- to assess the potential of *Via Hanseatica* in the context of regional development and cooperation in Europe;
- to charge responsible ministries and local governments with the task of formulating a common vision regarding the development of *Via Hanseatica* and its specific implementation projects;
- to continue cooperation in promoting tourism along the *Via Hanseatica* transport corridor by developing a joint Baltic marketing strategy;
- to appoint national coordinators to manage and coordinate measures aimed at strengthening the *Via Hanseatica* development zone;
- to include on the Baltic Council of Ministers' agenda regular progress reports regarding the development of *Via Hanseatica*;
- to appeal to the European Commission for financial support in developing the *Via Hanseatica* project.

Riga, 24 November 2007