RESOLUTION
ON THE MARITIME CULTURAL HERITAGE
IN ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

The Baltic Assembly,

taking into account that the Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, are maritime States;

realising the need to strengthen the self-awareness of society in each of the Baltic States as maritime States;

understanding the importance of the maritime cultural heritage for the promotion of mutual understanding and co-operation of the nations and the States in the field of culture, opening-up of the heritage for tourism;

expressing concern for an increasing vulnerability of maritime cultural heritage,

calls on the Parliaments and Governments of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania and proposes:

- to initiate the ratification of or accession to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- to define the maritime cultural heritage;
- to draw up State programmes related to the search for, accounting, monitoring and preliminary investigations of underwater cultural heritage;
- to obligate institutions of the protection of cultural properties to enter the underwater cultural heritage identified by investigating teams, into State registers,
- to ensure preservation and use of cultural properties of ports and coastlines, their opening-up for tourism.

Vilnius, 29 November 2003