

**DECISION**  
**on the Amendments to the Baltic Assembly Statutes**

The Baltic Assembly decides to adopt the following amendments to the Statutes on the Baltic Assembly:

1. To amend Paragraph 1 of Article 1 and set it forth to read as follows:

“1. The Baltic Assembly (BA) is an international organisation for cooperation among the parliaments of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter also 'Member States'), founded on the basis of the Joint Decision adopted by the members of the Supreme Councils of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania in Vilnius on 1 December 1990. The Baltic Assembly functions on the basis of the Agreement of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania on Parliamentary and Intergovernmental Cooperation of the Baltic States signed in Tallinn on 13 June 1994, the present Statutes and other legal acts adopted by the Baltic Assembly and its bodies.”

2. To supplement Article 4 with Paragraph 3 set forth to read as follows:

“3. Official language of the written materials and official correspondence is English. Translation from English to national or any other languages has to be ensured by the national delegations and is not covered from the BA Budget.”

3. To amend Paragraph 1 of Article 5 and set it forth to read as follows:

“1. The highest body of the Baltic Assembly is its Session.”

4. To supplement Article 5 with Paragraph 3 set forth to read as follows

“3. Within the framework of the Session, an official meeting of the Presidents of the parliaments of the Member States shall be held.”

5. To amend title of Article 7 and set it forth to read as follows:

“Article 7. Quorum of the Session of the Baltic Assembly”

6. To amend Paragraph 3 of Article 9 and set it forth to read as follows:

“3. The decision to convene an extraordinary Session shall be made during a regular Session; in the period between sessions the decision shall be made by the Presidium on the principle of consensus.”

7. To delete Paragraph 4 of Article 9 and to adjust numeration of paragraphs of Article 9 accordingly.

8. To amend Paragraph 1 of Article 10 and set it forth to read as follows:

“1. The Presidium shall submit a draft agenda of the Session to the delegations not later than two months before the beginning of a regular Session or two weeks before the convocation of an extraordinary Session. Draft documents shall be attached to the agenda.”

9. To amend Paragraph 4 of Article 13 and set it forth to read as follows:

“4. The minutes of the Session shall be taken in English.”

10. To delete Paragraph 5 of Article 13, to adjust numeration of paragraphs of Article 13 and to set forth the new Paragraph 5 of Article to read as follows:

“5. After the minutes of the Session have been signed within two months after the end of the Session, they shall be published and entered on the BA website on the Internet.”

11. To amend title of Article 15 and set it forth to read as follows:

“Article 15. Composition of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly”

12. To amend Paragraph 4 of Article 16 and set it forth to read as follows:

“4. In the absence of the President of the Baltic Assembly, his/her duties shall be carried out by the Vice President from the next presiding country. When the latter is not available, the duties of the President of the Baltic Assembly shall be carried out by the other Vice President.”

13. To amend Subparagraphs 6 and 7 of Paragraph 2 of Article 17 and set them forth to read as follows:

“6) to register the members of the BA committees and commissions;

7) to register the BA party groups (factions) and their members;”

14. To supplement Paragraph 2 of Article 17 with Subparagraph 8 and to adjust numeration of subparagraphs of Paragraph 2 of Article 17 accordingly:

“8) to approve changes in the composition of the Presidium and committees in the period between sessions;”

15. To amend Paragraph 3 of Article 18 and set it forth to read as follows:

“3. The Presidium may invite committee chairmen, members of the national delegations and representatives of the Baltic Council of Ministers to attend its meetings to evaluate the activities of the current year and to set priorities for the next year.”

16. To supplement Article 20 with Paragraph 3 set forth to read as follows and to adjust numeration of paragraphs of Article 20 accordingly:

“3. The work of a committee shall be directed by a representative of the committee of the presiding country.”

17. To amend Paragraph 3 of Article 24 and set it forth to read as follows:

“3. In the absence of the committee chairman, the vice chairman from the next presiding state shall act as chairman of the committee. In case of his/her absence, the other vice chairman shall act as chairman.”

18. To amend Paragraph 6 of Article 25 and set it forth to read as follows:

“6. Copies of committee meeting minutes in the English language shall be forwarded to the members of the committees not later than two weeks after the meeting.”

19. To amend Paragraph 1 of Article 27 and set it forth to read as follows:

“1. Before a Session the Presidium, but at the beginning of the Session, the Baltic Assembly may appoint a Drafting Committee. Each national delegation shall appoint one member to the Drafting Committee. The work of a committee shall be directed by a representative of the presiding country.”

20. To amend Subparagraph 3 of Paragraph 3 of Article 27 and set it forth to read as follows:

“3) approve the final versions of the draft documents and present them to the Session.”

21. To amend Paragraph 3 of Article 30 and set it forth to read as follows:  
“3. Activities of the Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly shall be coordinated according to the present Statutes and other documents adopted on their basis.”
22. To amend Paragraph 2 of Article 33 and set it forth to read as follows:  
“2. A draft document to be considered at a regular Session must be submitted to the Presidium not later than two months before the beginning of the Session.”
23. To amend Paragraph 1 of Article 34 and set it forth to read as follows:  
“1. A draft document shall be submitted to the Presidium in English. The author (initiator) of the draft shall attach to it an explanatory note justifying the need to adopt the said document.”
24. To amend Paragraph 3 of Article 44 and set it forth to read as follows:  
“3. Each national parliament itself shall cover the expenses related to the participation of its delegation to the Baltic Assembly at sessions, in meetings of the Presidium, the committees and the commissions, in the Baltic Council, as well as in the events held by the international cooperation partners of the Baltic Assembly.”
25. To amend Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 46 and set them forth to read as follows:  
“2. At the annual joint meeting, the Baltic Council of Ministers shall present a report on the cooperation of the Baltic States, joint activities during the past year and plans for further cooperation. After hearing the report, the members of the Baltic Assembly may pose oral questions to the speaker. If the questions are not answered on the spot, the relevant ministries have to give a written answer to the question within one month after the Baltic Council.  
3. During the period between them, members of the Baltic Assembly may submit to the Baltic Council of Ministers, personally or on behalf of the national delegation, individual standing committee or registered party group (faction), oral or written queries regarding Baltic cooperation.”

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