

THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION

on NATO Membership of the Baltic States

The Baltic Assembly,

being convinced that NATO enlargement will help to achieve fundamental goal of creating secure and stable Europe, promoting democracy, consolidating market reforms and enhancing co-operation among European nations;

recalling the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and 1996 Lisbon Document which reaffirm the inherent right of each and every state to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties to alliance;

stressing that Baltic states share with the West the same values of democracy, individual liberty and the rule law and seek to return to the integrated Europe by joining NATO and European Union;

keeping in mind the significant role of the Baltic region to upholding the security of the whole Europe;

reaffirming the readiness of the Baltic countries to contribute to the European security through active participation in the Partnership for Peace, peace operations, individual intensified dialogue with NATO countries;

stressing the determination and efforts of the Baltic states to meet the NATO membership criteria;

expressing apprehension that the democratic gains and stability of Europe could be put at risk if the Baltic states are not included in the process of NATO enlargement;

understanding the unity of the Baltic states in accordance with the Tallinn resolution of the Baltic Assembly of 2 December, 1995, which stipulates that “the success of one Baltic State is an achievement of all three at the same time”;

comprehending that the accession of at least one Baltic state in the first round of NATO enlargement would be beneficial for all three of them, proving that the Euro-Atlantic institutions are opening towards all three Baltic states, consolidating the achievements of the Baltic countries and preventing from drawing artificial dividing lines between the Baltic states and the rest of Central Europe;

urges NATO governments and the North Atlantic Council during the Madrid Summit in July 1997 to:

- invite at least one Baltic country to start the NATO accession negotiations together with the first new members of the Alliance,
- block the way to any attempts to isolate the Baltic states from the full-fledged participation in the processes of Euro–Atlantic integration.

Pärnu, April 27, 1997