

RESOLUTION

Regarding Accusations by the State Duma of the Russian Federation

The Baltic Assembly,

regarding that the accusations made by the State Duma of the Russian Federation in its resolution of 23 November 2004 regarding the Baltic States are highly regrettable and once again indicate unwillingness to evaluate objectively the history of the Russian state, its neighbours and the world;

emphasizing that the end of World War II on 8 May 1945, which signified the victory over Nazis and fascism in Europe, at the same time marked for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania the entrenchment of occupation and the continuation of genocide, which considerably changed the ethnic composition of the population of these countries;

recalling that as a result of this occupation hundreds of thousands of children, women and men were deported from the Baltic States, and many of them perished as a result of the actions of the repressive Soviet regime even years after the end of World War II;

confirming that honest evaluation of historical processes is an important prerequisite for successful international cooperation and initiation of the reconciliation process,

calls upon the members of the State Duma of the Russian Federation to give an objective and just evaluation of the crimes committed by the Soviet regime which caused millions of victims both in Russia and in the Baltic States. This will promote continuation of cooperation based on mutual respect within organisations of the Nordic countries and the countries of the Baltic Sea region.

Riga, 19 December 2004