

AGREEMENT
ON BALTIC PARLIAMENTARY AND GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA,
THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

The Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania,
(hereinafter referred to as "the Baltic States")

expressing the desire to develop mutual cooperation in the various spheres of mutual
interest and to create a framework for the coordination of cooperation;

proceeding from the Treaty on Concord and Cooperation between Estonia, Latvia and
Lithuania that was concluded in Geneva on 12 September 1934;

bearing in mind the Declaration on Concord and Cooperation of the Republic of Estonia,
the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania signed in Tallinn on 12 May, 1990;

referring to the experience and practice of the cooperation between the Parliaments and
between the Governments of the Baltic States during the period of 1990 - 1994;

referring to the joint declaration of the Presidents of the Baltic States of 21 September
1993 and the Baltic Assembly Resolutions on the Baltic Council of 31 October 1993 and
15 May 1994;

expressing the desire to pursue the said cooperation between the parliaments and governments of the Baltic States;

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Baltic States shall endeavour to develop cooperation in the spheres of foreign and security policy, defence, legislation, social and economic affairs, energy, communication, environment, culture and other fields of mutual interest and for this purpose negotiate bilateral and multilateral agreements which regulate cooperation in the respective spheres.

Article 2

The Baltic States hereby adopt an Agreement on Baltic Cooperation to regulate relations between the Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly.

The Baltic States may decide to establish special cooperation bodies in the framework of this agreement.

Article 3

The body for co-operation between the Parliaments of the Baltic States shall be the Baltic Assembly, acting in accordance with its Statutes.

Article 4

The body for co-operation between the Governments of the Baltic States shall be the Baltic Council of Ministers, acting in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

Article 5

The Baltic Council of Ministers shall have the power of decision when representatives from all of the Baltic States, with the necessary credentials, are present.

Decisions in the Baltic Council of Ministers shall be made on the basis of consensus. Decisions of the Baltic Council of Ministers are binding for the Baltic States.

Each state shall inform the Baltic Council of Ministers of the requirement of approval by their respective Parliaments before decisions are taken.

Decisions come into force after notifications of all necessary parliamentary approvals have been received by the depositary.

Article 6

The Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly shall act in compliance with common priorities for co-operation, which shall be reviewed annually and, where necessary, amended.

The priorities for Baltic co-operation for the coming year shall be approved by the Baltic Assembly and the Co-operation Council of the Baltic Council of Ministers in their respective sessions during the Baltic Council.

The Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly shall hold an annual joint meeting, known as the Baltic Council, which shall include a session of the Baltic Assembly, a meeting between the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Co-operation Council of the Baltic Council of Ministers, a meeting of the Co-operation Council of the Baltic Council of Ministers, and the report of the Chairman of the Co-operation Council to the Baltic Assembly session on co-operation between the Baltic States during the previous year, on activities related to the resolutions adopted by the Baltic Assembly during the year in question, and on plans for further co-operation.

Article 7

The Baltic Assembly may make addresses, proposals and recommendations to the Baltic Council of Ministers.

In the Plenary Sessions of the Baltic Assembly members may submit questions to the Baltic Council of Ministers on matters concerning Baltic cooperation.

The exchange of current information between the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers shall occur via their respective secretariats.

Article 8

The Baltic Assembly has the right to state its views on major questions of Baltic cooperation during its intersessional periods.

Article 9

The Baltic Council of Ministers and Baltic Assembly shall seek to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with the Nordic Council, the Council of Baltic Sea States and other interstate bodies, bearing in mind the importance of regional cooperation in the European integration processes.

Article 10

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Baltic States. Before the Baltic States agree on amendments to this Agreement, the Baltic Assembly shall have an opportunity to state its views

Article 11

The Baltic States may terminate the Agreement after written notification to the depositary. The termination applies to the State giving notice, and shall take effect on the first day of the month commencing six months after the date the depositary receives the notification about the intention to terminate the Agreement.

Article 12

This agreement is subject to ratification by the Parliaments of the Baltic States.

The original of the Agreement shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, acting as the depositary of the Agreement.

The Agreement enters into force thirty days after the last notification has been received informing that the internal legal procedures necessary for entry into force of the Agreement have been completed.