

RESOLUTION

ON ENSURING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE BALTIC STATES

The Baltic Assembly,

noting the problems of cross-border labour market, mobility and youth unemployment, the European Union Directives as well as conclusions by the BSPC Working Group on Labour Market and Social Welfare;

underlining that global economic crisis has seriously affected the economic development and social welfare of the Baltic States;

acknowledging that the Baltic States have to focus more on joint cooperation projects in areas such as development of a common labour and education market, a joint health care system, joint business incubators and clusters, etc.;

emphasizing that the governments of the Baltic States need to coordinate social, educational, regional and health policies,

calls on the parliaments and governments of the Baltic States and the Baltic Council of Ministers:

to elaborate development-oriented stabilisation programme by identifying the economic potential of each individual country and of all the Baltic States together;

to decrease the unemployment level by target-oriented use of EU funds;

to allocate resources for training and re-training of the unemployed;

to improve cooperation between public institutions and entrepreneurs in order to facilitate a unified approach in employment matters;

not to reduce the period of payment of the unemployment benefit;

to develop a complex approach in the social support and employment policy;

to create a targeted social protection and thus minimising social risks;

with regard to cross-border labour market and mobility

– in so far as possible, to strengthen the existing employment information centres or establish new employment information centres particularly at the state borders to enable cross-border labour market participants to receive the necessary information about social security

issues, employment and tax laws, as well as other regulatory legal acts in the country where the person wishes to work;

- to contribute to the enhancement of the competence and professionalism of advisors working in information centres;

- to identify barriers to mobility and put effort to dismantle them;

- to share information, experience and best practice about the work of the employment information centres throughout the Baltic Sea region by organising forums, ensuring internet platforms etc.;

- to expand transport routes and enhance the quality of local public transport in border regions in order to ease travel for commuters thus improving economic growth in the region;

with regard to promoting integration of the youth into the labour market

- to ensure that all pupils in general education schools are introduced to career orientation;

- to make efforts to provide young people with the opportunity to gain work experience in enterprises, public institutions and other organisations, including vocational schools;

- to invite employers to inform young people about work experience placements and training opportunities;

- to intensify creation of training places with employers and workers' representatives;

- to develop special programmes to integrate young people with special needs into training and employment.

Vilnius, 28 November 2009