

**RESOLUTION
ON THE TRANS-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION OF THE BALTIC STATES**

The Baltic Assembly:

being convinced that the security of Europe is indivisible and it can only be ensured through a continued NATO enlargement process;

welcoming decisions of the North Atlantic Alliance in Madrid to invite the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to join the Alliance and being confident that accession of these countries will increase security in Europe;

sharing the firm belief that the United States presence in NATO remains the key factor for preservation of peace and for providing security in the Europe;

positively noting the recognition of the Baltic states in the Madrid declaration as full and equal members of the transatlantic community of like-minded nations, also the statement of the United States of America State Secretary's M. Albright statement during her visit in Vilnius, that the Baltic States are strong candidates for NATO membership;;

stressing the commitment of the Baltic countries to continue the integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures as one of the main goals of their foreign policy;

reiterating that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will contribute to the security and stability of Europe through further strengthening of defence capabilities and their interoperability with NATO forces in peace operations, making full use of the possibilities offered for partner countries through EAPC;

taking into account the decision of the North Atlantic Assembly that the process of NATO enlargement will not be complete until it includes Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia;

calls on the parliaments and the governments of sixteen NATO member states:

- 1) to launch the next round of NATO enlargement as early as possible, presumably 1999;
- 2) to include the Baltic states into the second group of countries invited to start accession negotiations with NATO and to elaborate NATO Madrid Summit decisions accordingly.