

DECLARATION

ON NEW CHALLENGES FOR SECURITY AGENDA

The changing security environment in the early twenty-first century creates new challenges for all countries, whereas the concept of security, challenges, threats, and vulnerabilities has changed significantly. The arsenal of threats and the means for their prevention are closely related to a country's internal development, the state of the international system, and changes in its structure, as well as internal dynamics of the system units. Since the nature of the Cold War has changed, in many EU and NATO countries a wide security concept has emerged that has added economic, societal, energy, and environmental dimensions to the narrow military and diplomatic functions. In a changing security environment, new threats are emerging, and not all of them are predictable.

The Baltic Assembly appreciates the efforts of parliaments and governments of the Nordic countries to promote the Nordic cooperation on foreign affairs and security policy, which started in 2008. The Baltic Assembly will carefully follow Nordic parliamentary and governmental discussions on the cooperation among the five Nordic countries. The Baltic Assembly expresses hope that when preparing their cooperation strategy the Nordic countries will take into consideration not only individual security demands and interests but also those of other regional partners and of partners in the global arena.

The Baltic Assembly declares:

it is important to develop a democratic society, peaceful and constructive relations with neighbouring countries by establishing democracy and stability in the region;

the geographical proximity, common foreign and security interests and serious changes in security agendas contribute to the development of a new approach to the resolution of security problems with a view to addressing threats in a co-ordinated and complementary way, avoiding duplication;

the European Union, NATO, and other international organisations, working on new security strategy concepts, should also hold local and regional discussions on a new security concept at the Baltic level;

for increasing security on the regional level, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania should work actively on implementing such EU partnership strategies as the EU Baltic Sea Strategy, the EU Eastern Partnership, and the EU Neighbourhood initiatives,

all the countries should develop their ability to meet new challenges for national security, including cyber attacks, information warfare, and attempts to destabilise societies and states.

Vilnius, 28 November 2009