

# DECISION

## ON AMENDMENTS TO THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY STATUTES

The Baltic Assembly decides to amend the Baltic Assembly Statutes in the following manner:

1. Subparagraph 6 of paragraph 2 of Article 6, paragraph 3 of Article 13, subparagraph 8 of paragraph 2 of Article 17, paragraph 6 of Article 25, paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 34, and paragraph 5 of Article 49 shall be amended by striking out “Secretary of the Baltic Assembly” and substituting “head of the Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly”.

2. Paragraph 1 of Article 1 shall be amended by striking out “the Regulations of the Baltic Assembly approved in Tallinn on 8 November 1991” and shall be set forth to read as follows:

1. The Baltic Assembly (BA) is an international organisation for co-operation among the parliaments of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania, founded on the basis of the Joint Decision adopted by the members of the Supreme Councils of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania in Vilnius on 1 December 1990. It functions on the basis of the Agreement of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania on Parliamentary and Intergovernmental Co-operation of the Baltic States signed in Tallinn on 13 June 1994, the present Statutes and other legal acts adopted by the Baltic Assembly and its bodies.

3. Paragraph 3 of Article 1 shall be amended and set forth to read as follows:

4. The Baltic Assembly shall have its own symbols and a flag, the use of which shall be governed by the appropriate regulations approved by the Session.

4. Article 2 shall be amended by striking out “head and deputy head” and substituting “chairman and deputy chairman”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

### **Article 2. Composition of the Baltic Assembly**

The parliament of each of the Baltic States shall appoint 20 parliamentarians to the Baltic Assembly (national delegation, including its chairman and deputy chairman), in accordance with the approved rules of procedure and the principle of proportional political representation in the national delegation.

5. Subparagraph 10 of paragraph 2 of Article 6 shall be amended by adding “declarations” and shall be set forth to read as follows:

10) adoption of declarations, recommendations, resolutions, decisions and statements.

6. The Baltic Assembly Statutes shall be amended by striking out the title of Chapter 3 “Sessions of the Baltic Assembly”, inserting former Articles 26-32 after Article 7, the said Articles becoming Articles 8-14 respectively, and former Articles 8-25 becoming Articles 15-32 respectively.

7. Paragraph 1 of Article 11 (former Article 29) shall be amended by striking out “Chairman of the BA Presidium or by one of the Vice Chairmen” and substituting “President of the Baltic Assembly or by one of the Vice Presidents”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

1. The work of the Session shall be directed by the President of the Baltic Assembly or by one of the Vice Presidents.

8. Paragraph 3 of Article 13 (former Article 31) shall be amended by striking out “the Chairman or Vice Chairmen of the Presidium” and substituting “President or Vice Presidents”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

3. The minutes of the Session shall be signed by the President or Vice Presidents, and by the head of the Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly.

9. Paragraph 2 of Article 15 (former Article 8) shall be amended by striking out “head” and substituting “chairman”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

2. The Presidium of the Baltic Assembly shall comprise the chairman of each national delegation and his/her deputy appointed by the parliament of the respective state.

10. The title of Article 16 (former Article 9) shall be amended and set forth to read as follows:

**Article 16. President and Vice Presidents of the Baltic Assembly**

11. Paragraph 1 of Article 16 (former Article 9) shall be amended by striking out “Chairman and two Vice Chairmen of the Presidium” and substituting “the President and two Vice Presidents of the Baltic Assembly”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

1. The work of the Presidium shall be directed by the President and two Vice Presidents of the Baltic Assembly.

12. Paragraph 2 of Article 16 (former Article 9) shall be amended by striking out “head” and substituting “chairman”, striking out “Chairman of the Presidium”, “Chairman” and substituting “President of the Baltic Assembly”, “President”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

2. At the end of each Session of the Baltic Assembly, the chairman of the national delegation of the next presiding state shall become the President of the Baltic Assembly for the next calendar year. The incumbent President shall perform his/her functions till 1 January.

13. Paragraph 3 of Article 16 (former Article 9) shall be amended by striking out “heads” and substituting “chairmen”, striking out “Vice Chairmen of the Presidium” and substituting “Vice President of the Baltic Assembly”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

3. The chairmen of the other two national delegations shall become Vice Presidents of the Baltic Assembly.

14. Article 16 (former Article 9) shall be amended by adding paragraph 4:

4. In the absence of the President of the Baltic Assembly, his duties shall be carried out by the Vice President of the state which presided last. When the latter is not available, the duties of the President of the Baltic Assembly shall be carried out by the other Vice President.

