

RESOLUTION

On the Development of a Common Baltic Education Area

The Baltic Assembly,

taking into account the fact that all Baltic States — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — consider education as one of the most important internal policy priorities and an essential instrument for integration into EU structures;

believing that only within a common Baltic education area it is possible to use more efficiently and rationally the intellectual potential and material resources of the Baltic States' education systems for the acquisition of a modern, competitive and more accessible education at all levels;

noting that the already concluded intergovernmental agreements on the establishment of a common area of education in the Baltic States in the spheres of general secondary, vocational and higher education, as well as on the recognition of academic qualifications and the exchange of students, researchers and faculty members have a great and positive significance for promoting co-operation in education among the Baltic States,

calls on the Baltic Council of Ministers

to actively continue work on improving a common Baltic education area, focusing increased attention on:

- ensuring financial support for students at higher educational institutions in the Baltic States, in conformity with the stipulations of the intergovernmental agreement on a common Baltic education area, by earmarking for their implementation funding in the education sections of each Baltic State's national budget;
- developing a uniform system of loans for students to cover tuition and living expenses while studying at any higher education institution in any of the Baltic States;
- developing a uniform and functional discount system for use of public transport by general secondary, vocational and higher education students, allowing to use for this purpose student identification documents recognised in all Baltic States.

2 June 2001, Riga