

RESOLUTION

ON FAMILY POLICY

The Baltic Assembly,

drawing attention to the fact that:

the birth rate has decreased significantly and this does not ensure the change of generations;

there is an increase in numbers of cohabitating couples or marriage and childbearing are postponed to an older age;

the number of divorces and incomplete families is increasing;

more and more children are deprived of parental care: children are left at guardianship institutions or the parents go to work to other countries, failing to make arrangement about their children's safety and care;

families at social risk abuse alcohol, other psychotropic substances, commit acts of violence, do not take care of their children, live on social benefits;

moral and spiritual family-related values are being depreciated,

notes that the family institution is in the crisis and the social policy carried out by the state is not sufficiently effective;

urges the parliaments and governments of the Baltic States:

to strengthen a role of family as a value in the state;

to shape a family policy, seeking:

to increase possibilities for parents to adjust family and work relations,

to improve conditions of housing for families,

to ensure adequate services of upbringing of children and education of parents,

to improve support for families and enhance social services,

to form healthcare services suitable for families and to propagate a healthy lifestyle,

to introduce a course in the preparedness for family life in educational programmes of schools,

to develop a system of psychological help and legal aid to families,

to ensure protection of the rights of the child and implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,

to foster family-related spiritual values;

to consolidate efforts of state institutions and non-governmental organisations, religious communities and the mass media to foster the responsibility, duty, honour and other moral values of members of society;

to co-operate at an international level when creating the welfare of families in their states..

Vilnius, 17 December 2006