15. Paragraph 2 of Article 17 (former Article 10) shall be amended by adding new subparagraphs 1-5, subparagraphs 1-9 becoming subparagraphs 6-14, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

2. It shall be within the competence of the Presidium:

- 1) to draw up the strategy and principal directions for the development of the Baltic Assembly activities;
- 2) to co-ordinate the co-operation with the Prime Ministers who make up the Baltic Council of Ministers;
- 3) for solving conceptual issues, to convene the Consultative Council which shall comprise: the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the chairmen and deputy chairmen of the committees of the Baltic Assembly;
- 4) to set tasks and priorities for the Baltic Assembly activities;
- 5) to maintain relations of the Baltic Assembly with other international organisations;
- 6) to register the members of BA committees and commissions;
- 7) to register BA party groups (factions) and their members;
- 8) to hold a competition to select a candidate for the head of the Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly and to present the selected candidate to the Session for approval;
- 9) to convoke an extraordinary Session of the Baltic Assembly;
- 10) to present a draft agenda of the Session;

- 11) to appoint responsible committees for considering the submitted documents;
- 12) to draw up a draft budget in conjunction with the BA Secretariat and consider the draft report on the implementation of the budget to be presented at the Session by the Budget and Audit Committee;
- 13) to bring the documents adopted at sessions of the Baltic Assembly to the attention of the national parliaments;
- 14) to resolve other issues which are within its competence.

16. Paragraph 2 of Article 18 (former Article 11) shall be amended by striking out “Chairman of the Presidium” and substituting “President of the Baltic Assembly”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

2. A meeting of the Presidium shall be convened by the President of the Baltic Assembly who fixes the time and venue of the meeting and submits a draft agenda of the meeting.

17. Paragraph 6 of Article 18 (former Article 11) shall be amended by striking out “the minutes of Presidium meetings” and substituting “Presidium meeting minutes in the English language”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

6. Copies of Presidium meeting minutes in the English language shall be forwarded to the members of the national delegations not later than within two weeks after a Presidium meeting.

18. Paragraph 1 of Article 19 (former Article 12) shall be amended and set forth to read as follows:

1. The Presidium of the Baltic Assembly shall have the power to act if its meeting is attended by one member of the Presidium from each BA member state, including the President of the Baltic Assembly.

19. Paragraph 2 of Article 19 (former Article 12) shall be amended by striking “Chairman of the Presidium” and substituting “President of the Baltic Assembly”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

2. Decisions of the Presidium shall be adopted by consensus. In the event of failure to reach a consensus, the President of the Baltic Assembly may make a proposal to put the issue on the agenda of the Session. In this case, the Session shall adopt a decision by consensus of the national delegations.

20. Paragraph 2 of Article 21 (former Article 14) shall be amended by adding subparagraph 7:

- 7) present reports on their work to the Session of the Baltic Assembly.

21. Paragraph 1 of Article 23 (former Article 16) shall be amended by striking “heads” and substituting “chairmen”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

1. The Budget and Audit Committee shall be a standing committee to which two members from each national delegation, who are not the chairmen or deputy chairmen of the national delegations, shall be appointed.

22. Paragraph 4 of Article 25 (former Article 18) shall be amended by striking “secretary of the national delegation of the state in which the committee meeting is being held” and substituting “Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

4. Minutes of committee meetings shall be provided by the Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly. The time and venue of a meeting, names of the participants, issues considered, main viewpoints expressed and decisions adopted shall be entered in the minutes. The minutes shall be signed by the presiding officer of the meeting and by the person who took the minutes.

23. Paragraph 6 of Article 25 (former Article 18) shall be amended by striking out “the minutes of committee meetings” and substituting “committee meeting minutes in the English language”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

6. Copies of committee meeting minutes in the English language shall be forwarded to the members of the committees and the head of the BA Secretariat not later than two weeks after the meeting.

24. The title of Chapter 5 shall be amended by adding “and other interest groups”, and set forth to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **PARTY GROUPS (FACTIONS) AND OTHER INTEREST GROUPS**

25. Article 32 (former Article 25) shall be amended by adding paragraph 5:

5. The party groups (factions) shall function in accordance with the Regulations on Activities of the Party Groups (Factions) of the Baltic Assembly, which are an integral part of these Statutes.

26. Chapter 5 shall be amended by adding new Article 33:

#### **Article 33. Other Interest Groups of the Baltic Assembly**

Other interest groups shall function in accordance with the regulations on activities of interest groups of the Baltic Assembly, which shall be an integral part of the Baltic Assembly Statutes

27. The Baltic Assembly Statutes shall be amended by inserting Chapter 5 “Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly” and Article 47 after Article 33, the said Chapter and Article becoming Chapter 6 and Article 34 respectively, and repealing former Articles 48-52.

