

**STATEMENT**  
**On the Development of Vocational Education and Training**

**Baltic Assembly**

**recognises** the importance of well developed vocational education and training in the context of the whole education system of every single country,

**understands** that education system and labour market have very strong reciprocal relations,

**underlines** that well developed vocational education and training system will contribute to the competitiveness and dynamism of the Baltic region as well as to the development of knowledge-based economies in the Baltic States,

**emphasises** that the main goal of developing vocational education and training is to provide an opportunity for each person to obtain qualified education through life according to individual interests, abilities and requirements for economic development,

**calls on national parliaments and governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and the Baltic Council of Ministers:**

- to start a reform of the vocational education and training system in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by having close cooperation of the Baltic States,
- to promote quality and innovation in the vocational education and training system,
- to increase participation and responsibility of employers in supplying and organising the development of education programs and in planning the number of students participating in education programs as well as to strengthen cooperation and capacity of partners in terms of content, research and methodical support of vocational education and training,
- to develop mutual co-operation and sharing of good practice among the Baltic States in developing competitive vocational education and training systems.

Viljandi, 6 December 2008