

APPEAL

TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BALTIC STATES

On Cross-Border Co-operation

The Baltic Assembly,

noting that the aim of the Baltic Assembly is to reach greater unity among its member states and to promote their co-operation and that it is necessary to ensure participation of local government institutions and inhabitants of the Baltic States in achieving this aim;

taking into consideration the fact that, for reaching this aim, co-operation among local government institutions and inhabitants of the border territories in the sphere of regional, urban and rural development, environmental protection, improvement of utility and public services, as well as mutual assistance in crisis situations, could be of importance;

being guided by the European Outline Convention on Trans-Frontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities and its Additional Protocol, as well as by the experience of the EU countries which proves that co-operation among local and regional administrative institutions helps them to perform their tasks more efficiently and promotes particularly the development of border regions;

committed to promoting such co-operation as much as possible, thereby making its contribution to the economic and social development of border regions, and to strengthening the spirit of brotherhood that unites the Baltic peoples,

calls on the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania:

- to facilitate the conclusion of interstate agreements for promoting closer cross-border co-operation and to resolve, by mutually co-ordinating their actions, any legal, administrative or technical problems which hinder the development of cross-border co-operation;
- to establish a permanently functioning bilateral co-ordinating institution (Committee) with a view to resolving cross-border problems.

2 June 2001, Riga