28. The Baltic Assembly Statutes shall be amended by former Articles 33-46 becoming Articles 35-48 respectively.

29. Paragraph 1 of Article 39 (former Article 37) shall be amended and set forth to read as follows:

1. The secretary of the delegation of the state presiding at the Baltic Assembly shall make a list of the draft documents which have been submitted in time for consideration at the Session and which meet the requirements laid down in the Statutes and shall send it to the Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly and the secretaries of the national delegations of other states, together with the draft documents.

30. Paragraph 1 of Article 40 (former Article 38) shall be amended by striking “BA Secretariat” and substituting “secretary of the delegation of the state presiding at the Baltic Assembly”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

1. Immediately after receiving a draft document, the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly shall appoint a responsible committee to work on the initiated draft, taking into account the sphere of activity of each committee. The secretary of the delegation of the state presiding at the Baltic Assembly shall indicate the responsible committee in the list of draft documents and shall organise the translation of the draft and its forwarding to the members of the responsible committee through the secretaries of the national delegations.

31. Paragraph 2 of Article 41 (former Article 39) shall be amended by striking “BA Secretariat” and substituting “secretary of the delegation of the state presiding at the Baltic Assembly”, and shall be set forth to read as follows:

2. The secretary of the delegation of the state presiding at the Baltic Assembly shall be informed about the rapporteur appointed by the committee and shall indicate his/her name in the list of the draft documents in preparation.

32. Paragraph 1 of Article 45 (former Article 43) shall be amended and set forth to read as follows:

1. After adopting decisions on the drafts, the Presidium shall prepare the Final Document and shall present it to the Session for adoption. The Final Document shall list all the documents adopted at the Session, specify the most important issues discussed, indicate the priorities of the Baltic Assembly activities for the next year, as well as indicate where and when the next regular Session will take place.

33. The Baltic Assembly Statutes shall be amended by Chapter 6 “Property, Funds and Budget of the Baltic Assembly” becoming Chapter 4 respectively, amending Article 49 (former Article 53), and shall be set forth to read as follows:

**Article 49. Property and Funds of the Baltic Assembly**

1. The activities of the Baltic Assembly shall be financed with the funds received as membership fees.

2. The Baltic Assembly may, in accordance with the established procedure, hold and use for its activities the property and funds received as donations, inheritance or proceeds from economic activities relating to its objectives (selling of souvenirs bearing its symbols, publishing of printed matter, etc.).

3. Each national parliament itself shall cover the expenses related to the participation of its delegation at sessions of the Baltic Assembly, in meetings of the Presidium, the committees and the commissions, in the Baltic Council, as well as in the events held by the international co-operation partners of the Baltic Assembly.

4. The expenses necessary for ensuring the activities of the Baltic Assembly shall be shared equally by the parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

5. The head of the Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly shall, in accordance with the Baltic Assembly Statutes, have the right to use the property and funds of the Baltic Assembly.

6. Joint expenses relating to the Baltic Assembly activities shall be financed from the budget of the Baltic Assembly.

7. Immediately after the adoption of the decision on the budget, the Presidium shall inform the parliaments and the governments of the Baltic Assembly member states about the contributions that are to be made to the Baltic Assembly budget.

8. The funds of the Baltic Assembly shall be used pursuant to the Regulations on the Use of the Baltic Assembly Funds, which are an integral part of these Statutes.

34. The Baltic Assembly Statutes shall be amended by repealing Articles 54-58.

35. The Baltic Assembly Statutes shall be amended by Chapters 7 and 8 becoming Chapters 5 and 6 respectively, and Articles 59-63 becoming Articles 50-54.

36. Article 50 (former Article 59) shall be amended and set forth to read as follows:

**Article 50. Organisation of Co-operation**

1. The co-operation between the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers shall be based on the 13 June 1994 Agreement on Interparliamentary and Intergovernmental Co-operation of the Baltic States, the 14 April 1996 Protocol on Co-operation between the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers, these Statutes and other legal acts. The

co-operation between the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers shall be implemented by the Presidium and standing committees, and it shall be co-ordinated by the Secretariats of the Baltic Assembly and of the Baltic Council of Ministers.

37. Paragraph 2 of Article 52 (former Article 61) shall be amended by striking out “heads” and substituting “chairmen”, and set forth to read as follows:

2. The parliament of each Baltic State may adopt a decision to withdraw from the Baltic Assembly. In this event, the activities of the Baltic Assembly shall be deemed terminated in six months from the day on which the parliament of the Baltic State which made such a decision gave notice of it to the Presidium or the chairmen of other national delegations to the Baltic Assembly.

Vilnius, 29 November 2003