



35th Session of the Baltic Assembly and 22nd Baltic Council

27–28 October 2016

Riga

Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

Preliminary programme

Thursday, 27 October

20:00 **Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Baltic Assembly**
Baltic Assembly Prize Award Ceremony
Baltic Innovation Prize 2016 Award Ceremony

Friday, 28 October

08:45 **Registration**

9:00 – 10:00 **Meeting of the Presidium of the BA and the Speakers of the national parliaments**

9:00 – 10:00 **Meetings of the Education, Science and Culture committee**
Meeting of the Natural Resources Committee
Meeting of the Economics, Energy and Innovation Committee
Meeting of the Legal Affairs and Security Committee
Meeting of the Welfare Committee

10:30 **Opening of the 35th Session of the Baltic Assembly**

Opening of the 35th Session of the Baltic Assembly

Chaired by:

- *Dr Jānis Vucāns, President of the Baltic Assembly*
- *Mr Helir-Valdor Seeder, Vice President of the Baltic Assembly*
- *Dr Giedrė Purvaneckienė, Vice President of the Baltic Assembly*

- **H.E. Ms Ināra Mūrniece**, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia
- **H.E. Mr Eiki Nestor**, President of the Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia
- **H.E. Ms Loreta Graužinienė**, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Award ceremony of the Medals of the Baltic Assembly

11:40 – 13:30

Opening of the 22nd Baltic Council

Chaired by:

- *Dr Jānis Vucāns, President of the Baltic Assembly*
- *H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs, Chair of the Cooperation Council of the Baltic Council of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia*
- **Dr Jānis Vucāns**, President of the Baltic Assembly
- **H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
- **H.E. Mr Jürgen Ligi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
- **H.E. Mr Linas Linkevičius**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Discussion

Signing of the Document

13:30 – 14:00

Press conference

14:30 – 16:30

Continuation of the 35th Session of the Baltic Assembly

14:30 – 15:10

Session 1

Migration and EU external borders management: new challenges and joint solutions for the Baltic States (refugee crisis, closer cooperation of border guard services, possible new routes for refugee flows, border protection)

Chaired by: Mr Helir-Valdor Seeder, Vice President of the Baltic Assembly

- **Mr Tomas Žilinskas**, Minister of Interior, Lithuania

Discussion

15:10 – 15:50

Session 2

Demographic situation in the Baltic States and state policy for family support: investments into welfare and growth

Chaired by: Dr Giedrė Purvanekienė, Vice President of the Baltic Assembly

- **Mr Rait Kuuse**, Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia

Discussion

15:50 – 16:30

Session 3

Joint actions for development of regional transport infrastructure of the Baltic States (*Rail Baltic/Rail Baltica* project, transport corridors, initiating of new projects, cross-border cooperation)

Chaired by: Dr Jānis Vucāns, President of the Baltic Assembly

- **Mr Uldis Augulis**, Minister of Transport, Latvia
- **Mr Bart Tommelein**, Vice-Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Flemish Minister for Budget, Finance and Energy, Belgium

Discussion

16:45

Remarks by foreign delegations and guests

Report of the Presidium

- **Dr Jānis Vucāns**, President of the Baltic Assembly

Report of the Budget and Audit Committee

- **Mr Juris Viļums**, Chair of the Budget and Audit Committee

Adoption of the Resolution and Final Document of the 35th Session of the Baltic Assembly

Elections

Address by the newly elected President

Signing of the Final Document of the 35th Session of the Baltic Assembly