

THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION

on the Common Policy of the Baltic States in Fighting Illegal Immigration

The Baltic Assembly,

taking account of the Baltic states' aspiration to accelerate the process of joining the European Union and the integration into Europe;

understanding that a rapid solution of problems relating to illegal immigration in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is one of the prerequisites for joining the European Union,

resolves:

- **to accelerate** the working-out of a co-ordinated border policy of the Baltic states, making maximum efforts to strengthen and protect the eastern borders of our states;
- **to accelerate** the preparation and signing of bilateral agreements between Estonia and Russia, Latvia and Russia, Latvia and Belarus, Lithuania and Russia as well as Lithuania and Belarus on the return of illegal immigrants coming from these states as transit countries;
- **to request** the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organisation for Migration, the Council of Europe and the Nordic Council to provide their assistance in concluding the abovementioned bilateral agreements between the Baltic states and Russia or Belarus;

considers it necessary to hear the information of the governments of the Baltic states about the progress of implementing this resolution at the next session of the Baltic Assembly.

Pärnu, April 27, 1997