

## RESOLUTION

### ON THE MARITIME CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

**The Baltic Assembly,**

**taking into account** that the Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, are maritime States;

**realising** the need to strengthen the self-awareness of society in each of the Baltic States as maritime States;

**understanding** the importance of the maritime cultural heritage for the promotion of mutual understanding and co-operation of the nations and the States in the field of culture, opening-up of the heritage for tourism;

**expressing** concern for an increasing vulnerability of maritime cultural heritage,

**calls on** the Parliaments and Governments of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania and **proposes:**

- to initiate the ratification of or accession to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- to define the maritime cultural heritage;
- to draw up State programmes related to the search for, accounting, monitoring and preliminary investigations of underwater cultural heritage;
- to obligate institutions of the protection of cultural properties to enter the underwater cultural heritage identified by investigating teams, into State registers,
- to ensure preservation and use of cultural properties of ports and coastlines, their opening-up for tourism.

Vilnius, 29 November 2003